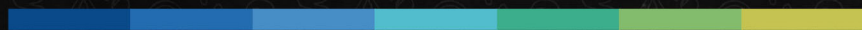


KICKSTART



PACKAGE

TORBEN SØNDERGAARD

Unless otherwise specified, all Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

KICKSTART PACKAGE

By Torben Søndergaard

Copyright © 2021 by Torben Søndergaard

All rights reserved. This book is protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America. This book may not be copied or reprinted for commercial gain or profit. The use of short quotations or occasional page copying for personal or group study is permitted and encouraged. Permission will be granted on request.

Kickstart Package / Torben Søndergaard

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-943523-93-1

ePub (iPad, Nook) ISBN: 978-1-943523-94-8

Mobi (Kindle) ISBN: 978-1-943523-95-5

PUBLISHED BY THE LAST REFORMATION

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LAURUS COMPANY, INC.

PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This book may be purchased in paperback from www.TheLastReformation.com, Amazon.com, and other retailers around the world. Electronic versions are also available from their respective stores.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks to ALL those who worked, edited, researched, and supported me in making this all possible.

I am eternally grateful to Josué Studer, whose hard work for two years on the “Kickstart Package” videos with graphics, video editing, and so much more. You are such a blessing!

I’m also immensely grateful for Marcia Neuhold, for taking the teachings from the “Kickstart Package” videos and recording them in this book.

A special thanks to Ever Calamaco for your help with the graphics and design in both this book and the workbook.

And a very special thank you to Asia Brazil Scoggins for editing, developing the layout, gathering, and formulating information from the “Kickstart Package” videos into both this book and workbook.

Finally, I want to thank Nancy E. Williams for genuinely being an amazing publisher and editor.

You all are a big blessing to me and the kingdom of God.
May many lives be changed forever because of this.
Thank you!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **Kickstart Package**. I am Torben Søndergaard, and I am very excited to share this book with you. I truly believe it is full of the Word of God and will be a tool that will empower you and change your life forever. This book is for those who want to know the truth of the Gospel of Christ and how to live as a disciple of Jesus in everyday life.

To share a little about my background, I am from Denmark, and I did not grow up in a Christian family. Like most people living in Denmark, I was baptized as a baby in the tradition of the Lutheran church. I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time on April 5, 1995. I repented and experienced the Holy Spirit entering my being. It marked the beginning of a new and amazing life with God. Since that day, I have spent time working on starting churches in different cities, and I have been traveling all over the world teaching and showing people how to live the life we read about in the Bible. God gave me a passion for equipping people to follow Jesus. He allowed me to start **The Last Reformation**, a movement that is spreading all around the world. Over the last years, I have had the honor of ministering to people in over 30 nations. I am currently living in America, where we are seeing God do amazing things. Aside from all of this, I am the author of six books and the producer of three movies that have been seen by millions of people.

One of the most incredible and transforming things we have been doing over the last few years is our Kickstart Weekends. A Kickstart Weekend is a three-day meeting with a strong focus on how to live the life we read about in the Bible. At these meetings, people learn about what the gospel is and how to share it, how to obey Jesus when it comes to healing the sick and casting out demons, and how

to be led by the Holy Spirit. In a Kickstart Weekend, we give both teaching and demonstration. We teach, then we show people how to share it, and then everyone has the chance to obey Jesus in what they have learned. When we, for example, teach how to heal the sick, we take some people up to the front to pray for them, and after we have shown people how to do it, we let everyone pray for each other. After this, we send everyone out on the streets in small groups to do the same. This simple, biblical form of discipleship is very effective. We are not only called to read Jesus' Word, but to listen, learn, and obey it.

During a Kickstart Weekend, we often see many people become born again. They come to our Weekends thinking that they already know the Gospel, but they really don't. They have heard about Jesus and that He died for them, but they are often still holding on to their sins. They have never really understood what faith in Jesus is, the importance of repentance, and that after they have repented, they need to be baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit.

When people at our Kickstart Weekends hear the whole gospel and how they need to repent, get baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit, it changes their lives. When we then show them how they can teach this to others, pray for the sick, and cast out demons, it really changes everything. They are on fire and ready to share this with people around them. We have seen from that how quickly it goes from person to person. When everyone experiences freedom in Christ and then learns to go out and give it to others, it can spread very fast.

We have seen thousands of people become fully born again and transformed through our Kickstart Weekends. Afterward, they go home to spread the truth of the Gospel to the people around them.

You may be asking yourself why it is called a "kickstart weekend." Well, picture a motorbike with a kickstart lever. The motorcycle needs to be kickstarted for the motor to start running and for the motorcyclist to be able to start driving. This inspired me to call these meetings "Kickstart Weekends."

Throughout the years, I have seen tens of thousands of people join the Kickstart Weekends, and I have seen God use these meetings to radically change their lives. These kickstart weekends have been the most effective tool that we have seen thus far in producing disciples of Jesus. We have heard thousands of

testimonies from people who have attended a Kickstart Weekend. Many of them have told us about how they were healed, set free, baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit, and how they have become fruitful disciples of Christ. We have seen God do so many incredible things at these meetings.

With the high effectiveness of the kickstart weekends being so evident, many people have said that they would like to host a kickstart weekend in their home. Therefore, over the last two years, we have been working on an amazing, life-changing video series called, "**The Kickstart Package.**" This video series will provide you with clear and simple teaching that will give you the tools you need to be an effective disciple of Jesus. It will also give you the confidence and the tools needed for you to host your own kickstart weekends in your home, church, or elsewhere.

In this book, you will find the teaching that is being shared in the video series, plus answers to some of the possible questions you might have or that might be asked after seeing the video series or that you may be asked when hosting your own kickstart. For example, when you watch the teaching about baptism, someone may ask if they should get baptized again, or what about baptizing in the name of Jesus or the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? These are the kinds of questions that I desire to answer for you in this book. I encourage you to read this book and let the words transform your life. Then, you can consider hosting a kickstart in your home, church, or elsewhere. You can invite your neighbors, friends, people from your church, and anyone else who is interested. The combination of the video series and this book will provide you with everything you need.

Each of the seven (7) videos is approximately 40 to 50 minutes long, and you can easily host a kickstart weekend in two days. You and your guests can start the kickstart on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and watch Lesson One (Disciple of Jesus) from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Lesson Two (The New Birth) from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon. At noon, you can take a lunch break. After this, watch Lesson Three (The Holy Spirit) from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. and Lesson Four (The Good News) from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. After the teaching, take the time to pray for those who need healing and baptize those who need to be baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit. In this book, we will try to give you as much help as possible, so that you who have never done this before are ready to step out in obedience and do this for the first time. So Saturday would be a day when you see people get born again and see

KICKSTART PACKAGE

lives transformed by the teaching, prayer, and baptisms.

On Sunday, meet again at 10:00 a.m. and watch Lesson Five (Knowing God) from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and Lesson Six (The Call of Jesus) from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Once more, you and your guests can take a lunch break at noon. Then it is time to go out and practice what you have learned. From 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., go out and kickstart people on the streets (take people out on the streets to teach them how to share about Jesus and pray for healing for a stranger). After this, return to your place and let the people share what they experienced on the streets. Lastly, watch Lesson Seven (The Good Ground) from 4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Together with this book and the videos, we also have a website called *KickstartPacket.com* where we will provide you with even more tools, videos, and everything you need to go forward with this life. If you would like to host your own kickstart but don't feel ready for it, you can also find people on our website who are ready to come and help you host it.

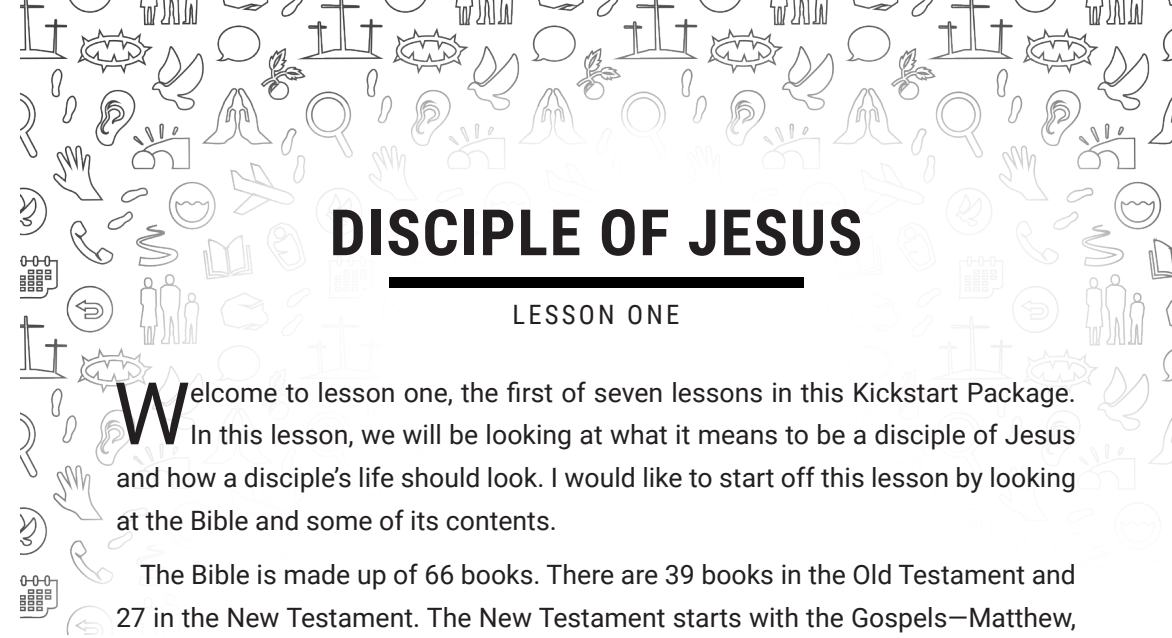
We also share on our website amazing testimonies from people who have attended a kickstart or hosted their own kickstart.

We believe that God will use this book to transform your life and then help you to experience the amazing life we read about in the Bible. We also believe that it will give you what you need to help others experience the same.

We hope you are ready to start your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. And we hope you are ready to help us make disciples by hosting your own kickstart or by spreading the video series and book to other people.

God bless you.

— Torben Søndergaard
A disciple of Jesus Christ

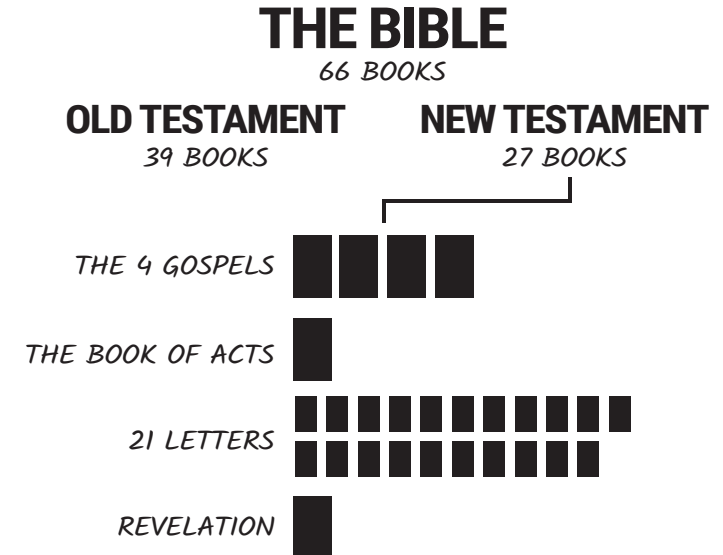


DISCIPLE OF JESUS

LESSON ONE

Welcome to lesson one, the first of seven lessons in this Kickstart Package. In this lesson, we will be looking at what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how a disciple's life should look. I would like to start off this lesson by looking at the Bible and some of its contents.

The Bible is made up of 66 books. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The New Testament starts with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Following the Gospels is the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. After the Book of Acts, there are 21 letters written by Paul, James, Peter, John, and Jude. The Book of Revelation is at the end of the New Testament. This book is about the end times.



I would now like to focus on the Book of Acts.

Throughout the centuries, Christianity has sadly moved far away from what it was originally intended to be. The traditions of man have, over the centuries, changed the

simple and powerful life with Jesus into a life of traditions and church culture. For us to understand how it all started and how it should be today, God has given us the Bible and, especially, the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts is like a diary belonging to the early disciples, and it is a very special book because it is the only historical book in the Bible that shows us how they obeyed Jesus, how they shared the Gospel, and how people responded to it. Yes, the Book of Acts shows us how the early disciples preached the Gospel, cast out demons, healed the sick, and baptized people in water and with the Holy Spirit. We don't see these things in any other book in the Bible. Why? Well, the answer is simple. It is because the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), were written before Jesus died on the cross and before the Holy Spirit was sent down to earth on the day of Pentecost.

The four Gospels show how Jesus walked around, what He preached, what He did, and how He called His disciples to follow Him. In the Gospels, you also see how Jesus died on the cross and rose up again. Yes, you see many amazing things in the Gospels, but we do not see how the disciples lived after the cross and how they followed Jesus as born again believers, like you and me. The Gospels record the period before the cross, and therefore, we don't see anyone receive the Holy Spirit or get baptized in the name of Jesus. Because of this, the Gospels do not provide a clear picture of how we, as followers of Jesus, are supposed to live.

The letters following the Book of Acts, are written to people who have already become Christians/disciples. In these letters, we read about the church life and the problems it faced, but we don't read how people came to faith, what they did when they came to faith, and how they obeyed Jesus in their everyday lives. Because the letters were all written to people who were already Christians/disciples, they were written to people who have already repented, been baptized, and received the Holy Spirit. Because of this, we do not see how people came to faith or how the early disciples preached the Gospel in the letters. The only place we see that is in the Book of Acts.

The Bible teaches that Jesus has not and never will change. Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) states, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*" This verse also means that the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Jesus) has not and will never change. The Holy Spirit is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Because of this, we can conclude

that what we read in the Book of Acts is not only for the disciples of the early church, but it is also for us today. This means that, today, we can also experience what the early disciples experienced in the Book of Acts.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is located in Acts 9. Acts 9:10-19 (NIV) states:

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight." Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

As we read in this chapter, Paul (who, at the time, was called Saul) was against Jesus and His followers. Paul went to Damascus and gave a letter to the synagogue there to ask for permission to capture those who believed in Jesus and to bring them back to Jerusalem to imprison them. On his way to Damascus, a great light came from heaven, and when Paul saw it, he fell to the ground. He then heard a voice from heaven say, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Paul then asked, "Who are you, Lord?" And the voice from heaven answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." After this, Paul was blinded. Paul was brought to a house where he fasted and sought God for three days. We then arrive at one of my favorite verses in the Bible: Acts 9:10 (NKJV), which states, *Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in*

a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." If you continue reading, you will read that God spoke to His disciple, Ananias, and told him that he should go and pray for Paul. When Ananias arrived at the house where Paul was staying, he laid his hands on Paul, and Paul's eyes were healed, and he could see again. He then preached the Gospel to Paul, and Paul got baptized in water and received the Holy Spirit.

You may be wondering why one of my favorite verses in the Bible is Acts 9:10. I love this verse because the word "disciple" is used. The Bible does not say that there was a big prophet or priest in Damascus who had a special calling. No, the Bible says that there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, a disciple like you and me. And to that disciple, God spoke. I love this verse because it shows how God wants to speak to you and me today. That day, when Ananias prayed for Paul, he experienced four things. Ananias experienced (1) how God spoke to him, (2) how he was led by the Holy Spirit, (3) how he laid hands on Paul and saw him get healed in the name of Jesus, and lastly, (4) how he baptized Paul in water and with the Holy Spirit. Today, you and I can experience the same things Ananias did because that is the normal Christian life. We don't know a lot about who Ananias was, but the Bible makes it clear that he was a disciple like you and me.



Do you believe what Ananias experienced that day with Paul was the first time he had experienced these things? Do you believe that it was the first time

he heard from God? Do you believe that it was the first time he was led by the Holy Spirit? Do you believe that it was the first time he laid hands on someone who got healed, or the first time he baptized someone in water and with the Holy Spirit? No, of course not. This was just one day in Ananias' life. Just because we don't read more about Ananias' life, it doesn't mean that Ananias did not experience these things in his daily life. I believe that Ananias heard from God, was led by the Holy Spirit, healed the sick, preached the Gospel, baptized people in water and with the Holy Spirit on a regular basis. I actually believe that we could write a whole book on Ananias' life and what he experienced with God, and I believe that we could also do the same with the twelve disciples and the seventy that Jesus called later. I believe that we could write a whole book on the lives of each of the 3,000 people who got baptized on the day of Pentecost. And I also believe that, as followers of Jesus, we should also be able to write a book about our life and that it should look very similar to what we read in the Book of Acts.

I know that life looks much different today compared to the time when Jesus walked on earth. We have cars, Internet, and a lot of things that people did not have back then. But, despite these differences, the Holy Spirit is still the same. What we read in the Book of Acts should be the normal Christian life. Jesus, in Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV) says, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." The problem that keeps many people from living the normal Christian life as depicted in the Book of Acts is religion. In the Bible, we do not read about babies being baptized, and we don't read about those babies later growing up and getting confirmed like we see in the Lutheran church today.

Take the time to reflect on your life. If you wrote a diary of your life, would it look like the Book of Acts? If not, then there is something wrong. We need to build our understanding of what the Christian life should look like upon the Word of God and not upon religion, culture, past experience, education, doctrines and traditions of men, and so on. Many years ago, I remember reading through the Book of Acts and then comparing it to what my life looked like. When I did this, I realized that my life looked very different from what I read in

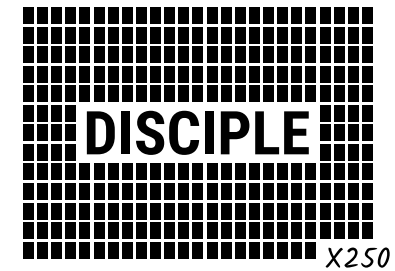
the Book of Acts. I realized that although I call myself a “Christian,” my life looked nothing like the lives of the early disciples. In that moment, I understood that there was something wrong with the way I was living and that I had been deceived by religion. And when I understood this, things started to change. Now, when I compare my life to what I read in the Book of Acts, my life and the life of the early disciples look the same.

The Bible is the Truth, and that is what we need to build our foundation on. We need to understand that we do not need to be a prophet or apostle to experience the things we read about in the Book of Acts. It is not about being someone special. No, it is about being a disciple of Jesus, like Ananias. It is about living for and obeying Jesus, spreading the Gospel, being led by the Holy Spirit, healing the sick, and casting out demons. And God has called you to do this. He has called you to be His disciple. If you decide that you want to live the normal Christian life, you can experience the same things that I, Ananias, and many other people around the world have experienced. Yes, you can experience God speaking to you and guiding you by His Holy Spirit. You can experience praying for the sick and seeing them healed. And you can experience baptizing people in water and with the Holy Spirit. You can see some of these things in **The Last Reformation** movies or YouTube videos

Let us now look at two words in the Bible. The first is the word “Christian,” and the second is “disciple.” Did you know that the word “Christian” is written only three times in the entire Bible? Jesus never used the word “Christian.” We first see “Christian” appear in the Bible eleven years after Jesus walked on earth, in Acts 11:26 (NKJV), which states, “... *And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.*” “Disciple,” however, is written over 250 times in the Bible. Wow! Maybe we should stop using the word “Christian.” Today, the word “Christian” is greatly misunderstood. You have probably heard people tell you, “I am a Christian, but I don’t really live as one,” or “I am a Christian in my own way.” You have probably also heard people tell you, “I am a Christian because I go to church and try to live a good life.” But try replacing the word “Christian” with the word “disciple.” Now imagine if someone said to you, “I am a disciple of Jesus, but I don’t really live as one,” or “I am a disciple of Jesus in my own way.” Again, imagine they said, “I am a disciple of Jesus because I go to church, and I try to live a good life.” It sounds wrong, doesn’t it? It would not make sense because we know that you must follow Jesus in order to be His disciple. You

cannot become a disciple of Jesus just by going to church and trying to live a good life, and you cannot become His disciple in your own way. So maybe, like Jesus, we should not use the word “Christian.”

X3 ■■■
CHRISTIAN



What does the word “disciple” mean? Today, it is a word that we only use in churches, and it can cause people who are not Christian to become confused if you were to tell them that you are a disciple of Jesus. However, in Jesus’ time, “disciple” was a very common word, and people understood what it meant. During Jesus’ time on earth, there were many people who, like Jesus, had disciples. For example, the Pharisees, John the Baptist, and Moses all had disciples. So if we want to use another word other than “Christian” to describe followers of Jesus, “disciple” or “apprentice” would be good alternatives.

Being a disciple is being an apprentice. For example, some years ago, I worked as an apprentice in a bakery for three and a half years. At the time, I did not know how to bake anything. But I had my teacher/master (the baker) who was there to train and teach me to one day be able to bake like him. In the beginning, it was very challenging. I had moments when I thought I would never be able to bake like him, but, eventually, I learned, and I became better and better. Yes, eventually, I started to look more like my master (the baker), and in the end, I was almost as good of a baker as he was. Yes, I made many

mistakes throughout my apprenticeship, but that is normal, and it is part of learning. It is okay to make mistakes, but it is not okay if you do not try. And it is the same with Jesus. We are Jesus' apprentices/disciples, and when we start an apprenticeship/discipleship with Him, we agree to follow Him, learn from Him, and become more and more like Jesus, our master, every day. Jesus, in Luke 6:40 (NKJV), states, "*A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.*"

Imagine I worked as an apprentice in a bakery for three and a half years, and at the end of my apprenticeship, I still did not know how to bake anything. Yes, imagine if I had not tried to bake anything myself, but that the whole time I was there, I only stood by and watched my master bake things. If this had been the case, there would have been something wrong with that bakery, my apprenticeship, my master, or me. Why? It is because the whole point of accepting an apprenticeship is so that, after a few years, I could be a real baker, like him. There is also something wrong if you have been a Christian/disciple/apprentice for ten years and still don't know how to do what Jesus has called you to do. We are called to be like Jesus. We are called to speak like Him, to be led by the Holy Spirit like Him, to heal the sick and cast out demons like Him, to serve like Him, to love like Him, and so on.

If you have been a Christian/disciple/apprentice for ten years and still have not learned how to do what Jesus has called you to do, there is something wrong. But don't worry because I believe that God can use this book to help you. I believe that God can use this book to help you start to live as a disciple/apprentice of Jesus. I want to help you to write a diary of your own life that looks like the Book of Acts. I really desire for you to live the life that Jesus wants you to live. But you need to be willing to obey Jesus. I cannot obey Him for you; that is your task. I can help teach and train you, but you need to step out in obedience and obey Jesus.

As I have previously said, I made many mistakes working as an apprentice in a bakery. And it was the same for the disciples of Jesus. There were times when Jesus' disciples were not able to do what Jesus wanted them to do. One example of this is in Matthew 17. In Matthew 17, we read about a man who brought his son, an epileptic, to Jesus' disciples because he wanted them to heal his son. Matthew 17:16-17 (NKJV) states, "*So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him.*" Then Jesus answered and said, "*O faithless and*

perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." Later, we read how they brought the boy to Jesus and how Jesus healed him and set him free. Interestingly, Jesus did not say, "*... O faithless and perverse generation...*" to the boy or his father. No, He said that to His disciples because He was frustrated at them for not doing what they were supposed to do.

When I think about this story in Matthew 17, I think back to my time as an apprentice and how angry my master (the baker) would become when I forgot to put an ingredient in the bread or when I left something in the oven too long. Yes, I remember him rebuking me and shouting, "Torben, how long shall I put up with you? You should have learned by now." But I learned and became better, and that is the whole point of an apprenticeship. So our goal is to be, like Jesus, perfect, but we are on a journey, and you will make mistakes. And it is okay if we do not look exactly like Jesus now. But it is not okay if we don't look more like Him now than we did last year. Why? Well, because we are Jesus' apprentices, and we are supposed to be learning from Him and growing to be more like Him.

When a person accepts Jesus, they agree to an apprenticeship/discipleship where they must learn to be like Jesus. Accepting Jesus does not mean that you are supposed to go to church year after year and never learn how to do the things Jesus has called you to do. No, that is religion. And Jesus did not come to bring religion. Jesus came to help you follow Him as His disciple through the power of the Holy Spirit. Being born again (repenting, and being baptized in water and with the Holy Spirit) is the first step to being an apprentice/disciple of Jesus because we cannot walk like Jesus, or be like Jesus, if we do not have the power of the Holy Spirit.

Some years ago, while I was living in Denmark, I was on a Danish debate television program with a famous Danish Muslim and a famous Danish Jew. After the debate program finished, I sat down with the famous Danish Muslim and asked her some questions. I said to her, "Tell me about your faith and about what God is doing in your life." She was surprised by my question and answered, "It feels good when I read the Quran and when I pray in the mosques." "Tell me more. How does God speak to you?" I asked her. She answered, "It feels good when I read the Quran and when I pray in the mosques." I then told her, "Tell me more. How does God give you dreams? How does God lead you?" Again, she said, "It feels good when I read the

Quran and when I pray in the mosques.” I continued and said, “Tell me more. How are people healed through you and how do you set people free?” Once again, she answered the same thing. That was the only answer she could give me for every question I asked her. Then, she asked me, “What about your life with God?” I then started to explain how I met God, how the Holy Spirit came into my life, how God speaks to me, how the Holy Spirit leads me, how I pray for the sick and they are healed, how I cast out demons, and how I get visions and dreams from God. I also told her about my relationship with God and what I have experienced with Him. She continued to ask me questions, and we ended up talking for one and a half hours. On that day, it became very clear to me that there is a huge difference between religion and relationship. She had a religion, but I had a relationship with God. And sadly, for many Christians, their Christianity is just a religion.

If I were to say to Christians who believe in Jesus and go to church, “Tell me about your life. How does God use you,” they would likely give an answer similar to the famous Danish Muslim and say, “It feels good when I pray and when I go to church.” If I would say to them, “Tell me about how the Holy Spirit leads you. How does God heal through you?” Again, many would say, “It feels good when I pray and when I go to church.” Their answer would be similar to the famous Danish Muslim because they have a religion and not a relationship with God. It is important to understand that Jesus came to bring a relationship and not religion.

In Matthew 23:25-26 (NKJV), Jesus spoke to some of the religious leaders, “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.*” From this verse, you can clearly see a big difference between religion and relationship. True Christianity is from the inside out; it cleanses and changes you so that it will be visible to everyone around you that you follow Jesus. True Christianity is about being born again, becoming Jesus’ apprentice/disciple and having a relationship with the living God. It is about becoming a new creation and being set free from the bondage of sin to start a new, holy, supernatural life with God while being led by His Spirit. True Christianity is about understanding that we, as followers of Jesus, are the Church and that we are temples of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us.

Today, my life looks so much like the Book of Acts. And your life can look like that,

too. It will be a journey, but it will be an amazing journey. I hope you are ready to follow Jesus as His disciple/apprentice. But first, you need to be born again. You need to be born again, and you need the Holy Spirit because, without Him, you cannot live this life. This is what we are called to do. The normal Christian life is to be a disciple of Jesus and to live the life we read about in the Book of Acts. Yes, in the beginning, we will make many mistakes, but we will learn and grow from those mistakes. So I hope you are ready to follow Jesus and to learn to live the life He desires for you. I hope you are ready to experience many amazing things with Him in your daily life.

ARE YOU DECEIVED?

For you who are reading this book, I know that many of the things said in this book can be very challenging for you, depending on what church tradition you have grown up in. I would, therefore, like to address a little bit about deception. We need to understand that it is not enough for us to be sincere in our faith. We can be sincere and still be deceived. I have met many Mormons who are very sincere in their faith, but they are still deceived. They were told another gospel, a gospel that cannot save them. I have also met many Jehovah's Witnesses, and they are also very sincere in their faith and very active in spreading their faith, but they are still deceived. Why? It is because they have believed a different gospel.

When I look at my life now, I can see that I was also, at one time, deceived like those I mentioned. I was also taught another gospel that could not save me. I thought that I was a Christian because I was baptized as a baby and confirmed in the church. But that was a lie. The Bible does not say that you are born again because you were baptized as a baby and are a member of a church. I could have been the most sincere follower in the Lutheran church I attended, but I still would have been deceived. It is not enough to be sincere; you also need to have the right gospel and to do what the Bible says you need to do to be born again in order to follow Jesus. And I want to tell you the same thing. It is not about the sincerity of your faith. You can be the most sincere churchgoer and still be deceived. We, as Christians, need to be more like the Bereans who examined the Scriptures every day to see if what was said is the truth (Acts 17:11). We need to check the Scriptures ourselves and stop blindly following what we have been told.

I want to challenge you to ask questions about what you have been told up until now. Yes, I want you to question your traditions and what you have been told in your church. Does it match with what the Word of God says? You should also ask questions about what I am teaching you in this book. Yes, take your Bible and see if what I am saying is correct. We should do this with everyone so that we don't end up standing in front of God and finding out that we have been deceived.

CHRISTIAN OR DISCIPLE?

I hope this first lesson will challenge you and encourage you to ask yourself some very important questions. Ask yourself, "Am I a Christian, or am I a disciple? Does my life look like the life of Ananias or the other disciples I read about in the Book of Acts?"

After I had been a Christian for six years, I one day took the Bible and looked in the Book of Acts and compared it to my life. When I did that, I was completely shocked. I saw that I was deceived in many ways and that my life looked nothing like what I read in the Book of Acts. Yes, my life looked good when I compared it to the other people in the church, but we should not use our churches or traditions as the standards by which to evaluate our lives. At the same time, God opened my eyes to see how wrong I was and how deceived many others were in our church. Yes, we were building more on our church traditions than on what the Word was saying. During this time, I came across a parable of Jesus located in Luke 13:6-9 (NKJV) that states:

He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"

This parable speaks about a tree that did not produce fruit for three years and how the gardener wanted to cut it down. But the man told the gardener to give it one more year and that if it didn't produce fruit by then, he should cut it down. When I read this, it was like I heard God say, "Torben, you are this fig tree." But I had not been a "Christian" for three years without producing fruit; I was a "Christian" for six years without producing fruit. I realized that I was not a true disciple of Jesus and that I had no fruit in my life. And in the same way that Jesus, in the parable, gave the fig tree one more year to produce fruit, I told God that if I didn't bear any fruit by next year, that He should take my life. I know that it seems very radical, but my heart was really convicted, and I, at that moment, understood how important it is to bear fruit.

Jesus says in John 15:2 (NKJV), “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” I told God, “God, I will give everything to you and obey you, and if I don’t bear fruit one year from now, then you can take my life. On the same day I said this, I started a 40 day fast, and I saw my life begin to be transformed. And one year later, my life was completely changed. Yes, one year later, I was not a “Christian” without fruit, but a fruitful disciple who was following Jesus.

My hope for you who are reading this book is that you will not just read it, move on, and forget about it. No, I really want this to be a book that stirs something up inside of you and that encourages you to step out and obey Jesus. I want to see you get transformed into a fruitful disciple of Christ who will follow Him in your daily life. What will you do with the call that Jesus has given you? What will you do with the words you are reading in this book? It is totally up to you.

WHAT IF I CANNOT LIVE UP TO THIS LIFE?

When we read the Bible, we can see that being a disciple of Christ is about denying ourselves and taking up our cross. We see that a disciple is someone who obeys God in preaching the Gospel to others, healing the sick, casting out demons, living a holy and righteous life, and more. And being a disciple also includes obeying what Jesus says in Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV), which states, “*Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” We also need to obey Jesus by going to Him to receive rest. The call that Jesus has given us should not feel like a heavy burden because when we give everything to Him, He will transform us from the inside out, and all of the things He has called us to do, He will do in us. Yes, He will transform you, and you will not have to do things on your own strength. He will never call you to do something that He will not give you the strength to do. So don’t worry and think that you cannot live up to being a disciple of Jesus. Follow Jesus and let Him transform your life. The rest will come naturally.

IS IT NOT ALL ABOUT WORKS?

The Bible makes it clear that faith without works/obedience is dead. James 2:26 (NKJV) states, “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*” But the Bible also makes it clear that the works it is talking about here in James are not works by the law. We don’t become righteous by obeying the law. The gift that God has given us is free for everyone. And you can read this in Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV), which states, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*” This verse makes it clear that, as believers, we are not saved by works of the law, but that it is by the grace of God that we are saved through faith and not through works so that we have nothing we can boast about. The next verse, Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV), states, “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*” But again, it is not talking about works by the law, nor is it saying that we should obey the law of Moses. No, these are works, as James is saying, that come out of obedience and a love for God.

So we come before God as we are, with nothing to offer Him, and it is by the grace of God that we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. And when He comes and offers us salvation and transforms our lives, we, of course, desire to obey our Lord Jesus Christ. Why? It is because He has saved us, and we love Him and, therefore, want to obey Him. This is not obedience caused by a heavy burden, nor is it the works of trying to obey the law of Moses. It is works/obedience that comes through faith.

Today, there is an idea that we, as Christians, should not do any works, but that is so wrong. We need to obey. If you don’t obey, then Jesus will say, “*But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?*” (Luke 6:46 NKJV). What about you? Do you obey Jesus? Just be honest with yourself and with Him. If we don’t obey Him and do any works, why do we call Him Lord? The Bible makes it clear that those who are building the house on the rock are those who do not only listen to God’s Word but that they also obey it. After Luke 6:46, Jesus continues in Luke 6:47-49 (NKJV) with saying:

“Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that

house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

So to you who think that obedience is works and something we should not do, you are standing in a very dangerous place. Yes, we are free to obey the Law of Moses and free to obey Christ and His words. My advice to you is that you should take it one step at a time. Start to let Him transform your heart and get to know Him more. Then, the rest will come so much more naturally. And when it does, then you will not want to stop obeying Him, and it will not feel like a burden or hard work.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY AND THOSE AROUND ME BELIEVE IN SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

As you are going to see in this book, we will look at many things, including what it means to follow Jesus. Most of what I will say in this book will probably go against some of your traditions you have grown up in. But this is important because we have to come away from our traditions to obey Jesus and His Word.

I remember when I first heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My family and everyone else in my life were against it. My father forbade me to have anything to do with Jesus because it was so new to him, and he was afraid that his son had gone crazy. But I had a choice to make. I had to choose if I was going to obey my father or if I was going to obey what I knew deep down inside of me was the truth. I still remember looking at my father and thinking to myself, "Father, I love you, so therefore I will not do what you are saying because if I don't find the truth, who will share it with you? Yes, if I don't get Jesus, who can give Him to you?" And I made the decision to follow Jesus and obey Him instead of listening to what my family and everyone else around me said. My father was not happy about my choice, and over the next four or five years, he was very sad, disappointed, and sometimes even angry that his son had become what he called "brainwashed." But eventually, my father started to see a deep transformation in my life. And from seeing what God did in my life, he knew that Jesus was the Truth. One day, he repented. I baptized him in water, and

when I laid my hands on him, he was filled with the Holy Spirit. From that day on, my father was a changed man. After this, he was so thankful that I did not listen to him when he forbade me to have anything to do with Jesus. Yes, he was so thankful that I chose to follow the truth and not listen to him at that time. And I want to encourage you to do the same, even if your family and friends think you are crazy. Always choose to follow the truth, no matter what others around you say, because it is the truth. And if it is the truth for you, it is also the truth for them. Maybe they don't see that right now, but if you truly love them, then help them to get the truth. Help them to get Jesus. And how can you do that if you don't have Him?

The Word of God will never change. People's opinions and ideas can change, and so can their traditions, but the Word of God will forever be the same. Some people will probably not understand your choice, and there will likely be people around you who will try and argue with you about your faith. But we cannot please everyone, so let's choose to please God, and let's decide to build our foundation on the truth, on Jesus. Let the truth not only set you free, but also all those around you.

When people don't like you because you choose to follow Jesus that is okay. Jesus actually spoke about this many times throughout the Bible, so don't be surprised when it happens. For example, in Matthew 10:34-39 (NKJV), Jesus talks about how He came to bring a sword to this world and not peace by saying:

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to "set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law"; and "a man's enemies will be those of his own household." He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Jesus also talks about how the world will hate His followers by stating in John 15:18-20 (NIV):

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the

world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: "A servant is not greater than his master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

Throughout your life of following Jesus, you will experience that some people will leave you and no longer want to be your friend, but you will meet new people who will want to connect with you and who also, like you, serve Jesus. It has cost me a lot to follow Jesus, and although I have lost a lot, I have gained so much more than I could have ever imagined. So don't be afraid. Follow Jesus, and you will see that He will take care of the rest, as He says in Mark 10:28-30 (NIV):

Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!" "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life."

A REVELATION ABOUT BEING A DISCIPLE

For me, understanding that I am a disciple of Jesus and that being a disciple is like being an apprentice has changed everything. It has helped me to not be afraid of making mistakes. Why? Well, because it is normal for an apprentice to make mistakes. I am also not afraid to try because a disciple is someone who needs to try. I realize that I look more like Christ now than I did last year.

I want to tell you that it is so important that you not compare yourself with other people. Some people have been disciples for only a few months, others for a few years. And some people have been disciples for many years. We should not compare ourselves with others because we are all at different places in our journey with God. But it is important that we all grow. Yes, we need to grow and look more like Christ now than we did last year. We need to continue to look more like Christ when it comes to living a holy life, being led by the Holy Spirit, casting out demons, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, etc. I believe that if we as believers start

to understand what it means to be a disciple, if we see both ourselves and others around us as disciples of Jesus and understand that we must obey and look like Him, our lives would be forever changed.

As I have previously said, the Book of Acts is like a diary. I want to encourage you to sit down and start to write your own diary about your life with God. Write down what God is doing in your life and how He is using you. Then, look at your diary and ask yourself if it looks like the Book of Acts. If it does, I am so happy and excited that you are living this amazing life. If it does not look like the Book of Acts, I truly believe that if you continue to read this book and listen to the teachings in the video series, God will transform your life, and your diary will look more and more like the diary of Paul, Peter, John, James, and Ananias. Why? Well, as I have previously said, Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, which means that the Holy Spirit is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This means that God wants to use you to spread His Kingdom like He used the early disciples. Isn't that amazing?

So I want to challenge you to write a diary about your life and see how it looks. If it doesn't look like what you see in the Bible, something isn't wrong with the Bible. No, that means something is wrong with your life. It is not the Bible that needs to change to match up with your life. It is you that needs to change. But the good news is that if your life does not yet look like what we read in the Book of Acts, you can do something about it.