



Two Models of Discipleship

► **Compared and contrasted**

THE MAIN FOCUS ►

THE CHIEF GOAL ►

THE POWER ►

THE DYNAMIC ►

THE PRINCIPLE ►

THE MOTIVATION ►

HOLINESS IS ►

"THE FLESH" ►

THE DISCIPLER ►

THE DISCIPLE ►

THE DANGER ►

The TRY Model

(seen at its worst)

Behaving (the *outside* of the cup); change at the *fruit* level; "getting my act together"

Outward holiness, discipline

Human effort (Gal. 3: 3); moral willpower; "To obey, I *try*."

Buck up! Try harder; get committed. "I'm a disappointment."

My obedience to God leads to a relationship with Him.

Duty. Guilt. Pride. I am determined to be right and look good.

Keeping the rules; doing more for God and doing it better.

I assume that my flesh can be conquered through self-discipline.

Must model success and competence; must appear strong and well-disciplined.

We're "Dudley Do-Right" and "Suzie Sunshine"—perfect models of how to do more and do it better.

A discipling strategy that majors on externals tends to produce self-centered Christians who are either proud when they perform well or depressed when they can't measure up. (See Jerry Bridges' article following.)

The BELIEVE Model

(seen at its best)

Believing (the *inside* of the cup); change at the *root* level; obedience from the heart

Love (1 Tim. 1:5; Gal.5:6; Mt.22:40)

Faith in Jesus supplies the Spirit (Gal.3:5); "To obey, I *trust*."

Believe more; submit; trust. "I am God's child."

My relationship with God leads to obedience to Him (Jn. 15:5).

Love. I am passionate for the glory of God. I want *him* to look good.

Loving as Jesus loves as I believe the Gospel more (Jn. 13:34; Rom. 13:8f).

I know that my flesh never loses its power, but Gospel faith conquers it.

Models repentance. "I will boast in my weakness so that the power of Christ may rest on me." (2Cor. 12:9)

Since I'm the chief of sinners, I'm a big repenter—loving, bold, gracious, and full of faith (1 Tim. 1:15).

An emphasis on freedom may lead some to laziness or license. If so, they've not understood the Gospel. Properly understood, grace motivates us to obedience from grateful joy—and, we obey to make *him* look good, not ourselves.

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Grace4Life - London, UK
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In *The Compelling Power of Love*, Jerry Bridges explains why we need to practise discipleship "in the atmosphere of the Gospel." This is the discipling strategy of **Grace4Life**.

