

To believe in
something,
and not to
live it, is
dishonest.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Christianity is not a collection of truths to be believed, of laws to be obeyed.

Christianity is a person, one who loved us so much, one who calls for our love. Christianity is Christ.

Oscar Romero

Every act
leaves upon
the world a
greater or
lesser impress
of God.

Alfred North Whitehead

Don't ask what the
world needs. Ask
what makes you
come alive and go
out and do it.
Because what the
world needs is
people who have
come alive.

Howard Thurman

In the end, it is
important to
remember that
we cannot
become what we
need to be by
remaining what
we are.

Max De Pree

Whatever
you do,
begin
with God.

Matthew Henry

My life helps
to paint my
neighbour's
picture of
God.

Peter Holmes

For many of us the
great danger is not
that we will renounce
our faith. It is that we
will become so
distracted and rushed
and preoccupied that
we will settle for a
mediocre version of it.

John Ortberg

I do not pray
for success;
I ask for
faithfulness.

Mother Teresa

My hope is that the
description of God's
love in my life will
give you the
freedom and the
courage to discover
... God's love in
yours.

Henri Nouwen

This is my living faith, an active
faith, a faith of verbs: to
question, explore, experiment,
experience, walk, run, dance,
play, eat, love, learn, dare, taste,
touch, smell, listen, argue, speak,
write, read, draw, provoke,
emote, scream, sin, repent, cry,
kneel, pray, bow, rise, stand,
look, laugh, cajole, create,
confront, confound, walk back,
walk forward, circle, hide, and
seek. To seek: to embrace the
questions, be wary of answers.

Terry Tempest Williams

Some tell us that following Jesus is a simple matter of inviting him into our hearts. But when we do that, Jesus always asks, “May I bring my friends?” And when we look at them, we see that they are not the kind of company we like to keep. The friends of Jesus are the outcasts, the marginalized, the poor, the homeless, the rejected — the lepers of life.

We hesitate and ask, “Jesus, must we really have them too?” Jesus replies, “Love me, love my friends!”

Peter Storey

Being a Christian is not about us; it's about Jesus. Spiritual formation is about the life of Jesus being made visible in our bodies; it's about engaging the Spirit because we are hungry for God; it's about being disciples so that Jesus can pour his life into us. It's about learning to love God with our heart, mind, body, and soul. It's about having the courage to actually follow Christ — to place one foot in front of the other, to dare to live a life of grace.

Derek Maul

To be a witness for God is to be a living sign of God's presence in the world. What we live is more important than what we say, because the right way of living always leads to the right way of speaking. When we forgive our neighbours from our hearts, our hearts will speak forgiving words. When we are grateful, we will speak grateful words, and when we are hopeful and joyful, we will speak hopeful and joyful words.

Henri Nouwen

Someone once said that a rebel attempts to change the past; a revolutionary attempts to change the future. Jesus Christ brought drastic change to the world. Change to humanity's view of God. Change to God's view of humankind. Change to men's view of women. Our Lord came to bring radical change to the old order of things, replacing it with a new order. He came to bring forth a new covenant-a new kingdom-a new birth-a new race-a new species-a new culture-and a new civilization.

Frank Viola

To endure the
cross is not
tragedy; it is the
suffering which
is the fruit of an
exclusive
allegiance to
Jesus Christ.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must learn to
regard people
less in light of
what they do or
omit to do, and
more in the light
of what they
suffer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Discipleship is not limited to what you can comprehend - it must transcend all comprehension. Plunge into the deep waters beyond your own comprehension, and I will help you to comprehend even as I do. Bewilderment is the true comprehension. Not to know where you are going is the true knowledge. My comprehension transcends yours. Thus Abraham went forth from his father and not knowing whither he went. He trusted himself to my knowledge, and cared not for his own, and thus he took the right road and came to his journey's end. Behold, that is the way of the cross.

Martin Luther

Discipleship is the ongoing, lifelong process of discerning and living out God's call to be the person God created you to be as you participate in God's purpose in creation in your particular time and place.

Jeff Jones

Our deepest calling is to grow into our own authentic selfhood, whether or not it conforms to some image of who we ought to be. As we do so, we will not only find the joy that every human being seeks, we will also find our path of authentic service in the world. True vocation joins self and service, as Frederick Buechner asserts when he defines vocation as 'the place where your deep gladness meets the worlds deep need.'

Parker Palmer

Christianity without the living
Christ is inevitably Christianity
without discipleship, and
Christianity without
discipleship is always
Christianity without Christ

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Sometimes we don't need another chance to express how we feel or to ask someone to understand our situation. Sometimes we just need a firm kick in the pants. An unsmiling expectation that if we mean all these wonderful things we talk about and sing about, then lets see something to prove it.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The alternative to how the
kings of the earth rule is not
"spirituality," but
servanthood

John Howard Yoder

Suffering, then, is the badge
of true discipleship.

The disciple is not above
his master.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The last thing postmodern
young people need is
something more to do. They
have plenty to keep them
busy, but precious little to
make them holy.

Kenda Creasy Dean

Discipleship isn't something
you learn just by studying it;
at some point you have to
do it.

Kenda Creasy Dean

Orthodoxy and orthopraxy -
faithful belief and faithful
practice are the two lungs of
Christian Discipleship. You can
get along breathing on only one
lung, but you can't breathe very
deeply, and you don't live as
long or as fully as when you use
both lungs, which is clearly
what God intends.

Kenda Creasy Dean

“There is a term in the ancient churches that catches the power of the idea that experience precedes thought. It is *lex orandi; lex credendi; est.* the rule of prayer is the rule of faith. Another way of stating this truth is , “show me how you worship or live and I will tell you what you believe.” In the modern world this axiom got turned around.

It was always “get your theology straight and then your praxis will flow from it.” In the postmodern world we are rediscovering that experience precedes reflection.

Robert Webber

The Christian way is different: harder, and easier. Christ says, “Give me all. I don’t want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want you.... Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked—the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours.” Both harder and easier than what we are all trying to do.

C.S. Lewis

Most problems in
contemporary churches can
be explained by the fact that
members have not yet
decided to follow Christ.

Dallas Willard.

Working on it, the radical nature
of Jesus' teaching hit me as
never before, which makes me
realize that to be a missional
disciple of Jesus means ... not
something "nice" or "proper,"
but something revolutionary,
world-changing, uncontrollable.
It's about social transformation,
not social control.
It's wild, not tame.

Brian McLaren

We are all familiar with the gospel stories where Jesus selects a band of disciples, lives his life with them, ministers with them, and mentors them. This approach to the formation of followers was common in the Israel of Jesus' day. Most rabbis would initiate and develop their schools of thought through similar means. It was this life-on-life phenomenon that facilitated the transfer of information and ideas into concrete historical situations.

Alan Hirsch

Christ did not appoint
professors, but followers. If
Christianity ... is not
reduplicated in the life of the
person expounding it, then he
does not expound Christianity,
for Christianity
is a message about living
and can only be expounded
by being realized
in people's lives.

Soren Kierkegaard