

DD—CW—ACT—START (11)

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Jesus is the Man of Perfect Love; to study and emulate Jesus is to study and emulate Perfect Love. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus said to teach His disciples to observe all that He commanded.

To do all that Jesus commanded is to love well.

START helps us to do this, to follow Him, to obey Him, to love as He loved—to become like Him.

S.T.A.R.T. stands for:

S = Study Jesus—We search the Scriptures for Jesus, and for what Jesus did, said, and said to do.

T = Translate—We translate what we learn about Jesus into Practices, to clarify what we are to do.

A = Assess Adherence—We each ask of ourselves: Am I doing what the Word says?

R = Repent—If I am not doing the Word—I admit, repent, and confess of the Shortfall to another.

T = Transformation—I ask God, through Jesus, to transform me, to heal me of the Shortfall.

1. Study Jesus
 - a. Matthew 28:20—Jesus said to teach His disciples to observe all that He commanded.
 - b. To know all that Jesus commanded, we study Jesus.
 - c. We study Him in the Gospels, the biographies of Jesus.
 - d. We search for Him in all the Books of the Bible.
 - e. We search all the Scriptures for Jesus, for what Jesus did, said, and said to do.
2. Translate what is learned about Jesus into Practices
 - a. We let everything we learn about Jesus become a Directive on how to act.
 - b. We translate what we learn into Practices, which define what we are to be doing.
3. Assess my Adherence
 - a. We then check ourselves against the statements—are we doing what the Practices describe?
 - b. Perhaps, we individually find we are doing what the Word says. Great.
 - c. Perhaps, we find that we are not...
4. Repent
 - a. In Matthew 4:17 Jesus said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - b. In James 5:16 we see that we are to confess our sins to one another.
 - c. We also see that we are to pray for one another, so that we may be healed.
 - d. If we see that we are falling short, if we are in disobedience, or sin, we are to admit it.
 - e. We are not to self-condemn, chide ourselves, or beat ourselves up.
 - f. We are instructed to repent of, and admit, our sin.
 - g. We turn from the Shortfall, from the sin; we turn to God; we confess to each other.
5. Transformation
 - a. We also see in James 5:16 that we are to pray for the healing of our Shortfall, or sin.
 - b. Apart from God we can do nothing [John 15:5].
 - c. With God all things are possible [Matthew 19:26].
 - d. Discovering a Shortfall does not mean that we are to work harder to change ourselves.
 - e. We are to be willing to turn from the Shortfall, from the sin.
 - f. It means that we are to turn to God and pray that He heal us, that He transform us.
 - g. With the person or persons to whom I have confessed, I pray, asking God to heal me.
 - h. I ask God to change me, to transform me.
 - i. I trust, in His Time and Way, that He will bring the change, that He will transform me.