



ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH #2

GROW | GLOW | GO
Established 1870

Pastor John P. Williams

“Equipped to be a Disciple”

Luke 9:1-6 (Matthew 10:5-15; Mark 6:7-13)

Whenever God calls us to be a disciple, He equips us with everything that we need to do what He has called us to do. However, many times we fail to walk into discipleship because we fail to recognize everything that the Lord has equipped us with. Instead of focusing on what you lack, how about you focus on what you have? God has equipped us with so many resources that all we have to do is put them to use. I believe that when we make a decision to focus on what we have we will realize that we have everything that we need to be a disciple for Jesus.

Equipped with Power

Luke 9:1

The very first thing that Jesus did before he sent his disciples out was bring them together. Many times, we miss out on the importance of God’s children coming together. How often do we forsake fellowship rather than embracing fellowship? There is so much power when God’s people come together in unity. Jesus called these disciples together because he didn’t plan on sending them out by themselves. God intended to send them out two by two so that they would have a partner when it was time to engage in discipleship. Remember Jesus gave them a partner before he gave them power. We need a partner because they may be strong in an area that we are weak. We also need a partner because two will always be better than one.

After Jesus gave them a partner, He then gave them power. The power in this text in the Greek is *dunamis* which means dynamite. Explosive power. The more time we spend with God the more power we can receive. God has already equipped many of us with a gift, but in order for the gift to come forth we need power to go with it. The power that God gives is not for us to use for our glory but for His glory. When we walk in the power and authority of God we will then see the manifestation of healing, miracles, signs, and wonders. (John 14:12-14)

Equipped to Preach

Luke 9:2

Contrary to popular belief every Christian is called to preach. Now although everyone may not preach in the pulpit, God has called us all to make the world our pulpit. When we walk in the

strength and power of God, preaching comes easy. Many times, we fail to preach the Gospel because we are not walking in the power that God has given us. God doesn't just want sinners to be healed physically, but He desires for them to be healed spiritually. The Word of God provides healing that is experienced both physically and spiritually.

Equipped with Provisions

Luke 9:3-4

Jesus gives his disciples strict instructions not to take anything with them on their journey. The reason for them to not take anything on their journey is because Jesus wanted them to trust Him to provide their daily bread. The disciples are instructed to go, and Jesus will position people along their way to give them the provisions that they need. Although these instructions may seem strange to us in the year 2023 the principle is still the same. We must learn to trust God to provide all our spiritual and physical needs along this Christian journey. If we make a commitment to go God already has people in place and in position to meet our physical and spiritual needs.

Equipped with Preparations

Luke 9:5-6

Jesus also prepared his disciples for what they would encounter when they go out on their journey to do ministry. Jesus informs his disciples that you may encounter some people who will not receive your ministry or your message. Its sad to say, but there are some people in this world that do not desire what Christians have to offer. Some people don't want the Word, healing, deliverance, miracles, etc. Whenever we encounter individuals who are persistent about not receiving what God has to offer we must remember that they are not rejecting us, but they are rejecting the God in us. Jesus teaches us how to handle rejection. When we experience rejection in ministry we must remember we are only obligated to tell them about Jesus one time, and after they reject us we are to shake the dust off of our feet, and go onto the next assignment. Just because we are rejected does not mean we give up on the mission all together. We must still be committed to fulfilling the assignment that God has called each of us to do.