

**Vision 2027 Week 3: Mature**  
**Making Disciples that Make Disciples**  
**We will be a Discipling People**  
**1 Peter 1:13-15 and Matthew 28:18-20**  
**January 22, 2023**

**The last two weeks:**

**Magnify – Rejoicing as people come to life in Christ. What do we have to rejoice in?**

**Meet – Building relationships that lead to Gospel transformation, meeting people where they are.**

**Mature – (this morning), Maturing disciples that make disciples.**

**Magnify – Meet – Mature – Move.**

**Disciple** – *mathētēs* (from *math-*, the "mental effort needed to think something through") – properly, a *learner*; a *disciple*, a *follower of Christ who learns the doctrines of Scripture and the lifestyle they require*; someone catechized with proper instruction from the Bible with its necessary follow-through (life-applications). See also [3100](#) /*mathēteuō* ("to disciple").<sup>1</sup>

**We are never a “perfect disciple”, but one that keeps growing and learning. We are either going forward or going away.**

**Gird up your loins of your mind! (to know God’s Word and be prepared).**

Peter provides a basis for the exhortation, as he commonly does in his letters. After a greeting (1 Peter 1:1–2), Peter extols the glory of God for God’s work in ensuring our salvation (1 Peter 1:3–5). The doxology in these few brief verses has at least eleven assertions of eternal security and the eternal nature of our salvation. In light of these statements of hope, Peter reminds us that we can rejoice even in the greatest of difficulties because we know that God will deliver on His promises (1 Peter 3:6–9). No matter what hardships believers in Christ face today, we know that He is faithful to ensure our salvation (1 Peter 1:9).

In that culture the loin cloth hung down, something like a slip, along with the robe, making it difficult to run. By wrapping or tying up the loin cloth and the robe, a person could run much more effectively. The same concept is mentioned in Ephesians 6:14, as Paul explains that the armor of God includes a girding of the loins with truth. For Peter to tell us “to gird up the loins of your mind” (1 Peter 1:13) indicates that he intends for us to be prepared for action; in fact, the NASB translates the phrase in 1 Peter 1:13 as “prepare your minds for action.” While this is not the word-for-word translation of the Greek phrase used (and perhaps not ideal), it does communicate what Peter seemed to imply by using the figure of speech. Believers are exhorted to gird up the loins of your mind—to be prepared for action and in doing that to keep a sober or alert spirit. Ultimately, we fix our hope steadfastly on the future fulfillment of God’s grace through Jesus in our lives when Christ is revealed at His second coming (1 Peter 1:13b). The way for us to stand firm in the midst of difficulty and even persecution is by preparing for encountering those things and being well equipped with the knowledge of God’s promises for us. Peter is giving us the recipe for successfully encountering and persevering through difficulty—that we be clear on our assurance of salvation. We can trust in God, as He will keep the promises He has made to us.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://biblehub.com/greek/3101.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/gird-up-the-loins-of-your-mind.html>

## **Be sober**

At its root (from Strong Concordance)<sup>3</sup> to be sober is to “abstain from wine” and in this context in regards to being sober it is to be “calm, not intoxicated, clear minded, self-controlled.”

We are always “under the influence” of something or someone. We are called to be sober minded.

## **Rest hope-fully upon God’s grace.**

We must know and remind others where our hope comes from. We NEVER outgrow the Gospel, so we must continually preach it to our self and to others.

## **Obey**

*If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:5*

## **Why? “Be holy for He is holy.”**

If this is what God calls us to do as believers, why is it that we don’t or why is it that we see many “walk away” or in today’s terms “deconstruct” from the faith? Either they were never believers or they were never disciplined in the faith.

This is why a new believer may fall away or quickly become excited at conversion and then the “coals get cold.”

We must first walk as 1 Peter 1 says and we want to encourage others to do the same and come with us. We want to propel others onward in the faith.

The best way to know God’s Word is to obey it.

Psalm 1:1-6 - A live well lived vs. An undisciplined/easily dismissed life.

We want to live a disciplined life (in fact, the word *disciple* is the same root word for discipline).

Living vs. Existing

## **How can God use me to make disciples?**

I must be a disciple first.

I must **abide** in Christ.

I will never go **forward** unintentionally, backward always.

I will be intentional (as I go) and take opportunities.

## **Prayer Focus:**

- **Am I maturing in Truth, righteousness and love?**
- **Am I discipling myself (feeding myself)?**
- **Am I discipling others?**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://biblehub.com/greek/3525.htm>