

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 New International Version

¹² And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

¹⁴ To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. 15 Yet the LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. 16 Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. 20 Fear the LORD your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. ²¹ He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.²² Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.

"Why do you hasten to remove anything which hurts your eye, while if something affects your soul you postpone the cure until next year?" — Horace

"Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, [the church] increased in numbers." Acts 9:31

BEGIN - BELONG - BELIEVE - BECOME - BUILD



BEGIN with God

BELONG to Christ and the Church.

You cannot be a strong **BELIEVER** unless you're a strong **BELONGER**

BECOME fully Christian

1. FEAR the Lord

Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD evil is avoided. Proverbs 16:6

Consider God's glory, infinite power and Divine Majesty

2. WALK in His Ways

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven — the Son of Man." John 3:13

"Speak for your servant listens"

3. LOVE the Lord

"Love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life" Deuteronomy 30:20

4. SERVE the Lord

"You will see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

Malachi 3:18



Short-Term Costs for Long-Term Benefits

I thought all my problems would be solved when I became a Christian. But they have increased. Cost? Pain? Sacrifice? Surrender? These elements don't fit into the American way of life of avoiding discomfort and inconvenience. Instant gratification is the order of the day. No goal could be further from Jesus' way of life for his disciples while here on earth.

What has been costly for you in following Jesus?

Read Luke 9:51-10:24

- This is the beginning of Jesus' final, year-long journey to Jerusalem. What impressions of Jesus do the opening statements (9:51-53) leave with you?
- In 9:56-62 Jesus interviews three would-be disciples. Each encounter reveals the person's inadequate understanding of what it means to follow Jesus. What issues are at stake for each of these people?
- From Jesus' response to each what do you learn about some specific costs of discipleship in his kingdom?
- How is the mission of the seventy-two in Luke 10:1-16 different from the mission of the Twelve in 9:1-6?
- Verses 17-24 record a post mission report and evaluation. Of course celebration is in order! For Jesus the success of the seventy-two is a preview of the ultimate overthrow of Satan. But as one of them, how would you have felt on hearing Jesus' words in verse 20?

Applying the Word

• Jesus' every instruction reveals a deep sense of urgency. How do we develop an urgency for mission and evangelism?