

ONE DAY BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Zion Prayer Fellowship, Chanamunda, Dist: Nuapada, Date: 05 April 2025

Guest Speaker: Rev. Shailendra Nanda

How to Become Disciples?

The Lord has already made it clear that *"the one who abides in My word is truly My disciple."*

But is it as simple as it sounds?

In reality, what kind of believer can truly remain steadfast in His word?

The Apostle Peter wrote:

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

— 1 Peter 2:1–3

From this, we begin to understand the kind of hunger we must have for the Word of the Lord—not like a grown man who relies on different resources for different troubles, but like a newborn infant who depends solely on one thing—his mother's pure milk. He needs it every half an hour. He seeks no other substitute.

This is what Peter is trying to convey—that we too, like newborn infants, must yearn for the Word of our God, because we have tasted the sweetness of His grace.

The Word of the Lord not only strengthens us spiritually, but also drives away the darkness in our lives with its radiant light. Thus, we must hold this Word in our hearts like a lamp, a lamp that walks with us through life's troubles, until those troubles vanish.

And it is with such tender affection that Peter reminds his fellow believers:

"We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

— 2 Peter 1:19

Here, it is not merely about remaining in the Word until the trouble is gone, but staying in the Word *until the Morning Star*—which represents Christ Himself—rises in our hearts.

For it is through the Word that we learn,
and to become a disciple, three qualities are necessary:

1. A heart that is willing to learn
2. The courage to follow Christ
3. The resolve to imitate Him

For truly, He alone is worthy of these things—none other.

Yet, my beloved, this is not so easy.

For even the Lord Jesus said:

“Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”

— *Luke 9:58*

So only those can follow Him who are prepared for such a life.

Sadly, the Bible tells us that many people were unwilling.

When the time came to truly follow Him, they each gave excuses:

1. *“Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”* — Luke 9:59
2. *“I have bought a field, and I must go and see it.”* — Luke 14:18
3. *“I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out.”* — Luke 14:19
4. *“I just got married, so I cannot come.”* — Luke 14:20

These were people who wanted to follow Jesus,
but they were entangled in various kinds of bondage:

Some were bound by social customs,
some by their possessions,
some by their livelihoods,
and others by the pleasures and comforts of the world.

I—and many among us today—are also bound by such things.
And unless we are freed from them,
we cannot truly follow or imitate Christ.

And if we cannot do that,
How then can we claim to be His disciples?

We must be prepared in every way,
ready to follow Christ and even to lose everything for His sake.
Only then will we be able to walk in His footsteps.

For He Himself declares:

“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be My disciple.”

— *Luke 14:26*

Therefore, if we reflect on the true conditions of discipleship,
many points may come to mind,
but some of the most essential are these:

1. Renounce self and everything else to follow Him
2. Crave His Word like a newborn craves milk
3. Be born of the Word—that is, of the Spirit

Now the responsibility lies with us to examine ourselves:
Are we truly ready to do these things to become His disciples?
Or are we still just believers using Jesus for our own purposes?

Blessed is our Jesus, and blessed is His love

Led by the Holy Spirit, Guided by Faith and Scripture
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I sincerely thank our respected Guest Speaker, Rev. Shailendra Nanda, for teaching this topic so profoundly and clearly. His guidance has been a great blessing, enriching both my knowledge and faith. May God continue to bless him abundantly.

With gratitude,
Sonu Kumar Saha