

The Journey



Freedom Ministries Discipleship Manual

Developed by

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The Journey

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Introduction

The Journey is designed not only for the believer who wants to go deeper and understand the relationship with his God better, but it is also a tool to help the non-believer come to appreciate the obvious divine inspiration that constantly reconfirms itself through history, creation and life.

Though the Gospel message is simple, very few believers ever take the time to fully understand or appreciate the depth and intricacy that God orchestrated for us to have this multi-level revelation and confirmation of the plan that He designed. It is a true statement that the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ must be accepted by faith. But it is not an ignorant faith that God requires of us. On the contrary, He went to extreme measures to reveal the truth to us through many, many dimensions. However, to truly perceive and implement these truths, they can only be accessed or “unlocked” with spiritual eyes by faith.

True Christian discipleship is not the mental calisthenics of committing large portions of Scripture to memory for the purpose of parroting it back in isolated sound bites to prove a pet doctrine or dogma. Neither is it the skilled oration or debate techniques acquired to “convince the heathen” of the superiority of Christianity. True discipleship is always concerned with the uncompromising absolutes of the Word of God and the heart's response to these revelations. It is by definition not possible to be a disciple if we have not been “disciplined”. The Christian aim of making disciples should be to teach others of the character, nature and ways of God and His requirements for entering into the most sacred of covenantal relationships. It is a revelation of hidden mysteries that truly unlock the meaning of life and our relationship with its Creator. When we discover the repeating themes, “types and shadows”, patterns and principles of God's Word, these mysteries come into clear view. Many of these patterns are hidden in Scripture just waiting for us to dig up the treasure. **Proverbs 25:2** tells us that, “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.”

The Journey is a different kind of discipleship manual. Have you ever grown weary of studying theology for “theology's sake” but missed the connection to your life and faith? *The Journey* will help us see the bigger picture of how it all works together “according to the pattern”. Throughout Scripture, God is *big* into patterns. Just as He told Moses and Ezekiel to do all things “according to the pattern”, He has also mandated that we follow His principles and patterns to discover and walk in these truths and freedoms. But how can we *follow* these patterns if we don't *know* them? For many years, much of what we call “Christian discipleship” has been modeled after man's concepts and attempts to explain cerebrally, and sometimes humanistically, the tenets of a religion. Scripture teaches us that, “There is a way that seems right unto man, but its end is the way of death.” (**Proverbs 14:12**). Most of the teachings found in Scripture are offensive and contradictory to our human understanding without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. Why would man want to blindly forge his own path when the Maker of the land and the Master Cartographer of the road map has offered directions free of charge? **Proverbs 3:5**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.” (NKJV)

This manual is called *The Journey* because it is patterned after the Exodus - the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. This dominant theme in Scripture helps us see what God originally intended and expects from us in our relationship with Him. As with all of God's patterns, there is a multi-level revelation that can be applied to several aspects of the Christian faith. In each pattern you may see the literal historic fulfillment as well as the prophetic fulfillment by Jesus Christ, the individual believer, and the corporate Church. The journey of the Christian life is progressive as

well as repetitive in many aspects. For instance, we are “taken out of Egypt” once through our salvation, however, we may experience a type of Exodus each time we surrender something new, or we may encounter many wilderness or Promised Land experiences in life. When you have understanding of the cause and effect principles of life, it transforms even the most painful experience to one of hope and peace. Sometimes just knowing there is a reason gives us strength enough to endure. There is great comfort in “making sense of it all”.

The other pattern that *The Journey* is based on is the prophetic cycle of the Feasts of the Lord. The pattern of the feasts is especially compatible with the pattern of the Exodus. The first feast (Passover or Pesach) was actually initiated just before leaving Egypt and the last feast (Tabernacles or Succot) is a beautiful reminder of our temporary dwelling on this earth. The Feast of Tabernacles is also a powerful prophetic glimpse into the second coming of the Lord and the culmination of our spiritual destination to the Promised Land and our time of peace in the millennial reign of Christ. It is not surprising that the pattern of the feasts is also repeated historically, prophetically, personally and corporately, just as the pattern of the Exodus is, because the Lord designed the celebration of the feasts to mirror and commemorate the experiences of the Exodus. He crafted the details of the feasts to be a perpetual teaching tool to be passed down through the generations as both a testimony and a prophetic calendar of His plan and ways. God commanded the feasts to be celebrated every year as a perpetual (ongoing, eternal, never ending) statute throughout all generations in every land (**Leviticus 23**). No wonder, the prophetic pattern of the feasts are God's original discipleship manual. The whole plan of God for mankind is contained in the patterns found in the feasts of the Lord.

One of the greatest tragedies in the history of the Church has been the unholy separation from her Jewish roots that were intended to establish the boundaries of the theological interpretation of our faith. A great number of heresies have been perpetrated over the centuries in Christianity because of the sins of syncretism and anti-semitism. Syncretism is the practice of combining tenets of different religions or faiths together. In this case, it is the distinct corruption of Biblical Christianity by adopting the beliefs and practices of many pagan and false religious systems into the officially accepted doctrines, creeds and rites of the Church. The sin of anti-semitism interspersed throughout the history of the gentile Church has been one of the primary reasons that so much of the language and customs of Scripture have remained a mystery to the Church. Without understanding the Jewish roots of our faith that were authored by God, it is impossible to have a comprehensive understanding of His overall plan for mankind. Of course the religion of Judaism has also been corrupted from the pure form delivered to the Hebrew nation at the foot of Mt. Sinai. I am not suggesting that we adopt or incorporate the current or even historical religion of Judaism. Any religion or creed that parts ways at any point, no matter how great or how small, with the *full* Biblical boundaries (Old and New Testaments) of the *one true faith* as revealed by God, must be completely rejected, *regardless* of its source of origin.

Winston Churchill once said, “Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it”. If we do not understand the principles and patterns of God’s Word, we will go through life repeating the same mistakes, never understanding what we are doing wrong and never knowing the freedom that God designed and desires for us. We were given the keys to the Kingdom of God over two thousand years ago, but most believers don’t know what the keys are for, so they sit hanging on the key rack by the door and go unused by believers - content to just have the keys, even if they never unlock a single door.

**“ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Psalm 9:10**

As you take the time to delve deeper into these amazing mysteries, please use this manual as a tool to help you position your heart and mind in a posture of humility to the great and awesome God that is our only source of true wisdom. We can become master theologians or master teachers without ever coming closer to God, knowing Him more, or ever submitting to become transformed into His image. If we do not begin this journey with holy and honest fear of the Lord, all our understanding will be skewed or corrupt. King David, a man after God's own heart (**I Samuel 13:14**), said, "The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant." (**Psalms 25:14**). David was not called a man after God's own heart because he was perfect and made no life mistakes. On the contrary, he made very grave and costly mistakes and sinned greatly before his God. The reason God called him a man after His own heart was because in studying God's word, David *believed* what he read and chose to seek above all things a *relationship* with God. Though David fell on a number of occasions, when he rose, he always knew where to go for the only source of restoration, forgiveness, hope and life. He knew he could always trust the love and character of God and dared not question His authority, goodness or motives. David knew the fear of the Lord. His son, Solomon, penned the prophetic words of **Psalms 1:28-31**, "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, because they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be satiated with their own devices." Chances are, if you are reading this manual, you have some desire to know or grow in your relationship with God. If so, one of the greatest prayers you can pray is for a holy understanding of the fear of the Lord. In the kingdom of God, this attribute is the key that unlocks the vault of wisdom. **Proverbs 2:1-5**, "My son, if you will receive my sayings, and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; *then you will discern the fear of the Lord, and discover the knowledge of God.*"

Please keep in mind when studying *The Journey*, that this discipleship manual was compiled and formulated over nearly 30 years of ministry as a tool to train and disciple those the Lord entrusted to our ministry. We are well aware that many utilizing this tool will not agree with every interpretation of doctrine set forth in its pages. It was designed as a basis to undergird the calling and commission of Freedom Ministries and in response to the direction of the Lord. We have sincerely endeavored to present our conviction of a balanced, apostolic presentation of the Word of God. However, honestly and humbly acknowledging our human limitations, there may yet remain biases or blind spots. If so, use them to sharpen your own discernment and understanding and to challenge you to "Study to show yourself approved unto the Lord..." (**II Timothy 2:15**) KJV. It is our hope for you that as you read *The Journey*, it will help bring not only an understanding to seemingly contradicting theologies and strengthen you as a true disciple of Jesus Christ, but will also bring a hunger and awe for God and His Word that will create a life-long treasure hunt to be enjoyed on this journey. Via con Dios.

In His Love and Amazing Grace,

Darla Foreman
Freedom Ministries, Inc.
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