

Discipleship Quotes

Rowan Williams, *Being Disciples*, London: SPCK, 2016.

Discipleship is about how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being.

The Gospel teaches us that the bottom line in thinking about discipleship has something to do with staying... what makes you a disciple is not turning up from time to time... It's not an intermittent state; it's a relationship that continues.

Disciples are expectant in the sense that they take it for granted that there is always something about to break through from the Master, the Teacher, something about to burst through the ordinary and uncover a new light on the landscape.

[Disciples] are willing to travel to where the Master is, to follow where the Master goes. And of course, in the Gospels, where the Master goes is very frequently not where we would have thought of going, or would have wanted to go.

Dorothy Bass and Craig Dykstra, *Practicing Our Faith*, San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 1997.

Lacking a vision of a life-giving way of life, we turn from one task to another, doing as well as we can, but increasingly uncertain about what doing things well would look like

We write because we believe that Christian faith offers hope and help to people who long for such a way....[We] all perceive that the search for how to live aright at this time in history is an extremely urgent one.

In all the communities we know, people yearn for deeper understanding of how to order human life in accord with what is true and good. And beyond this desire, we recognise another reason for urgency: the good of all people, indeed of all creation, may depend on our ability to order our lives well.

Today the shared ways of life that sustain hospitality are changing all around us... Change touches us in our homes, workplaces, hospitals, and schools; it tests our relationships and shapes our desires, altering our sense of what we can expect from others and what we should expect of ourselves.

These shifts have set many people on spiritual journeys, in search of solid ground... Lacking shared beliefs, we conclude that our *private* preferences are the closest we can come to the truth of matters...

The fact is that inward journeys are not enough to meet our need... We need to co-operate if we hope to find not just contented states of mind, but ways of living that are good for ourselves and others, nearby and around the world.

Dave Andrew, *Plan Be*, Milton Keynes: Authentic Media, 2008.

Many of us want to change the way our world operates. We sign petitions, visit politicians, vote one party out and vote another in. But try as we might, we cannot seem to change our world. I have come to the conclusion that it is an illusion to think we can change anyone except ourselves – and that is only possible with the help of God's Spirit.

Big people can do big things. But we can only ever be big people in our own minds. In global terms, we will only ever really be little people and, as little people, we can only do little things. Great things can happen. Not as a result of little people trying to do impossible big things, but as a result of the cumulative effect of lots of little people doing lots of the little things we can do.

As little people, we all know that there is nothing big we can do to change the world. But that doesn't mean there is nothing we can do. We can be the change we want to see in the world by simply persistently doing all the little things we wish others would do, but don't do, ourselves.

David Augsburger, *Dissident Discipleship*, Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006.

the stubborn, persistent, radical spirituality appearing in unusual people across the last two thousand years who combined three strands – love for God, others, and self – in a unique way.

It is about *discovering* a clear sense of self, a firm link to God, a sensitivity to others.

It is about *choosing*, not inheriting. It is a personal choice, voluntary, individual.

It is about *doing*, not high intentions. It is a set of practices for living out faith.

It is about *loving*, not civility. People matter. All people matter.

It is about *linking*, not individualism. It is a quest for real community.

It is about *serving*, not self-care. It is something you offer, concretely, caringly.

It is about *being*, not having. It is discovering authenticity and simplicity.

It is about *risking*, not withdrawal. It is constructive, courageous, bold.

It is about *reconciling*, not coexisting. It is open to healing and growth.

It is about *suffering*, not injuring. It is resolutely nonviolent and constructive.