

HC MW Discipleship – Changing

Introduction:

- Putting discipleship in action means we will change
 - A disciple changes
 - Each disciple is becoming more like Christ
 - A lack of change is evidence of a serious spiritual problem
- Change doesn't mean that we don't have ups and downs
 - We may advance and regress in an area(s)
 - But if we look at a disciple's overall life
 - There will be clear ongoing change of a life becoming more like Jesus
 - Let's look in **2 Peter 1** for some insight into our change.

2 Peter 1:5-7 5 "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

- Discussion: What does "making every effort" look like?
- Discussion: What are some obstacles to "making every effort"?
- It is clear Peter is expecting us to work at changing
 - Every effort is a lot
 - Be careful to not get hung up on perfection
 - But think: "Is my life characterized by consistent effort to change"
 - Consistent steady growth will bring great success
 - Let's pick up in verse 8

2 Peter 1:8-9 "... 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins."

- Discussion: What does it mean to possess qualities in increasing measure?
- Discussion: What happens to disciples that are not growing in these qualities?
- This passage makes it clear that we need to be growing spiritually
 - We are blessed if we are growing and becoming more like Christ
 - We are on a path of destruction if we don't
 - Praise God we can be clear about how to live our lives and enjoy the security that comes from living a disciple's life.

Challenge: This week make a plan to consistently make effort to add spiritual qualities to your life.

Close with a Prayer