

How do I lead when I struggle to follow?

Faith and
Identity in our
disciple-making
commission



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The **one indispensable requirement** for producing godly, mature Christians is godly, mature Christians.

— Kevin DeYoung



If I am Jesus' disciple that means

- I am **with** Him
- to learn **from** Him
- how to be **like** Him.

Dallas Willard



1.
Finding
our place
in a
celebrity
world



2.

Being
misunderstood
in our steps to
belong





Disciples cannot be **mass produced**. We cannot drop people into a program and see disciples emerge at the end of the production line. **It takes time** to make disciples. It takes individual personal attention.

Discipleship ... is not about **information transfer**, from head to head, but **imitation**, life to life.



‘We try on identities like clothing, looking for a style of being that fits with how we want to be seen.’

David Benner, ‘The Gift of Being Yourself’

2.

Being
misunderstood
in our steps to
belong

- Who am I?
- Who are You?





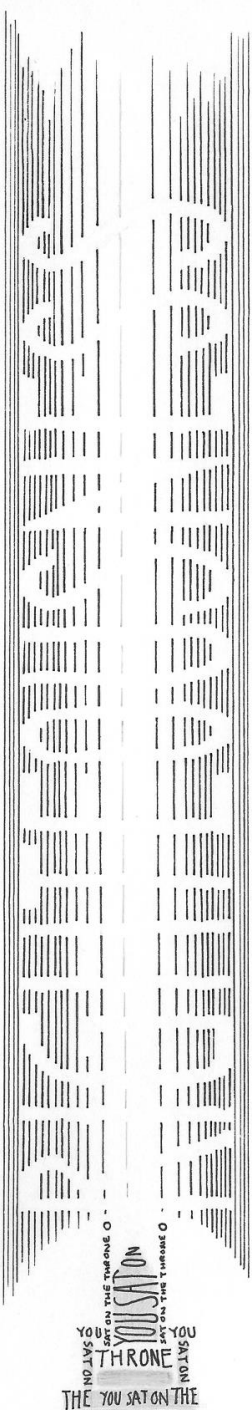
*You have made us for Yourself O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they
rest in You.*

— Augustine
(and Turner!)

The private images we hold of God

1. Have a powerful effect on our **behaviour**
2. Profoundly impact our **spiritual wellbeing**
3. Are related to **images of ourselves**

– J Ryan



What comes
into your mind
when you
think of God
is the most
important
thing about
your life.



*... filled with
potent possibilities
of judgement...*

— A W Tozer



There is no deep knowing of God without a deep knowing of self. And no deep knowing of self without a deep knowing of God.



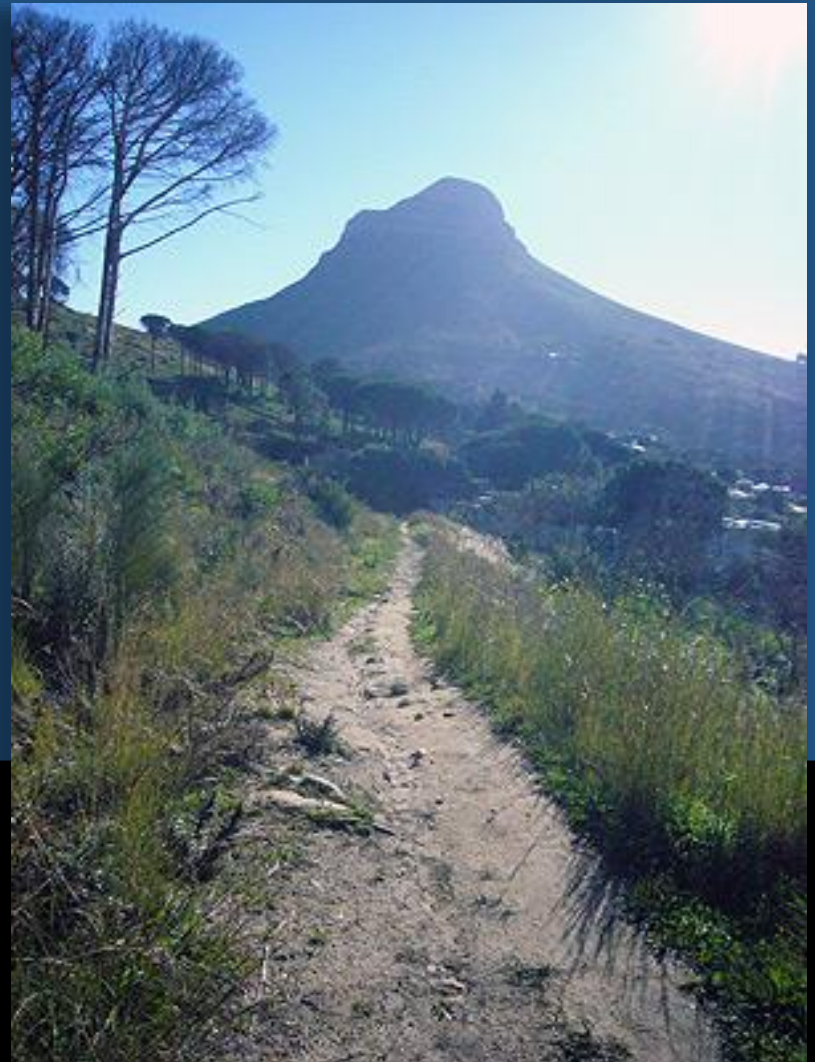
Nearly **all** the wisdom we possess consists of **two** parts: the knowledge of God
: and of ourselves.

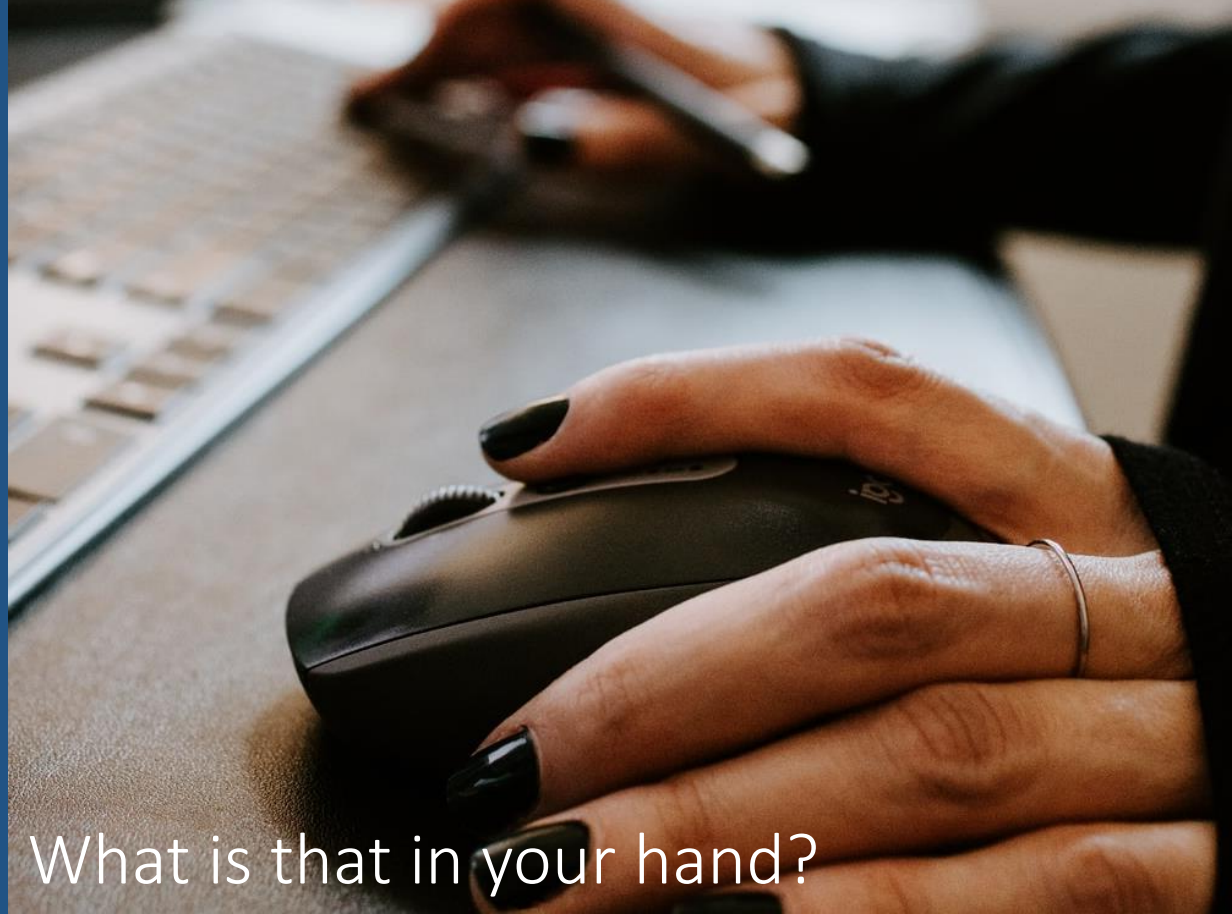
— John Calvin

3.

The journey to wholeness and finding our place

- A life-giving intervention
- Community and commission

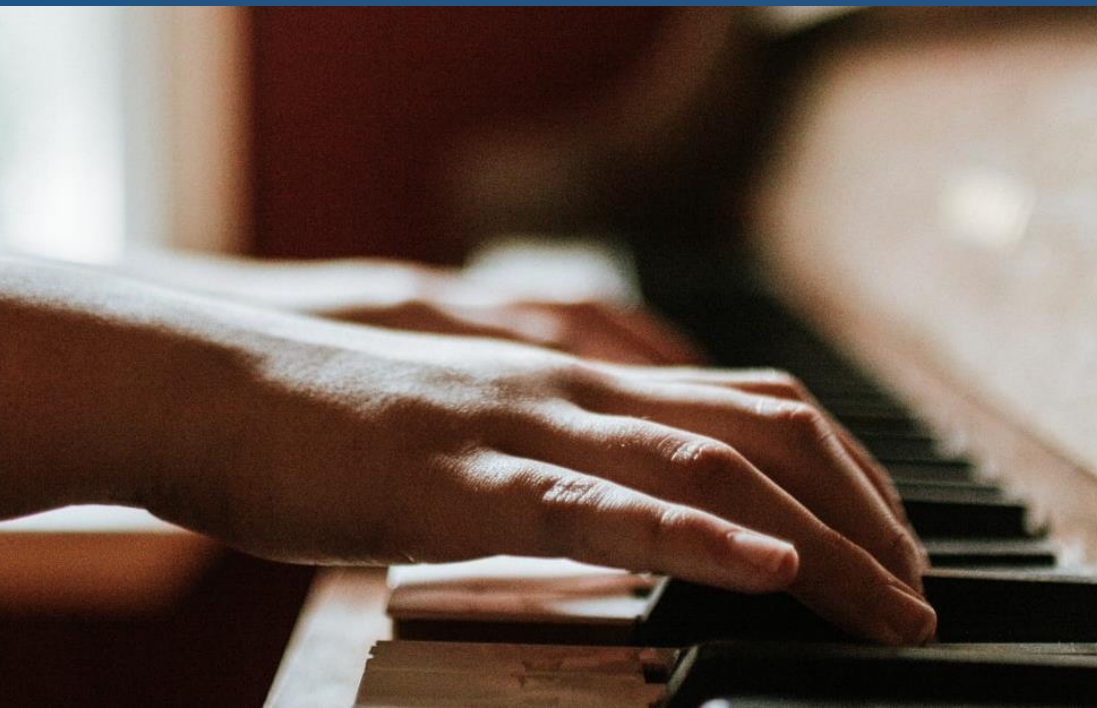




What is that in your hand?



What is that in your hand?





Take off your sandals, for the place
where you are standing is holy ground.

EXODUS 3:5

Bible text

New International Version, Biblica, 1984

Photographs

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Drawn Images

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Contact heather.holdsworth@gmail.com regarding use

TIGERS HAVE NO AMBITION,
NO DRIVE! THEY DON'T
ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!



HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY
YOURSELF?!



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Discipleship

People who have never developed a deep personal **knowing of God** will be **limited** in the depth of their personal knowing of themselves.

Failing to **know God**, they will be **unable to know themselves**, as God is the only context in which their being makes sense.

Similarly, people who are afraid to look **deeply at themselves** will of course be equally afraid to look deeply at God.

For such persons, **ideas** about God provide a substitute for direct experience of God.



– *David Benner*