

Gospel for Life

March/April 2020



Discipleship and Troubled Times

In times of testing, trial, and affliction, our true loyalties are revealed. We certainly see this principle continually illustrated in Scripture in the lives of the saints who have gone before us. **God uses discipleship to prepare the Christ-learner for difficult times.**

Maturing believers play a vital role in training growing believers in the spiritual disciplines necessary for stability. Disciple-making is a kind of *spiritual boot camp*—it has rightly been said, *the more you sweat in training, the less you will bleed in battle*. At Gospel for Life, we train disciples to wield the spiritual weapons which God has provided (**2 Cor 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-20**).



Men's retreats are a prime venue for training in spiritual warfare.

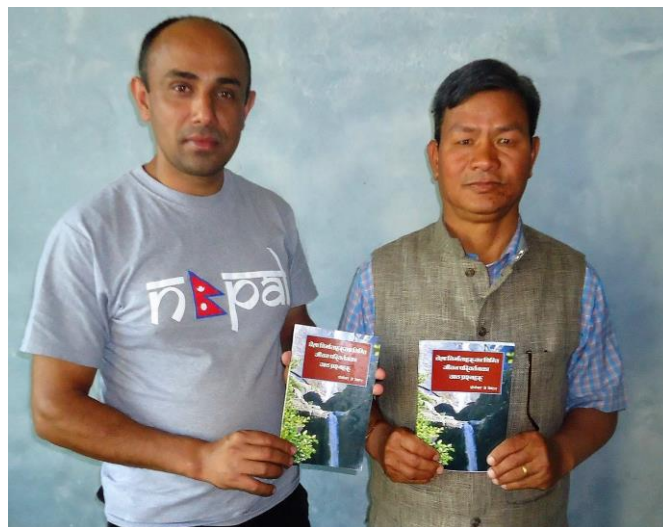


In the Thessalonica region, the persecution of believers was becoming intense and Paul feared that the devil, the old trickster, may have effectively attacked the Thessalonian's faith. **But, the apostle's preparation of these believers for difficulty was a huge factor in their victorious response to opposition.** Paul states, “. . . we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. **For indeed**

The apostle Paul, the iconic disciple-maker, saw the necessity of building up the brethren for the fight of faith. In First Thessalonians, we find Paul preparing his converts for imminent suffering. The apostle knew that the evil one is a cruel enemy. For, when believers encounter trouble, the enemy uses every lie imaginable. Scripture describes this intense temptation as the ‘evil day’ (**Eph 6:13**). Amidst painful trials, the devil may insinuate, “*You deserve this,*” “*God has abandoned you,*” “*If you were spiritual this would not be happening to you.*”



cont. when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain. But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith; for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord” (1 Thess 3:1-8).



Discipleship with GFL books within the military of Nepal

Please pray for:

- Please pray for the training that Jay is providing as the men he disciples are increasingly equipped and released to ministry opportunities. We praise the Lord that we are seeing third generation discipleship.
- Please pray that the Lord would mightily bless ‘phone discipleship’ during this time of quarantine.

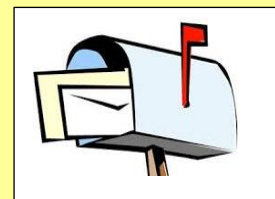
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We are grateful for your support in prayer and gifts to help fulfill our mission to raise up a new generation of disciple-makers.

Jay, Michele and the GFL Team

