

THE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE OF JESUS' DISCIPLES TWELVE FEATURES

1. Involves community with other men and women. Purely private and exclusive relationship with Jesus not possible on his terms. Individual begins to pray and behave in ways that show concern for the wider world.

2. The sense of being a loved sinner. Understanding the meaning of forgiveness through watching how Jesus' forgives and by experiencing forgiveness personally.

Have the knowledge of being loved and accepted by God, of being daily created and renewed.

3. A sense of mission. We cannot experience the risen Jesus with out being impelled to bear witness. We are in this world for a purpose; we live our lives out of that conviction.

4. Freedom. No longer a slave to fear, attachments to money, security or human respect. Freed from shameful past, from anger, from cowardice.

5. Empowering trust. The confidence in God which enables the willing and doing of great things. Empowered to do the things which Jesus did.

6. Compassion. The ability to see the world as God sees it. To experience God's affection for the world. To be able to forgive.

7. Simplicity of life. A sign of inner freedom. An uncluttered existence. Out of place in a consumer society.

8. Sense of being on a journey. Life comparable to a pilgrimage. Growing in God, ascending into the holy mystery of God, moving closer to the divine presence. God moving in us, changing our inner selves.

9. Experience of being taught. We keep asking questions. No situation in our lives-if we are with Jesus-is quite the way it initially seems.

10. Tension and struggle we encounter as a result of efforts to remain faithful followers. Real problems began after disciples came to know Jesus. Creative tension is the sigh of the Spirit's presence in our minds and hearts.

11. Strong desire to pray.

12. Identifying with Jesus in his dying and rising.

*This message lives on in our midst
as a task for us today and a
promise for tomorrow.*

