



## Discipleship Bible Study

Teacher: Lawrence Hubb, Apostle/Lead Pastor – The Greater Fellowship Inc.

### **Declaration:** I Choose Jesus – Lord, Build Your House! Part 1

#### **Focus Text:**

**Matthew 7:24-27 NLT** *“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”*

**Matthew 16:24-26 NLT** *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?”*

#### **Sunday Recap:**

Hebrews 3:4-6 NLT - Psalm 127:1 NLT - 1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV

The Lord is calling us to be the people where He dwells. A living house for Him in the earth. Calling us into His identity and purpose. Identity is *who* we are, Purpose is *why* we are. Purpose and identity are intimately interwoven and inform one another. As we choose His salvation and Lordship for our lives, we give up our old way of living, our old way of thinking, for His. We stop living to satisfy ourselves and allow Him to satisfy us with eternal life. In Genesis 3, we discover that mankind was doomed to be subject to power of sin which leads to eternal death. This happened as man willfully chose to go his own way, instead of obeying the instructions of God. But God in His infinite love, paved a way for us to be saved from eternal death and separation from Him. This sacrifice was made as God became flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. He died a sinner’s death on the cross, taking on Himself the penalty of our sins and created a new life-giving way to the Father, through Himself and now as we choose Him, we have everlasting life! (Romans 5:12-21, Romans 10:9) As we choose to follow Jesus, our purpose now, is to know Him, glorify Him and enjoy Him forever, we now identify as His Children; Heirs and Joint-Heirs (Romans 8:17) with Christ! As we choose Jesus, we are choosing a life-long process of being sanctified (changed into his image, built up in His character, morals, values and love), a process where His commands shape our lives daily as we intentionally seek Him. We must know that God build’s according to His will and His Kingdom, which is counter-culture to most of the world around us, and goes against our fleshly (sinful) instincts. To gain in Him, we must willingly lose our fleshly life. To live, we must die to our earthly desires; to mature in Him, we must suffer in the flesh. It will seem counter intuitive, but we are being built into God’s House! This process takes BOLD belief. A willingness to choose Jesus over everything else.

What Can we Expect when God Builds the House?

**Spirit Led:**

- Transformation (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)
- Oneness (John 17:22-23 ESV)
- True Love (1 Peter 1:22-23 NLT)

When the enemy is your builder, the result is ultimate death, The house will collapse with a mighty crash! The scriptures clearly define what kind of lifestyle and behavior is produced by that kind of house, a clear sign in the last days, read here:

2 Timothy 3:1-5 – Galatians 5:19-21

**Choices:** In this world, options are plenty. So much to choose from, all the time. From food, housing, to relationships, who we should be, what we should do, clothing options, educational pursuits, media engagement, financial concerns, health concerns, and so on. An abundance of feelings coming at us all the time and we must choose well what we allow to drive us, encourage us, motivate us, discourage us and ultimately change us, so many options! Having to make the right choice, in the face of these options, can be overwhelming and draining, leading us to more unwanted feelings such as fear, anxiety, hopeless and even despair. It can become so much to the point where we don't want to choose at all and wish that someone else could just make the choice for us! However, despite all this there is hope! Receiving Jesus in our hearts is the greatest and most transformative choice we can ever make. Choosing Jesus, saves us from the overwhelming tide of worldly options and gives us the ultimate filter for every other choice we make. To Choose Jesus is to choose to believe, trust and put your faith in God. To believe the gospel message, that Jesus came into the world, died for our sins and arose from the grave with all power, is literally the most importance choice we will ever make. To Choose Jesus is to choose safety, sufficiency and absolute success. It's freedom from the world and it's results! He saves us from our sin, our fears, and separation from God (death). Choosing Jesus is the only option worth choosing!

Jesus wants to build your house, live in your house and live out of your House! Choose Him Today!

**Biblical summary: Choosing to follow Jesus' Teaching - Matthew 5**

1. **What it means to be blessed and Characteristics of True Disciples** (Matthew 5:3-12): Jesus introduces what the early church coined as "the Beatitudes", emphasizing spiritual humility, mourning for sin, gentleness, righteousness, mercy, purity of heart, peacemaking, and standing firm in the face of persecution. These qualities reflect the kingdom of heaven and True blessings in life. They reflect a commitment to the character of a true child of God and provide a heart-blueprint for building a truly righteous and divine life of God's love.

2. **Fulfillment of the Law** (Matthew 5:17-20): Jesus clarifies that He did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. He stresses the importance of a righteousness that surpasses that of the Pharisees, highlighting the internal nature of obeying God's commandments from a heart of true love rather than merely outwardly obeying from a selfish heart.

3. **Internal Righteousness** (Matthew 5:21-48): Jesus elevates the understanding of moral laws, addressing issues of anger, lust, and love, solidifying that true obedience comes from a heart that desires to please God over all. He teaches that emotional and spiritual integrity is just as crucial as behavior.

**Points of Power:** In life, our choices can cripple us or change us for the better. To Choose Jesus is to crucify the flesh with its desires and transform into a new creation! This change brings light, hope and new outlook on life. The old “you” is gone and the new has come. We are Set free and delivered, a child of God. Choosing Jesus is to choose **Life, Love and Liberty!**

1. **Choose Life!** – *To accept, receive or choose Christ, is to literally accept His life. You give up your old life which was dead because of sin and take His life into yourself, a life that never expires. Eternal life becomes our reality and our focus for everyday living.*

John 3:36 NLT: “And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.”

2. **Choose Love!** – *Love is the way of Christ. To choose Jesus is to choose love. Love that is seen, experienced and transformative (It changes things). Not only does His love change us, but when we choose to love we change the world around us by His spirit, advancing His Kingdom on Earth.*

Mark 12:30-31 NLT “And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

3. **Choose Liberty!** – *Receiving Jesus frees us from sin and its results. We are no longer slaves to our flesh but liberated to serve God and others! Free to experience the Kingdom of God on earth and in Heaven!*

John 8:36 NLT: “So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”

### **Further Discussion Scriptures:**

#### **John 10: 27-30 NLT**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, 29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”*

#### **John 1:12-13 NLT**

*“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.”*

#### **1 John 4:16-20 NLT**

*We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. 18 Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love. 19 We love each other because he loved us first. 20 If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?*

**Galatians 5:13-14 NLT**

*“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. 14 For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

**Discussion Questions (for personal reflection, small groups or in-home family bible studies):**

1. How have your choices impacted your life?
2. As you surrender to God and choose to live His life, how do you see this changing your life?
3. When people see you, do they see a child of God? How do you know?
4. What is your favorite thing about God’s Love? Are you giving that to others?

**Be BRAVE! Be Ready Act Victoriously Everyday!**



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