

The following story takes place after the resurrection of Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

After His resurrection an angel had appeared to two women and announced to them the resurrection of Jesus. He told the women to tell the disciples to go to Galilee and He would meet up with them there. The disciples did not believe the woman.

Luke 24:13-35

13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

19 And He said to them, "What things?"

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

NKJV

These disciples of Jesus would not believe that Jesus was their messiah just because of reports that He had risen from the dead. They had to see that the resurrection of Jesus fulfilled what Moses and the prophets said about the messiah. Did Moses and the prophets predict that their messiah would suffer and die, and then rise from the dead?

The scriptures were their authority for what they believed and what they practiced.

Jesus would not have it any other way. When Jesus finally appeared to all the disciples He did not expect them to believe He was the messiah unless His suffering, death, and resurrection fulfilled the scriptures.

Luke 24:44-49

44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

46 Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

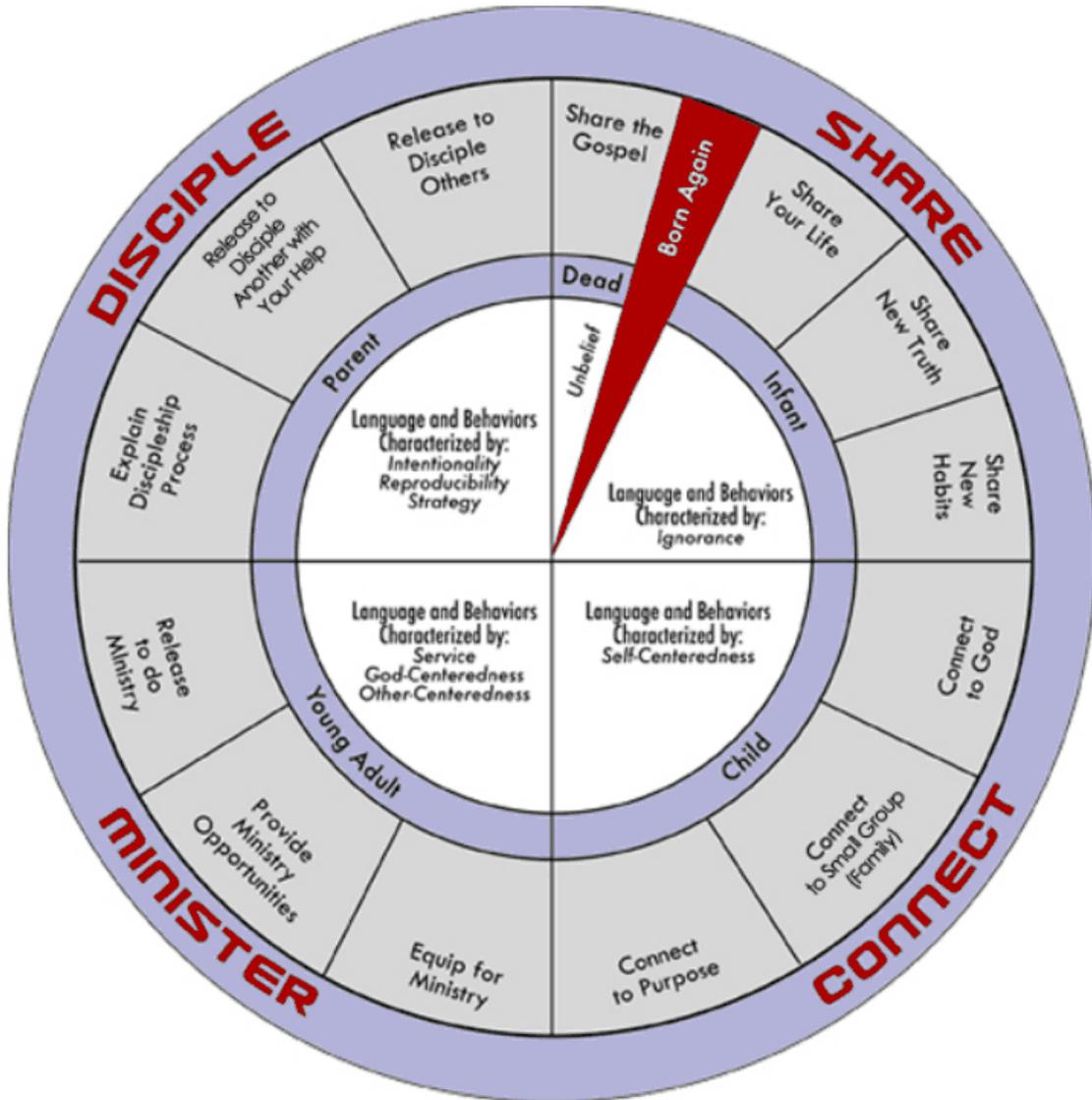
NKJV

There is within this story an important lesson that we must all understand if we are to grow as disciples of Jesus. That lesson is....

The scriptures must become our authority for what we believe and what we practice!

Wheel of Maturity

Real Life Discipleship Training Manual



When we receive Jesus, we are spiritual infants. We are characterized by

ignorance. We are very vulnerable. We need a disciple of Jesus to share life with us, share new truth with us, and share new habits with us.

One of those new habits that we must develop to grow as a disciple is daily bible reading. That habit is based on this truth.

The scriptures are our authority for what we believe and what we practice!

Why the scriptures?

Paul explained it this way.

2 Tim 3:13-17

13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

NKJV

Peter explained it this way.

2 Peter 1:16-21

16 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 17 For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 18 And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

NKJV

The scriptures are the only reliable record of God's Spoken Word!

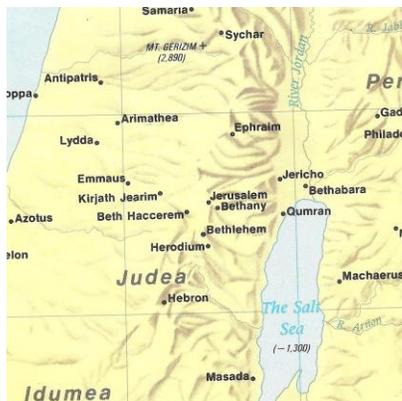
God inspired 40 different people to write 66 different documents that are His absolute standard to measure every idea about Him, His ways, and His will.

Those documents called scripture have been miraculously preserved for the church in the canon of the bible. The bible is a book of stories about miracles but the bible itself is a miracle.

If we are deceived about God or His will and if we deceive others we have no one to blame but ourselves. We can't blame a faulty GPS system. God has given us the Holy Spirit and the scriptures.

We have the same problem with unbelief in the church today that was a problem with these disciples. We don't believe the scriptures! When you don't believe the scriptures you do what they did.

- You desert



- You debate
- You divide

What do you need to change based on this story?

1. Humble yourself

- Humble your heart and soul

Become willing to do whatever God tells you to do through His Word. Let God examine every closet in your soul and remove anything that He wants cleaned out. This includes every thought, every desire, every action, every word, and every emotion.

- Humble your mind

Instead of subjecting the scripture to your critical examination, believe the scriptures are God's Spoken Word and subject your life to His examination through His Word.

- **Humble your strength**

Open God's closet and put on any hat that God wants you to wear.

2. **Learn the scriptures**

Develop new habits that will give you that knowledge. These new habits should include daily bible reading and sharing God's Word with others.

3. **Understand the scriptures**

Find another disciple who is further along than you are and let them explain the scriptures to you.

Learning from me once a week is not enough. You need to find someone you can share life with and be transparent with them about your struggles and your questions. You need to find someone you will be accountable to.

For our church to make disciples that are truly following Jesus we must be like the church of the Bereans in Acts 17.

Acts 17:10-11

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

NKJV

For our church to make disciples...

The scriptures must be our authority for what we believe and what we practice!