

The Pattern: Teaching Them

Part 10

In this installment of "The Pattern" series, we delve into the critical component of teaching others—a foundational aspect of the Christian walk.

Thus far, we have explored the initial steps of the pattern, which include becoming a practicing disciple of Jesus Christ, undergoing water baptism, receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and speaking in tongues.

Each of these steps plays a unique role in the believer's spiritual journey. However, the next step—teaching others—is arguably the most vital and impactful aspect of the pattern.

A Review of "The Pattern" Thus Far

To recap, the first four components of "The Pattern" are:

- 1. Becoming a Practicing Disciple of Jesus Christ:** This involves faith, obedience, repentance, and confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. Through this step, believers receive God's power (F.O.R.C.E.), which enables them to become His children (**John 1:12**).
- 2. Water Baptism:** This step represents the spiritual birth process where believers are baptized into the family of God. Water baptism is also a sign of a blood covenant with God, symbolizing spiritual circumcision (**Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:11-12**). It connects believers to the Lord's Supper, another essential aspect of the faith.
- 3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** This step equips believers with "dunamis" power (**Acts 1:8**), enabling them to serve as Christ's witnesses and carry out His mission on Earth.
- 4. Speaking in Tongues:** As a supernatural communication with God, speaking in tongues serves as physical evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual gift that strengthens and sustains believers throughout their lives.

While these elements are integral to "The Pattern," it is important to note that their sequence may vary in each believer's life.

For instance, a person may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit before water baptism or vice versa (**Acts 10:44-48**). However, all parts are essential for experiencing the fullness of God's purpose.

The Fifth Part of The Pattern: Teaching Others

The next part of "The Pattern" is found in **Matthew 28:18-20**, where Jesus commands His disciples:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (RSV)

This passage highlights three key components:

1. Making practicing disciples.
2. Water baptism.
3. Teaching others to observe Christ's commandments.

Teaching others is not merely an optional activity for believers—it is central to fulfilling the Great Commission. It is through teaching that we pass on God's Word, build up others in faith, and ensure that His truth is preserved and propagated.

The Importance of Accurate Teaching

Teaching others is not only a responsibility but also an indication of spiritual maturity. As stated in **Colossians 1:28**, the goal is to "present every man mature in Christ."

To do this effectively, we must first ensure that we are mature in our own walk with Christ.

Ezra 7:10 provides a powerful example of this principle: "For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel."

Ezra first studied God's Word, then applied it in his own life before teaching others.

Accuracy in teaching is paramount. **Ecclesiastes 12:9-10** emphasizes that knowledge must be weighed, studied, and conveyed with great care and truthfulness.

Inaccurate teaching can hinder spiritual growth, distort God's truth, and even lead people astray.

As Paul writes in **2 Timothy 2:15**, believers must "study to show thyself approved unto God... rightly dividing the word of truth."

This diligent study ensures that we teach with precision and integrity.

The Role of Accuracy in "The Pattern"

The importance of accurate teaching is illustrated in **Acts 18:24-26** and **Acts 19:1-7** through the interactions between Apollos, Priscilla, Aquila, Paul, and the twelve disciples.

Apollos was an eloquent teacher who taught accurately about Jesus but knew only John's baptism. Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained "the way of God more accurately."

Similarly, Paul encountered twelve disciples who had been baptized into John's baptism but had not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit or spoken in tongues.

Paul led them into these next steps of "The Pattern."

These examples highlight several key points:

- 1.** Even those who teach accurately can benefit from further instruction to gain deeper understanding.
- 2.** The baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues are integral parts of "The Pattern" that often follow water baptism.
- 3.** Fellowship with spiritually mature believers—such as Priscilla, Aquila, and Paul—can sharpen our understanding and help us grow in accuracy.

The Five Parts of The Pattern

At this stage in our study, we can identify five key components of "The Pattern":

- A. Practicing Discipleship:** Becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ through faith, repentance, obedience, and confession.
- B. Water Baptism:** Entering into a covenant relationship with God and becoming part of His family.
- C. Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** Receiving power to carry out God's mission on Earth.
- D. Speaking in Tongues:** Demonstrating a new supernatural communication system with God.
- E. Teaching Others:** Accurately imparting God's Word to build up others in faith.

These five elements serve as preparation and training for believers to fulfill God's purposes on Earth.

The Danger of Inaccurate Teaching

Inaccurate teaching poses significant risks to both individuals and the broader body of Christ. It can mislead believers, dilute God's truth, and hinder the advancement of His kingdom.

Teachers bear a great responsibility to ensure their instruction aligns with scripture and reflects God's will accurately.

As seen with Apollos, teachability is essential for growth. He was already an effective teacher but became even more powerful after receiving more accurate instruction from Priscilla and Aquila.

This demonstrates that humility and a willingness to learn are critical for anyone seeking to teach others about God.

Conclusion

Teaching others is not only a command from Jesus but also an essential step in "The Pattern." It requires diligence, accuracy, and a commitment to personal growth.

By studying God's Word deeply and living it out in our own lives, we can effectively teach others and contribute to their spiritual maturity.

As we continue to follow "The Pattern," let us remain teachable like Apollos and seek fellowship with spiritually mature believers who can guide us toward greater accuracy.

By doing so, we can fulfill our role as practicing disciples and advance God's kingdom on Earth.

Let us remember Acts 2:38-39 as it encapsulates these truths: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off."

With this promise in mind, may we walk faithfully in "The Pattern" and teach others to do the same for generations to come.

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