

GET A G.R.I.P.

(God Restores Individuals Perfectly)

5 – Session Bible Study: Gospel of John

PERSONAL WORD

When I was a young child, I gave my heart to Jesus. What do I mean? I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins. I was happy and thrilled with my new found conversion to Jesus Christ. But gradually this new found love affair with Jesus began to fade. Why? It was because I was just a believer, but not a true disciple. Oh, yes I went to church each week and even to Sunday-School, but my testimony dried up. My joy of conversion dwindled, and I found I wasn't interested even in attending church. I wasn't praying or reading the Bible either. I had no one to blame but myself. Of course my Christian activities became inactive and the world's entertainments became more exciting. In those days I could tell you more about my favorite television show than I could about answers to prayer. I could tell you more about my favorite subjects at school than I could about my favorite Bible story. My interests in the things of God completely fizzled out and I was just looking religious in name only as I still called myself a Christian. From time to time I asked these questions: "Isn't there more?" "I am missing something, but what?" I couldn't find the answers. Many of the sermons I heard preached from the pulpit were about "how to get saved," but few talked about the steps necessary to become a disciple.

So, as I have said before, the joy of salvation grew dim and dull, and of course things of this world became more interesting. My once fresh Christian life became boring, and the world offered more exciting trinkets and treasures. Yes, for awhile the world's excitements, success and achievements brought satisfaction, but it was only temporary happiness. They never really fulfilled my heart's desires, and I did not have peace of heart or mind.

Now going along like this was okay for awhile, but living this life wasn't as exciting as it appeared. I didn't have peace anymore. I was lying and cheating. I was doing those things which were not pleasing to God. I was guilty, but of course I blamed all these guilt feelings on others. It was my boss who caused the problems. It was my teacher that gave me headaches. I gave excuses, disobeyed God and broke some of the Ten Commandments including the first: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." I was miserable inside, but of course on the outside I looked like a normal human being. I dressed nice, looked good, and was generally pleasant to talk to (if you got me in a good mood), but all this was a charade. God, through His mercy and unfailing love sent conviction and I asked Jesus to forgive me. I confessed my sin. I surrendered to His perfect will. I got a grip on His love and mercy.

Yes. I got a grip on God's love and mercy. He took what was ugly, and restored and revived my heart. His love healed me and inwardly cleansed me. How did I know? I had peace, rest, and joy in my soul. I no longer felt guilty. I had found the Wonderful Counselor, the Prince of Peace. I made a choice to grip the Master's hand and to become His disciple. I stepped into discipleship and began to abide in the basics which are 1) Read the Bible daily, 2) Pray each day, 3) Witness at every opportunity, and 4) Obey the Holy Spirit.

This Bible study therefore is designed to cover these four basics. I trust that as you participate in this Bible study of the gospel of John you, too, will "get a grip" and choose to become His disciple. Discipleship, in a nutshell, is loving and obeying God with all your whole heart, soul, mind and strength.

Obviously, this Bible study is not exhaustive, but I pray that Jesus will anoint the crumbs, and that Jesus may stir you to walk with God.

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