

*what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

A true disciple will love the Brethren ~ Jesus told us Himself in John 13:34-35,

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

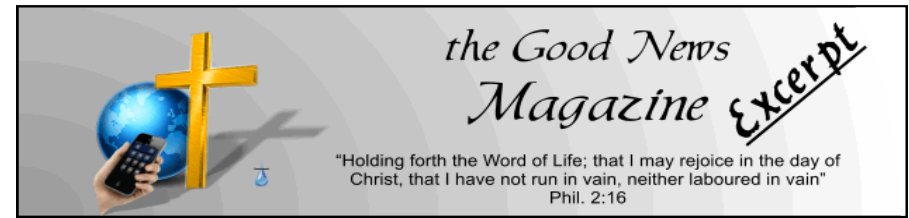
A true disciple will bear much fruit ~ Jesus again tells us in John 15:8,

*"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."*

These words we're reading are coming from Jesus Christ Himself as to what is required

to be a disciple of His. He makes it so very clear and plain to anyone who is willing to read and put into action what He asks of us so that we too may be His disciples. I could go on and on with all the attributes that the Lord requires of us if we do indeed want to be up close and personal with Him. Are you willing to take the steps needed to do so? Just how badly do we want to have that close and personal relationship with Him? No one can answer that question but **YOU!** [~]

Would you like to give your life to Christ today? The beginning of abundant life begins when you accept Jesus Christ in your heart as Lord and savior.  
Romans:10:9:  
*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved*



**Up-Close & Personal**  
by M. Deborah Senese #63381

For some reason, it seems of great interest to know celebrities or people of interest "up close and personal". They want to know everything about them. What they eat, where they shop, what they wear, where they stay when they travel, skeletons that may be in their closet. Everything about the person they are interested in. They just can't seem to get enough. If we have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, why aren't we just as hungry to know Him, more about Him, what pleases or displeases Him, how He lived, how He died, where is He now? I'm not saying we should run out and purchase the latest magazine to find out all the

information you can on someone you admire; However, I am suggesting that perhaps, we are lacking the excitement, the thrill, the enthusiasm, the interest in the Person we not only admire, but should adore and seek to serve.

I believe the best example we can have of people who were literally up close and personal with Jesus Christ was His disciples. They lived with Him, ate with Him, traveled with Him, followed Him, and tried to obey and emulate Him. He was the only Person of interest in their lives. The very definition of the word disciple means, "Learner". It denotes "one who follows another's teaching" according

**Are you up close and personal with Jesus Christ? Are you a true disciple of His?**

to Vine's Commentary. A disciple was not only a learner;

he was also an adherent (someone who supports a particular person, and/or his set of ideas.) For this reason disciples were spoken of as imitators of their teachers. Is that us? Are we truly disciples of Jesus Christ? This very question causes me to pause and reflect upon my own life and heart.

How did the disciples become up close and personal with Jesus Christ? We can never know each detail of each one of their experiences with the Lord while He walked this earth, but we can search out His word to see what we can find there for us to apply to our own lives. First of all, the goal of a disciple is to be as much like his/her teacher as possible as stated in Luke 6:40,

***"The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master."***

That is quite clear and concise, easy to be understood, and said by Jesus Christ Himself! Next, a true disciple is to strive to be just like Christ. There are a number of verses that teach us this virtue;  
1 John 2:6

***"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."***

1 Corinthians 11:1

***"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."***

1 Peter 2:21 -

***"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."***

There are many more verses on this topic and perhaps

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would make an excellent word study for your own private devotional time. We are commanded to strive to be Christ-like for a purpose; This coincides with God's goal in the redemption of mankind, that we be conformed to the image of His Son as told in Romans 8:29,

***"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."***

God the Father wants us to be just like His Son, so that we can emulate His image to others so that they may see Christ in us. That is a true disciple.

Are you up-close and personal with Jesus Christ? Are you a true disciple of His? Here are some points to check your heart and your life by to see if you are indeed a true disciple, given in God's word for us to compare ourselves to

as the Bible is our standard to live by.

**A** true disciple will live by Jesus' words ~ John 8:31-32 ~

***"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

Continuing in His word is not just hearing what He has to say, but actually doing them and living by them as in James 1:21-25 ~

***"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth***