

Guiding 'Signposts'

Questions to ask myself as I reflect on my journey toward Christlikeness.

1. How would I describe my relationship with Jesus Christ? How is my relationship changing? What difference is Christ making in my life? How do I know I have a relationship with Jesus?
2. What am I doing; to study the Word of God, in my prayer life, to give generously, to ensure I am worshipping? What is hindering me? Has my practice changed? Can I see application in my life?
3. In what ways are others seeing the fruit of the Spirit in my life? Is there a greater desire to connect with God? In what ways?
4. Do I know what my spiritual gifts are? How am I using them? How are they being confirmed?
5. How do I resolve conflict with others? Am I practicing confession, forgiveness and reconciliation in personal and corporate relationships? What are my family relationships like? Who and how am I helping to grow spiritually? In what ways can a relationship with a peer mentor or accountability partner help me?
6. How am I actively investing in my local church community? How is participation in my church helping me grow?
7. Am I able to share the Gospel? Have I taken the opportunity to do so? Do I have a greater concern/compassion for those yet to know Christ? How am I expressing it?

Opportunities for Growth

- ◆ **Individually**
 - ◆ Ongoing and regular personal study, regular devotions, inspirational reading, personal prayer, Sabbath time.
- ◆ **With Another**
 - ◆ Mentoring/discipling/accountability relationships that are infused with prayer; ongoing or for a period of time; could be informal or formal in nature.
- ◆ **Small Groups**
 - ◆ Based on interest, needs, geography or demographics for a specified period of time. Focus on social connection and relationships; developing a caring community with opportunities for teaching, learning, outreach and service; grounded in prayer.
- ◆ **Large Gatherings**
 - ◆ Corporate worship, teaching and celebration; building identity and support in a more formal setting.

Ritson Road Alliance Church

We want to be a loving community of believers who seek a deeper relationship with God, each other and our neighbours.



605 Ritson Road North
Oshawa, ON L1G 5R5

905-723-5112 (phone)
905-723-7018 (fax)
office.rrac@bellnet.ca

www.ritsonalliance.church

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A Discipling People in a Disciple Making Place



The 7 Characteristics of a Maturing Disciple

1. A maturing disciple...has a deepening relationship with Jesus.

- Recognizes it is only God's grace offered through the cross that is able to address his/her sinful nature.
- Has turned from sin and self and accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour and abides in Him.
- Is learning to walk daily by faith in obedience, joy and love.

*John 15:4, 9-17; Mark 8:34-38;
Mark 1:17; Ephesians 2:8-9*

2. A maturing disciple...practices spiritual disciplines.

- Consistently engages in personal and corporate prayer, study and meditation in the Word, tithing and giving generously, and individual and group worship.
- Practices a new pattern of life (thought, attitude and action) modelled on the life and teaching of Jesus.

*John 14:21; Matthew 5-7; 28:20;
Romans 12:1-2*



3. A maturing disciple...has an empowering relationship with the Holy Spirit.

- Seeks the filling of the Holy Spirit in order to walk in His presence and power.
- Exercises the 'fruit of the Spirit' and the 'spirit of righteousness' as he/she grows in truth, love and accountability.

*Acts 4:31; Galatians 5:22-23;
Philippians 1:9-11; Isaiah 32:17*

4. A maturing disciple...is connected to and aware of his/her unique place in God's Kingdom.

- Willingly identifies and develops spiritual gifts, talents and abilities.
- Regularly serves the church family and those in need through the exercise of these spiritual gifts, talents and abilities.

*Romans 12:6-13; Ephesians 4:1-16;
1 Corinthians 12-13; Mark 9:35*

5. A maturing disciple...has a genuine relationship with other believers.

- Intentionally invests in others' spiritual lives through mentoring relationships.
- Practices confession, forgiveness and reconciliation in personal and corporate relationships.
- Encourages and exhorts others in what is learned from God's Word.

*John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 2:17; 3:8-9;
Matthew 5:23; 18:15-20, 34-35;
Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27*



6. A maturing disciple...connects with the local church community.

- Values genuine biblical community (fellowships, worships, learns, breaks bread together).
- Lives a life that reflects Jesus' love for others.
- Regularly serves the church community with time and resources.

*Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-36;
Romans 12:9-13; 1 John 3:23-24;
Matthew 18:15-20*

7. A maturing disciple...accepts his/her relationship to the world.

- Has a compassionate heart for all people groups and all nations.
- Puts that felt need into action through the use of personal resources and regular prayer.
- Cultivates authentic relationships with those who do not know Jesus as personal Saviour and Lord.
- Gives witness to the Gospel through word and action.

*Matthew 9:36-38; 28:18-20; Mark 12:29-31;
1 Peter 2:11-17; Luke 10:30-37; 19:10*