

“We train disciplemakers...”



Walking
with a
friend
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from God
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Update from Kansas Communities Ministry

Making Disciples Naturally Podcast

*Source of True Life with
Mike Schmid: Sept. 7
Walk with Me with
Bill Mowry: Sept. 14, 21, 28*

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of wisdom**
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The Science and Art of Hermeneutics - Part 3

*See the article
on pages 3 - 4*

*Mark your calendars for our
Fall Conference
October 5, 2024*

*Special guest speaker:
Bill Mowry, Navigator and
author of “The Way of the
Alongsider,” “Walk with Me”
and other books
and resources.*

Bill Mowry speaker for Fall Conference

We are excited to welcome Mr. Bill Mowry as our speaker for our Fall Conference, Saturday, October 5, 2024 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita. Bill is the author of many resources the Kansas Communities Ministry has used over the years, including *The Ways of the Alongsider*, *Crockpot Disciplemaking*, *The Ways of the Leader* and *Walk With Me*.



Bill lives in Ohio with his wife Peggy who is a certified Life Coach and teacher as well. He has an MA from The Ohio State University with an emphasis on adult education. He has over 40 years of disciplemaking experience. His website is alongsider.com.

In Bill’s words: *“I was on a mission when I started college in 1968. I had told God to shove off, my heroes were the radical left, my culture was defined by rock and roll, and I was madly in love with a girl named Peggy. Then I met Ed. Ed lived across the hall from me in the freshman dorm. We bonded as friends around the shared challenges of college life. Only this friendship was different. Ed claimed to be a Christian. I had never known anyone my age who centered their life around their faith. Ed whet my appetite for Jesus.”*

He joined the Navigator Staff in 1975 and has worked in the Navigator Church Ministry area as well as being an author, teacher and coach.

He will be expanding on his book *Walk With Me* at the conference. We appreciate Bill’s practical and relatable style. You can hear the interview with him on our podcast September 14, 21 and 28. Registration info will be available soon. Watch your email!

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“Like a nursing mother caring for her own children, with such affection for you we were happy to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

— 1 Thess. 2:7b-8 (NET Bible)

Walk With Me by Bill Mowry,

Pub. Moody Publishers 2021

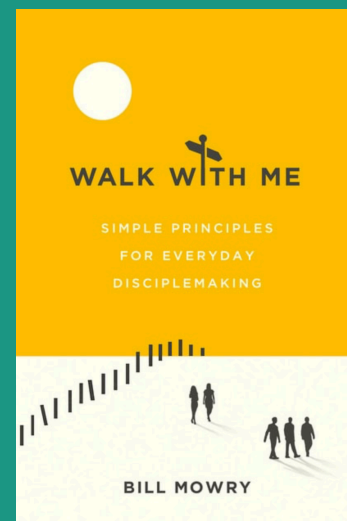
Walk With Me presents five key principles for everyday disciplemakers as they simply walk with someone in their spiritual journey. These five principles are: We walk heart-to-heart, We walk simple, We walk slow, We walk deep and We walk on mission.

Bill's desire is to de-professionalize the process of helping folks walk with Jesus and put Him first in their lives. This little book is packed with great ideas for keeping it simple, doable and effective.

He notes "... the theme of making disciples runs throughout the New Testament...A disciple is someone committed to living Jesus' way of life and embracing His mission. Making disciples was high on Jesus' priority list, and He wants it to be a high priority for us." (p. 12).

Later he states, "I'm writing to demonstrate that disciplemaking can be as simple as inviting people to walk with me as I walk with Jesus. I'm inviting you to learn and practice a disciplemaking lifestyle that is a walk between friends." (p. 13).

We asked Bill to speak to us at this year's Fall Conference because so many in the Kansas Communities Ministry have used and found benefit from his teaching through this and other books. If you currently do not have this resource, you might want to pick up a copy of this book (through Amazon and other sources).



Doug Nuenke, former US President of The Navigators wrote: "*Bill Mowry writes with winsome clarity about a subject that is near to the heart of God and invites us into the ways of Jesus Christ. No other topic reflects more fully the life and purposes of Jesus than His focus on helping everyday people walk with God and reflect His character. Bill makes it doable for all of us, people with busy lives and in a culture that tries to pull us away from meaning and relationship.*"

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" — Proverbs 9:10

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 87-90)

Wisdom is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "the ability to judge soundly and deal sagaciously with facts especially as they relate to life, conduct, discernment and judgment." These characteristics are sought after in each generation and in every culture. Those individuals possessing them are qualified for positions of authority and responsibility and are the ones we look to for advice and counsel. Wisdom should be chief among all the prerequisites for appointment in our government, our places of business and in our churches. The scriptures have much to say about wisdom. "Blessed is the man who finds wisdom." (Proverbs 3:13) "For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her." (Proverbs 8:11) "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion." (Proverbs 8:12) "Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power." (Proverbs 8:14) "With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity." (Proverbs 8:18) "I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice." (Proverbs 8:20) The scripture is also clear about where this wisdom originates. Proverbs 9:10 tells us that this wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Unless we have learned to fear the Lord, we have not yet started on our journey to wisdom. The development of the fear of the Lord in our lives, then, must be our objective if we would obtain wisdom...

The development of the fear of the Lord takes different paths in all of our lives. What is the Lord using in your life to produce His fear in your life so that you will attain unto wisdom? It begins with His gift, His Spirit, creating a fear of Him in our lives. He exposes us to the instruction of others, permits trials and would open our eyes to the multiple miracles He provides in our lives so that we may grow in our fear of Him. Our Lord also desires us to respond to His Spirit by exhibiting diligence in our lives to His word and to prayer, both of which He will use to produce the fear of God in our lives.

Proverbs 4:7 states, "Wisdom is supreme, therefore get wisdom." Are we growing in our attainment of wisdom? If so, it is because we are learning more clearly what it means to fear Him. May the Lord so direct your heart into His fear that you may attain unto His wisdom.

In Christ, Richard Spann

Hearing from God through His Word: The Science and Art of Hermeneutics, Part 3 by Larry Beck

(Editor's note: Please see the June and July 2024 issues of this newsletter for parts 1 and 2.)



- Distinguish literal from figurative language (i.e. poetry versus historical narrative).
- Use scripture to interpret scripture.
- Scripture – not experience – determines doctrine; what some refer to as the “Regulation Principle.”
- Let the clear interpret the unclear; The New Testament (Jesus and the Apostles) provide the best insight and clarification (commentary) relative to Old Testament writings and often in reference to interpretive challenges like prophecy.

– Grammar is important. In the Greek (New Testament), the Tense, Voice and Mood of verbs can be very influential in adding depth to the meaning. For example, in **Romans 12:2** when Paul writes “... **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**” The tense of the verb phrase “**be transformed**” is in the present tense referring to action, or a simple statement of fact that is occurring in the present. It’s in the passive voice, which refers to an action done to you or received from another source. And the Mood is imperative which means Paul is writing a command. Thus, Paul is commanding the Christian to allow something to happen to them (be transformed) which can only happen by the renewing of the mind.

The importance of verbs likewise shines light on God’s work in salvation versus man’s involvement. For example, in **Ephesians 2:5**, Paul writes that “**even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ...**” This verse is referring to a supernatural event where God is active, and man is passive; God “**made us alive together with Christ**” whereas man was completely passive in that event. The same can be seen in **Colossians 1:13** and **2:13** where again God is the One who is active, and man is passive. The verbs alone indicate that man, in his unredeemed spiritual condition, and by his nature, is incapable of making any choice or taking any action resulting in spiritual life (salvation) and God alone is active in the redemptive process. There are many other such examples, especially relative to salvation.

Ultimately, the challenge for the Bible student, especially for those who have a teaching / preaching gift and endeavor to use it, is to pull out of the text what is there and expose it, to fully interpret and unfold the meaning of the text. This is what some theologians refer to as exegetical / expository teaching or preaching.

(Continued on next page)

“Sexual sin never begins by accident. People do not suddenly fall into an illicit sexual act simply by having an opportunity confront them. There is always some specific preparation. This preparation we call “pre-sexual” experience. Pre-sexual experiences are those experiences of mind and action which excite, train, or develop our sexual drives.” — Jerry White, International President Emeritus of The Navigators ©, from his book, *Dangers Men Face*, © Navpress, 1997, pages 81-82.

Science of Hermeneutics (Continued)

A biblical example of this is found in **Luke 24:27** while Jesus is walking on the road to Emmaus with two of the disciples. The verse reads, “**Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**” It’s interesting to note that the word translated as “**explained**” in this text is from the Greek verb “*diērmēneuō*” from which we get our English word “hermeneutics”. Jesus was pulling from and exposing the disciples to what had been written about Him in the scriptures (Old Testament) that were available to them.

In closing, I have never been to seminary, Bible college or pretend to understand all there is to know about Greek, Hebrew and the finer intricacies of Bible study. That said, God, through the provision of available resources like the blueletterbible.org website, and others listed below, has enabled me to glean much deeper understanding of what the Holy Spirit meant, by what He inspired to be written.

Below is a reference to a few books I would recommend along with some web links to resources that are profitable for study or in detailing hermeneutical disciplines.

Resources – Books and Websites

Books:

- Vines Expository Dictionary** (this is also available online through blueletterbible.org)
- The Englishman’s Greek Concordance of the New Testament, by George V. Wigram**
- Theological Word Book of the Old Testament (TWOT)**, by Harris, Archer and Waltke, Volumes I and II; Moody Press. Available from Christianbook.com.
- Preaching** (How to Preach Biblically) by John MacArthur and the Master’s Seminary Faculty. Chapter 10 of the book lists hundreds of references to valuable resources.

Websites:

www.Blueletterbible.org

<https://austinbiblechurch.com/sites/default/files/documents/A%20Basic%20Overview%20of%20Hermeneutical%20Principles.pdf>

<https://www.logos.com/grow/biblical-hermeneutics-guide/>

"I think the greatest weakness in the church today is that almost no one believes that God invests His power in the Bible. Everyone is looking for power in a program, in a methodology, in a technique, in anything and everything but that in which God has placed it—His Word. He alone has the power to change lives for eternity, and that power is focused on the Scriptures."

~ R. C. Sproul Quote found at https://www.azquotes.com/author/17405-R_C_Sproul#google_vignette