Notes on Living In Discipleship Of Jesus In The Holy Spirit

In John 15:4 Jesus says " remain in me as I remain in you.". Jesus lived in his disciples and had union and communion with them as they lived in discipleship in him. Discipleship of Jesus is an immersion in Jesus. The word remain can be translated abide, live, remain, endure and rest. We remain immersed in Jesus when we live in discipleship of Jesus. We continue to live immersed in discipleship of Jesus when we live in the attributes of Jesus. The words "Live in." describes the indwelling of Jesus by a disciple. Live in implies immersion. An example of this is: when we live in love, truth, forgiveness, etc. we have union and communion with Jesus and live in discipleship of Jesus. Living in the attributes of Jesus is an immersion into Jesus. It's like baptism. Baptism is a sacrament in which we are immersed in Jesus and have union and communion with Jesus and the Father in the Holy Spirit, and they come to live in us and we begin to live in them. You can see that baptism into Jesus is an immersion into Jesus and in John 15. Jesus tells us to remain immersed in him. So living in discipleship of Jesus, we are immersed in Jesus, and stay immersed in him when we continue to live in Jesus' attributes in our discipleship relationship with him.

Discipleship of Jesus is an immersion into Jesus and the Holy Spirit and in the Father. Discipleship of Jesus is a personal relationship with Jesus. In fact, discipleship of Jesus is the deepest, most intimate personal relationship with Jesus in the Holy Spirit that we can possibly have this side of heaven. Discipleship of Jesus is a life of imitation of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. We began to be immersed in Jesus in our baptism, which is when we received our call to live in discipleship of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship of Jesus involves spiritual transformation into becoming more and more like Jesus modeling Jesus mirroring Jesus and imaging Jesus. Living in discipleship of Jesus is when we began to be clothed with Jesus and imitate him and put on all of Jesus' attributes, qualities, character, characteristics, charisms and virtues, and the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual transformation into becoming like Jesus is Jesus' plan and the Father's plan to multiply Jesus in the world in every disciple of Jesus. Every Catholic is called to be a disciple of Jesus and all disciples of Jesus are intended to grow spiritually in imaging Jesus in the transformation and power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship of Jesus is a personal relationship with Jesus, in which Jesus identifies with us, his disciples and we identify with him, as we imitate and follow him. The whole idea of Jesus identifying with us and our identification with Jesus is the result of our transformation and sanctification in discipleship of Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Living in discipleship of Jesus, living immersed in him, we experience spiritual growth and transformation in the power of the Holy Spirit to become more and more like Jesus. Identification with Jesus is the result of our union and communion with him when we live in discipleship of him. Discipleship of Jesus is the spiritual state of grace, a cocoon of spiritual metamorphose, in imitation, modeling, mirroring, imaging Jesus, living in Jesus, with Jesus, and through Jesus. This transformation, which the Holy Spirit empowers is a spiritual journey that takes a lifetime, a lifetime of spiritual growth and transformation. This is the seed of the Holy Spirit that we receive our baptism into Jesus. This explains Jesus' plan to multiply himself in the world through the gift of living in discipleship of Jesus. This gives us a hint at the potentially wonderful fantastic life that discipleship of Jesus is. Baptism begins this fantastic life in Jesus in discipleship of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. A life of union and communion and spiritual growth and transformation in the Holy Spirit, potentially, a foretaste of heaven now, living in Jesus' joy and peace and love.

The The main way of living in the Holy Spirit is to live in discipleship of Jesus. The main way of living in discipleship of Jesus is to live in the Holy Spirit. We can live in discipleship of Jesus only through the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship of Jesus unites us, immerses us in Jesus, in union and communion with him and activates the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It's like the vine and the branches in John 15. When we are grafted into Jesus, and his life (the Holy Spirit) flows into us, his branches, his disciples and we begin to bear fruit, the fruit of evangelization and disciple making and spiritual transformation.

Discipleship, in Jesus: The Spirituality of Jesus

The spirituality of Jesus is the life and the lifestyle of Jesus in the way that he related to his Father in his humanity. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit in his mother Mary, and he was baptized in the Holy Spirit by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. Jesus related to God, his Father as an Israelite raised by Mary and Joseph in the Jewish religion. Jesus grew up and matured immersed in faith in God and in his word in the power, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit, in discipleship of the Father. Living in discipleship of the father. Jesus imitated, the Father by living immersed in all of the father's attributes which the Holy Spirit revealed to Jesus. As Jesus grew in wisdom and in grace in the Holy Spirit. He put on and was clothed with all the attributes of the Father. When we live in imitation of Jesus, in discipleship of Jesus, following Jesus' example, we must put on and be clothed with all the attributes of Jesus. Discipleship of Jesus is growing and being transformed in the Holy Spirit, in imitation of Jesus to reflect Jesus, to mirror Jesus, and to mirror him and to image him.
Living in the Discipleship Spirituality of Jesus, We Live in the Discipleship of of Jesus.

The word "spirituality" means: a way of living in a personal spiritual relationship in God, the Father, in the Holy Spirit. This raises the question of how did Jesus relate to the Father, spiritually? Jesus related to the Father in Sonship of the Father and Discipleship of the Father in the Holy Spirit by living in Sonship of the Father in his divinity and discipleship of the Father in his humanity. Jesus was sent by the Father to reconcile the human race, and every human being personally with the Father, becoming man in his incarnation. Jesus related to the Father as true God and true man through Jesus' birth in the incarnation, being born of the Mary in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus becomes the new Adam and Mary becomes the new Eve, Living in Sonship of the Father, and Mary in the Holy Spirit. Jesus begins to relate to his Father in his sonship and in discipleship of the Father in the Holy Spirit. We know the Jesus related to the Father in discipleship of the Father because the Scriptures reveal conclusively that Jesus lived in discipleship of the Father, saying only what the Father said, and doing only what he saw the Father doing. The Father lived in (indwelt) Jesus doing his works through Jesus. In brief, this demonstrates that God's plan for the salvation of the world is Discipleship of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived in discipleship of the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship of Jesus is the spirituality of Jesus. Jesus is the Father's gift to us. Jesus is our way to relate to his Father and our Father in the Holy Spirit. Our relationship with God the father is through Jesus with Jesus and in Jesus. Living in discipleship of the Father, the Father commanded Jesus to go and make disciples. Discipleship in Jesus is an immersion into Jesus, in imitation of Jesus and identification with Jesus in a discipleship lifestyle. Discipleship of Jesus and the Holy Spirit is the "way" to live in Jesus, our father in the Holy Spirit. Discipleship in Jesus is the Father's plan: for God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes <u>in him</u> may not perish, but might have eternal life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whether believes in him will not be condemned, but 11 does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not easily in the name of the only Son of God.

Discipleship of Jesus in the Holy Spirit is God's plan to multiply Jesus in the world in every disciple. Discipleship of Jesus is a personal spiritual relationship with Jesus and the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship of Jesus is a life of immersion, imitation and identification with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the same "way" that Jesus related to the Father in his personal spiritual relationship with the Father in the Holy Spirit when he lived here on earth. So following Jesus' example of relating to the Father in discipleship of the Father in the Holy Spirit, disciples of Jesus can relate to Jesus in discipleship of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Living in discipleship of Jesus we live in the Father, in the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship in Jesus spirituality is a deep intimate, personal spiritual relationship with Jesus, our Father in in the Holy Spirit.
Imitation of Jesus is a radical consecration to discipleship of Jesus, by which we are transformed spiritually to become so much like Jesus that each disciple replicates Jesus in his disciple life of spiritual growth, transformation, and sanctification in the power of the Holy Spirit, in God's time. We begin to model, mirror and image Jesus in our lives.

Live in Spiritual Transformation, Spiritual Growth, Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Metamorphosis and Live in Discipleship of Jesus, in the Holy Spirit.

The Christian is Another Christ
Excerpt from a Treatise on Christian Perfection by St. Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop

PG 46, 254-255.

No one has known Christ better than St. Paul, nor surpassed him in a careful example he gave, (in his letters), of what anyone should be, who bears Christ's name. ***So precisely did he mirror his master that he became his very image. By a painstaking imitation, he was transformed into his model***, and it seemed to be no longer Paul who lived and spoke, but Christ himself. He shows his keen awareness of this grace when he refers to the Corinthians' desire for proof that Christ was speaking in him; as he says: ***it is no longer I who live: it is Christ who lives in me.***

Paul teaches us the power of Christ's name when he calls Christ the *Power and Wisdom of God*, our *Peace*, the unapproachable *Light* where God dwells, our *Expiation* and *Redemption*, our *Great High Priest*. Our *Paschal Sacrifice*, our *Propitiation*: when he declares him to be the *Radiance of God's glory*, the very *Pattern of his Nature*, the *Creator of all ages*, our *Spiritual Food and Drink*, the *Rock* and the *Water*, the *Bedrock of our Faith*, the Cornerstone, the *visible Image of the invisible God*. Paul goes on to speak of Christ as the *Mighty God*, the *Head of his Body*, the *Church*, the *Firstborn of the New Creation*, the *First Fruits of those who have fallen asleep*, the *Firstborn of the dead*, the *Eldest of many Brothers*; Paul tells us that *Christ is the Mediator between God and man*, the *Only Begotten Son*, *Crowned with Glory and Honor*, the *Lord of Glory*, the *Beginning of All Things*, the *King of Justice and Peace*, the *King of the Whole Universe*, *Ruling the Realm that has no limits*.

Paul calls Christ by many other titles too numerous to recall here. Their cumulative force will give some conception of the marvelous content of the name "Christ", revealing to us his inexpressible majesty, in so far as our minds and thoughts can comprehend him. Since by the goodness of God, we who are called ***"Christians"*** have been granted the honor of ***sharing his name***, the greatest, and the highest, the most sublime of all names, it follows that each of the titles that express their meaning should be clearly ***reflected in us***, if we are not to lie when we call ourselves "Christians," we must bear witness to them by our way of living.

Disciples of Jesus Commentary

St. Gregory of Nyssa, Bishop gives the best example and definition of discipleship of Jesus when he describes the apostle Paul's discipleship of Jesus. *When St. Gregory says that Paul* ***mirrored*** *his master, Jesus, so precisely that Paul became Jesus' very* ***image****, he is describing Paul's personal discipleship relationship with Jesus. He describes this personal relationship by calling it a painstaking* ***imitation*** *of Jesus*. ***This imitation of Jesus caused a transformation of Paul into Jesus, his model. This transformation came about through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit living in Paul.*** All Christians that are baptized into Jesus are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's presence and power in us can transform us and empower us in discipleship of Jesus to have the same continuous awareness of Jesus living in us in the Holy Spirit, as Paul had, so that, living in discipleship of Jesus, transformed and empowered in the Holy Spirit we too, can say with Paul, It is no longer I who live: it is Jesus who lives in me, with me and through me.

St. Gregory of Nyssa teaches us the power of Jesus' name. When he lists all of the titles of Jesus he describes some of the Godly attributes of Jesus. When we live in the attributes of Jesus we also live in the name of Jesus in discipleship of Jesus. ***Discipleship of Jesus is an spiritual immersion into Jesus in the Holy Spirit***. An example of this is when we are immersed in oil we become ***oily***. When we are immersed in water, we become ***watery***, and when we are immersed in God, we become ***Godly.*** *Living immersed in Jesus, discipleship of Jesus, disciples are clothed with Jesus and put on Jesus' attributes through the spiritual absorption of Jesus' attributes. When we are immersed in Jesus. We are also immersed the Father and the Holy Spirit*

In St. Gregory's time the name "Christian" had been given to the disciples of Jesus. Being a Christian meant being a disciple of Jesus, they were synonymous. In our time now that is no longer true. Today people call themselves Christians who don't even attend church, and might not even believe in Jesus. This is why we have to recapture the whole idea of discipleship of Jesus. In the time of the early fathers, like St. Gregory, Christians, were disciples of Jesus had to be willing to die for Jesus, as well as live for him. This total commitment to living in the discipleship of Jesus is only really grasped and understood, when we teach and live in discipleship of Jesus.

There is another reason why we should go back to calling ourselves "Disciples of Jesus." instead of Christians. Christian comes from the word Christ and Christ is another title of Jesus meaning "Messiah", "Anointed One".

St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians (3: 17), says, "And whatever you do, in Word or in deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through him". Disciples of Jesus are potentially other jesus' in the Holy Spirit
Living in discipleship of Jesus, living in imitation, immersion, and identification with Jesus in his spiritual attributes, spiritual transformation begins to happen. Discipleship of Jesus is a spiritual cocoon of spiritual metamorphosis in which disciples of Jesus experience spiritual growth and spiritual transformation, to become other Jesus'. Think Gregory says it best ". ***So precisely did he (Paul) mirror his master that he became his very image. By a painstaking imitation, he was transformed into his model***, and it seemed to be no longer Paul who lived and spoke, but Christ himself
Discipleship of Jesus is a lifestyle for a lifetime of living of remaining immersed in Jesus, the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit Parish Vision for Evangelization, Discipleship Training and Disciple Making in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit

In the church, we are weak in evangelization, the proclamation of Jesus and the invitation to a commitment of our lives to Jesus. Another one of our major weaknesses in ministry, in our church is the lack of follow-up to all of our evangelization efforts. When we do evangelize and ask for a commitment to Jesus, for example in: Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars, Upper Room Experiences, Parish Missions, Retreats, Cursillo's, Recollection and the RCIA, we don't follow-up and help people to continue to grow spiritually. Therefore, the candidates and catechumens gradually fall back into lukewarm Catholic living so that there is very little Spiritual growth and Spiritual Transformation in the power of the Holy Spirit. What we need to do is introduce our fellow Catholic parishioners to Jesus'call to: "Come Follow Me," and Jesus' command to Go and Make Disciples.

This is Jesus' master plan for follow up to our evangelization ministries by helping people live in discipleship of Jesus and help them learn to make disciples of Jesus. It's essential for the church to realize that discipleship of Jesus is Jesus' master plan, for the salvation of the world, that life in discipleship of Jesus in the Holy Spirit is where spiritual metamorphosis takes place. Discipleship of Jesus is a spiritual immersion into Jesus in the Holy Spirit and is the spiritual cocoon, where spiritual metamorphosis, spiritual growth and transformation takes place through the work of the Holy Spirit, transforming disciples to be more and more like Jesus. This is Jesus' Plan and strategy. Jesus began his ministry after he was baptized in the Holy Spirit, by forming a community of disciples, which he trained and equipped and empowered to be his disciples. This is why it's so important that a discipleship of Jesus ministry be established in every parish. Our ministry here in Holy Spirit parish is a good model for other parishes. It's important to note that we are not trying to grow our own ministry, we just want to help other parishes to have a ministry of evangelization to Jesus, making disciples of Jesus, in imitation of Jesus' example of making disciples. This is Jesus' great commission. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' commands his disciples to go and make disciples. Our Catholic parishes in the church are not making disciples of Jesus. This is the Great Omission to the Great Commission that makes our parishes struggle just to maintain the status quo. What we are suggesting to other parishes, is to establish Jesus' ministry of evangelization, discipleship of Jesus, and disciple making of Jesus in every parish. Jesus' commission to the church to Go and Make Disciples of Jesus, is Jesus' plan for the multiplication of disciples of Jesus in the small disciple groups. These groups should grow, divide and multiply, making disciples of Jesus, to serve the parish under the personal authority of the pastor.

This is the disciple of Jesus ministry that we have here in Holy Spirit parish. This ministry was established here through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit under the authority of the pastor to help the pastor renew Holy Spirit parish in the power of the Holy Spirit. Parish renewal can only happen through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This discipleship of Jesus ministry, in the parish, is the vehicle, which the Holy Spirit can use to raise up, train, and equip and empower lay men and women and youth to be disciples of Jesus in the parish, for service in the mission of the church. There is no vehicle in the parishes, which trains, equips and empowers lay leaders, to be disciples of Jesus, at this time. There is no other ministry in the parishes that focuses on evangelization and and making disciples of Jesus of the laity, for ministry in their parishes. In Holy Spirit parish we have a model (a cookie-cutter) in which pastors can train, disciple and empower lay people, men and women and children to set them on fire for Jesus. In the Holy Spirit parish, parishioners love working in ministry under the authority and guidance of the pastor for the renewal of the parish. At this time the disciples of Jesus ministry in Holy Spirit parish serves the pastor, and the parish in many ministries. We evangelize to Jesus, and make disciples of Jesus in small disciple groups, which grow, divide and multiply, evangelize and make disciples in the parish. At this time, we have approximately 150 small disciple groups. We also teach a disciple/leaders training course to make disciples of Jesus and raise up leaders for the small disciples of Jesus groups. Evangelization Discipleship and Disciple making takes place in the small disciple groups. We also serve the parish with gifts of the Holy Spirit workshops, marriage enrichment seminars, life in the Spirit seminars and a special evangelization and disciple making seminar, which we call an upper room experience.