



## Personal Discipleship Inventory

### Establishing a Baseline for Growth

*Wherefore let us know nothing more profitable for ourselves than to examine ourselves daily, every day of our life reviewing that dubious life, and keeping account of our words and thoughts, and shuddering at human life, to ponder without ceasing the aforesaid end of that roadway, that is of our life, while we spurn the pleasures of the world.*

- Columbanus, *Sermon IX*

The instrument that follows – the Personal Discipleship Inventory – has been developed to help pastors and church leaders sustain ongoing growth and fruitfulness in their walk with and work for the Lord. It consists of three parts:

1. An *outline paradigm* for thinking about the life of faith: In the Personal Discipleship Inventory, the life of faith is conceived of as consisting of three facets – vision, disciplines, and outcomes. Each is explained in its place.
2. A *series of assessment scales* to help you determine where you stand in relation to the paradigm of the life of faith presented in the Inventory. Use these assessments yourself, and ask a soul-friend to complete the Inventory for you as well, asking your soul-friend responding to provide his assessments in each area. Review your assessments together so that you can get a better picture of the baseline for ongoing growth that this Inventory can help you to establish.
3. *Guidelines for setting goals* so that you can grow in the life of faith.

Completing the Personal Discipleship Inventory at least annually can be an effective means both of establishing a baseline for the life of discipleship and monitoring growth in your walk with and work for the Lord. Follow the instructions carefully, and respond to the questions with prayer and honest reflection.

Paul exhorts us to “Look carefully then how you walk,” (Eph. 5.15). Our time is not our own; all our time belongs to the Lord. The Personal Discipleship Inventory can help you make the most of your time, as work for improvement in each of the areas of your life – vision, disciplines, and outcomes.

## Introduction

*The questions that follow are designed to help you collect your thoughts, feelings, and impressions with respect to the vision that motivates and guides you in your daily life, the disciplines by which you pursue that vision, and the outcomes that indicate progress day by day. Completing this assessment can help you identify areas of needed improvement and growth. Complete each statement by circling the number that best describes your sense of agreement or disagreement with the statement. Ask a soul-friend to do the same. When you have finished all 15 statements, follow the directions at the end of the Inventory.*

### I. Vision

*Every worldview is driven by its vision of ultimate reality – that which is finally and wholly beautiful, good, true, and most to be desired. The Christian’s vision is lodged in a realm of unseen things (Heb. 11.1), things hoped for and sought after, and it includes our vision of Christ and His Kingdom, the Church, our salvation, and our individual callings and legacy.*

1. I have a clear and growing vision of unseen things above, where Christ is seated in heavenly places (Colossians 3.1-3).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

2. I know that Christ has commanded us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and I clearly see what the coming of Christ’s Kingdom should look like in my own life sphere as well as in our world (Matt. 6.33).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

3. As a member of Christ’s Body, the Church, I am clear in my mind as to the characteristics that define a healthy, growing church.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

4. In the Lord Jesus we have received “such a great salvation”, and I see clearly how that great salvation should increase in my life – how I should grow in my walk with and work for the Lord – as I work out my salvation in fear and trembling (Philippians 2.12).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

5. I know what my calling is from the Lord, and what legacy He is leading me to prepare for those who will follow after me in the life of faith (1 Thessalonians 2.12).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

### II. Disciplines

*In pursuit of their vision, in all its facets, people structure their lives around routines, protocols, and disciplines which, taken together, help them make the most of the time of their lives for the walk with and work for the Lord (Ephesians 5.15-17).*

6. My practice of spiritual disciplines at this time involves me regularly with all the disciplines of grace (2 Peter 3.18).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

7. I maintain a good set of relational skills, and I am growing in my ability to love others as Christ loves me (John 13.1-15).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

8. I am fully aware of all the work the Lord has given me to do, and I am pursuing all my work so as to bring glory to God in all things (1 Corinthians 10.31).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

9. I understand my role in the community of faith and what we as a people together need to be doing in order to build Christ's church and advance His Kingdom (Ephesians 4.11-16).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

10. I know there are certain disciplines – *provisional* disciplines – that I only need to engage from time to time, as when trials or temptations beset me, or when I find myself in a crisis. I know what those disciplines are and how to make the best use of them.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

### *III. Outcomes*

*As we take up our disciplines to pursue our vision of Christ and His Kingdom and calling, certain outcomes help us to measure our progress and celebrate the Lord's work in our lives. These come to expression as love for God and our neighbors in our words and deeds (Matthew 22.34-40; Colossians 4.6; 1 Corinthians 10.31).*

11. I have a good grasp of the idea of Personal Mission Field – a personal sphere of growth and ministry – and what it requires of me (2 Corinthians 10.13-18).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

12. I am faithfully and fully involved in working my Personal Mission Field, following the example of Christ, Who has sent me as He Himself was sent (John 20.21).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

13. I understand what is required for me to be able to do all things to the glory of God and to always use my words to build others up in Him (1 Corinthians 10.31; Ephesians 4.29).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

14. I have a clear and compelling sense of what it means to love God with all my soul and strength (Deuteronomy 6.5).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

15. I understand all that is required of me to love my neighbor by seeking and serving him, sowing God's Word into his life, shepherding him in his walk with the Lord, and being a good steward of every opportunity and all my time, talents, and treasure (Ephesians 5.15-17).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Strongly disagree Strongly agree

*Tabulation*

When you have completed this survey, add up the total score that you gave yourself in each of the three sections of the Inventory (each section separately). Enter those scores here:

Vision	_____	_____
Disciplines	_____	_____
Outcomes	_____	_____

Now, double each of those scores to achieve a percentile indicator of your assessment of the state of your discipleship in each area at this time. Put that percentiles to the right of each score above.

You now have a reflection and estimate of the state of your walk with and work for the Lord – in the areas of vision, disciplines, and outcomes – expressed in terms of a percentage. For example, you may have discovered that your overall estimate of the state of your vision of the Christian life amounts to, let’s say, 60%. This means that, overall, you agree, although not strongly (60%, or 6, being just past the middle of the 1 to 10 scale), with the statements in the Inventory concerning the state of your vision. This would indicate that there is some room for improvement, and you should be able to identify some particular shapes that improvement might take, what next steps you could take to to improve your score the next time around.

Now compare your results on the Personal Discipleship Inventory with those of your soul friend. Do any common observations appear?

Review carefully your answers to each of the statements in the Inventory, as well as the percentages you ascertained above. Under the headings below, indicate areas where you would most like to see growth in your walk with and work for the Lord, based on your observations in this Personal Discipleship Inventory. Be as specific as you can:

Vision

Disciplines

Outcomes

Who will be your soul-friend(s) as you take up the task of addressing these areas of growth? How will you look to your soul-friend to help you grow?

Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_