

Third Thursday Notes

September 18, 2025 - Discipleship

What drives discipleship – our plans or God's Spirit?

Quick Answer: Both

- **God moves supernaturally and independently in our salvation.** Supernatural in the sense that He opens our eyes to truth and sin, and independently in the sense that not one person on this earth had anything to do with God's plan and design for Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension.
- **The Bible is FULL of admonishments to active roles in our own discipleship and the discipleship of others.** Whether it is something to do, something to stop doing, something to believe, something to remember, or something to embrace, Scripture is replete with calls to action.

How do we engage in "God's part"?

- **Prayer.** Like Epaphras in Col 4:12, we are called to wrestle in the spiritual realms for those in whom the Spirit is forming Christ.

What are some practical ways to get started?

- Have a time of prayer with the other youth leaders before youth group in which you pray for students by name.
- Spend time alone with God in prayer bringing students before the Lord in prayer. Start even with just 5 minutes of intercessory prayer.
- Grab a prayer resource to help you get started. Pray First is a great one! Download the [app](#) or [booklet](#).
- Ask parents to pray together for the students during the youth group time.
- Set an alarm for a time that corresponds to a Scripture to remind you to pray that for someone (1:17pm for Eph 1:17-19).

Encouragements

- It's difficult to pray – in part because of our own thoughts and minds, and in part because of Satan's resistance. Don't be discouraged. Any time in prayer (even if it "feels" ineffective) is better than no time in prayer.
- God will complete the discipleship (sanctification) work that He began in your students (Php 1:6).

How does this affect *you*? How does this affect *your leaders*? How does this affect *your students*?