

7: DISCIPLE-MAKERS WALK BY THE SPIRIT NOT BY THEIR STRENGTH

By John
In Disciple-Maker

3 Min read



“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” — *Zechariah 4:6*

Some of life’s trails will be easier than others. A seasoned hiker eventually learns the limits of his own strength. There are climbs that are just too difficult to be made alone. The terrain can humble even the most experienced hiker. A disciple-maker must learn the same lesson on a deeper level.

Dependence on the trail is the admission that you are not the engine of transformation. You are a guide, a companion, a trail marker—but the Spirit is the one who changes hearts,

convicts sin, and forms Christlike character. Without prayer, discipleship becomes self-reliance dressed up as ministry. With prayer, it becomes a Spirit-led trail.

Prayer before a conversation acknowledges God's rightful place at the front. Prayer during a conversation keeps you sensitive to His prompting. Prayer after a conversation entrusts the results to His hands. He is walking the trail under the guidance of the One who designed it.

APPLICATION

A Spirit-led hiker learns to walk slower and listen deeper. He resists the urge to fix, correct, or impress. Instead, he asks God for wisdom, timing, and compassion. He understands that his strength along the trail cannot accomplish what the Spirit can in a moment of conviction or encouragement.

Prayerful dependence also protects a man's heart. When growth happens, he gives glory to God. When progress is slow, he doesn't try to take control. He keeps praying, trusting that God is working beyond what he can see. He sees prayer as a partnership with God.

Prayer is the oxygen that sustains the disciple-Maker's progress along the trail. It shapes decisions, guides conversations, and sustains perseverance. Men who walk with you will notice when prayer is genuine and central. Over time, they'll learn to pause, pray, and depend on the Spirit themselves. That's how dependence multiplies. The trail remains marked by prayer long after you move on.

LIVE IT OUT

This week, build prayer into every discipleship interaction. Pray before you meet, asking God to lead the conversation. Pause during your time together. Follow up afterward with a short prayer, entrusting the man and the outcome to God. Let prayer become the rhythm that sets the pace of your trail.

Consider this: "Where have you been relying on your own words and wisdom instead of leaning on the Spirit to lead the conversation and the outcome?"

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**Traits describe the man God desires—
Paths develop the man God uses.**

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