

One of the greatest compliments in my ministry came from Pastor Paul Stephens. I preached at a rally in Philadelphia, and after he said: I want to commend you on your sermon & preaching; Not only did you sound just like your Pastor, but you carry his spirit. You are a discipleship success- you have caught the heart of your Pastor.

In the scripture we are going to look at; Paul brags on Timothy, b/c he has caught his spirit & heart for the ministry.

Philippians 2:19-24 *I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.*

I THE DISCIPLESHIP PATTERN

A- One of the distinctive's of our fellowship is the training of Pastors through Discipleship.

1. This is in contrast to the traditional program of Bible College...

2. PM has said that the Discipleship process is: *Learning through Hands on Experience*

a. Whereas Bible College is learning through curriculum and theory.

B- But its important to note that this process isn't just a *fellowship thing*-

1. The Discipleship pattern is a biblical idea.

a. We know the close 12 to Jesus were called Disciples: **Matt 10:1** *And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him,*

i. Discipleship wasn't a foreign idea in the Jewish culture: *Rabbis would call men w/ potential to learn from them. Discipleship was seen as a privilege.*

2. Other examples include: Eli & Samuel/Elijah & Elisha/David & Solomon/Jesus & 12...

a. Text: Paul & Timothy... Epaphroditus/Titus.

C- So, Discipleship is all about one learning from another.

1. Learning by example/impartation/a pattern/doctrine/wisdom/counsel

a. **Phil 2:22** *But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.*

i. Here is an application of discipleship- *Like a father teaching a son.*

2. Your job as a disciple is to learn from your Pastor. **1 Cor 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

a. How much you learn is UP TO YOU... PG "You will get as much as you want to get"

II SENDING DISCIPLES OUT

A- Paul takes the time to tell about Timothy's discipleship, b/c he intends to send him out-

1. **Phil 2:23** *I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,*

a. Thats the same thing every disciple in the bible did- They were sent out!

i. **Mk 6:7** *And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.*

2. Thats what we do! We send disciples out... *Thats the fruit of discipleship- going out!*

B- But we need to understand WHY? Why do we send men out?

1. To do the will of God: Preach Jesus & Win souls! See lives changed by the Gospel- **Mk 16:15** *Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel.*

2. To Replicate the Pattern: **2 Tim 1:13** *Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.* You not going to "find a new way"... your going to replicate Prescott!

3. To Carry the Spirit of your Pastor into a city/area/nation: **Phil 2:20** *For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.* He is like ME- He has my spirit

a. **2 Kings 2:9** *Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."* Elisha caught what his Pastor had. **2 Kings 2:15** *The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha.*

b. But we know that wasn't the case for Gehazi... He lacked the spirit of his pastor-

III THE JOY OF SPIRITUAL SONS

A- Its a joy for a pastor to send a spiritual son!

1. **Phil 2:19** *I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you*

a. Its a joy for the home church, its a joy for the brethren (other disciples)-

B- But its not supposed to END with you!

1. You are the link between Prescott & the Future.

a. **2 Tim 2:2** *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

2. I remember the day PG said; *One day you will be the discipler...* I was like *What?!*

a. The point is that you would have spiritual sons of your own- catching your spirit- Being sent by your ministry