

Women & More

A 'call' and 'walk' Experience

Women & More is a **new** ministry specific to women, and it is my heart's response to God's 'call' to live out and teach discipleship (*followship*).

Followship is the steady pad, pad of the soul's feet
following the Savior moment by moment on the path he has prepared,
made clear and visible by the Holy Spirit,
and leading to the Father's house.

I'm never surer of God, than when I realize what doubting him means—**Hebrews 11:6**—
displeasing to him!

Ruth Jeanene Moore

Can we be Jesus' disciples without *followship*? In **Matthew 16:24**, **Mark 8:34** and **Luke 9:23** Jesus says, "*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*"

Luke adds the word *daily* after cross, and in **Luke 14:27** pens this sobering statement: "*And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*" Becoming a disciple isn't automatic; it doesn't just ooze into one by osmosis. It is a choice to *follow*, and there is a cost: *denying self and taking up our cross daily*. But the rewards are blessed when we choose to be Jesus' disciple by faith, just as we chose to receive him as Savior.

Followship:

To deny self and take up our cross daily...

Those who choose to be Jesus' disciples can only be said to truly 'follow' him when they've made the decision, first, to *deny self*. Giving up selfish ambition and self-effort, they let go of the controls and, further, do not set their will against God's complete control. Then they *take up their cross*—essentially of self—*daily*, living each and every day for Christ and his glory and not for themselves. Our self-life must be given up daily in order to gain the 'life' Christ has for us—the exchanged life!

"Christian minds have been conformed to the modern spirit: the spirit, that is, that spawns great thoughts of man and leaves room for only small thoughts of God. The modern way with God is to set him at a distance, if not to deny him altogether...allowing God to become remote."

Knowing God, J. I. Packer

To follow Jesus...

• Our Refuge and Strength

(Psalm 46:1)

Who will truly know the tremendous *refuge* and *strength* of the One they're *following* but the oppressed, fearful, helpless, weak and exhausted? God will allow in our lives what he desires to show his greatness through! *Followship* will keep us up-front-and-personal with the Shepherd—protected and aided at every turn in the trail.

• The Friend Who Sticks

(Proverbs 18:24)

When studying out friendship, friends—being a friend and having a friend—in Scripture, we'll read that the One we *follow* is 'the friend that sticks.' And in order to fully appreciate 'the friend that sticks,' one has to have experienced a few who did not...those who walked away claiming the season was over...or claiming nothing. So God allows it.

The message of 'the friend that sticks' is about the One we *follow* sticking when others do not, yes, but it's more about teaching us to stick to Him—*followship*! Jesus is like that. There are many lessons for us in every word, every nuance, and every season he gives. We need to know 'the friend that sticks,' and then **become** 'the friend that sticks,' conforming to his image. Daily *being*...the 'friend' he is

-the 'giver' he is

-the 'intercessor' he is

-the 'servant' he is

-the 'lover' he is

Someone has said about *being* more like God: "That's why we're called human *beings*!"

"God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His **being**, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth."

(From Westminster Shorter Catechism)

• The Author of Life

(Acts 3:15)

Jesus wrote life into existence—inventing, giving and sustaining it. Who better to follow after than the One who is the author of the very life we live for him, as well as eternal life to come? Jesus knows life; he wrote the Book on it!

Am I qualified? No.
Do I know the qualifier? Yes.
Am I sure of the 'call'? Yes!

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