

WALKING BY FAITH IN THE TASK OF DISCIPLESHIP

“For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’” (Romans 1:17 NIV)

During the recent 33rd-anniversary celebration of the Indonesian Mission Church in Frankfurt on June 14, 2026, the topic of “Being a church of hope” (based on Romans 15:13) was highlighted. Beyond being a church of hope, as the righteous, we must also become successful disciples of Christ who are willing to carry out the task of discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20). The key to successful discipleship is living with increasing faith—faith that arises from hearing the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). True discipleship is not achieved through one's own strength. What does it mean to walk by faith while living as a disciple of Christ and carrying out the task of discipleship? Walking by faith in the task of discipleship means journeying alongside others toward the Lord Jesus with our eyes fixed on the Lord, rather than on other things. Romans 1:17 provides the foundation: “...the just shall live by faith.” Discipleship without faith leads to weariness, disappointment, and eventually burnout. Why? Because if we engage in discipleship without faith, we feel the burden that “we are the ones who must change them.”

Therefore, walking by faith in the task of discipleship means, first, believing in *Who* is actually at work (1 Corinthians 3:6-7 – “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase”). Our task is to “plant” and “water”—meaning we must work faithfully in discipleship through prayer, teaching, and setting an example through our lives. God’s task is to change the heart. If the disciple we serve is stubborn or obstinate, it does not mean we have failed; it simply means our task is not yet finished. Our task is fulfilled when we remain faithful. Second, we must believe in the power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16). Each of us has received Christ’s Great Commission to carry out the work of discipleship. We must be willing to be discipled and, in turn, disciple others. We do not need to be skilled debaters, witty, or charismatic. All we bring is the Lord Jesus as the Redeemer of sin, His living Word, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These three elements constitute the “most powerful weapons” for carrying out the task of discipleship (Hebrews 4:12). Third, we must trust in the process God is working out (Galatians 6:9). During the three years the Lord Jesus carried out His discipleship ministry, there were those among His followers who denied Him, those who doubted, and even one who betrayed Him; yet, the Lord Jesus remained faithful. To have faith means continuing to water the seed even before seeing a sprout, and remaining patient even when the people we serve stumble and fall. Fourth, we must also trust in God’s presence with us (Matthew 28:19-20). He will be with each of us who obeys His Great Commission until the end of the age. He does not demand that we be perfect first; rather, He accompanies those of us who are willing to obey His Great Commission.

In the coming months, some of us may be planning a vacation to a particular destination or a trip to Indonesia. Often, people focus on things that bring personal pleasure and schedule activities that delight their own hearts. Let us remember what the Lord desires from us, His disciples. He longs for us to go and make disciples of all nations, and to be witnesses of the living God wherever we are in these end times. May the Lord Jesus bless us all. Amen!

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