

✿ Pushing forward wisely – (Joshua. 1:8)

*'The most dominant force driving spiritual engagement is a routine practice of spiritual disciplines that feeds an active, personal and intimate relationship with Christ.'*  
[Greg L Hawkins]

**THE FINAL WORD:**

*'How do we develop followers of Jesus? - This question challenges everything - Instead of counting the number of attendees or ministries, what if we were to ask - 'What percentage of our membership feel they grew to be more like Jesus this past year?'*

Sunday January 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 A.M.

**Series: 'The Rule of Life.'**

**WEEK 1:**      **LIVING IN JESUS.**

**Reading:**      **John 15: 1-8.**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Allan Hirsch - *When dealing with discipleship, and the related capacity to generate authentic followers of Jesus, we are dealing with that single most crucial factor that will in the end determine the quality of the whole.'*

**1. IN CHRIST:**

✿ Paul - 'A man in Christ' - (2Corinthians .12:2)

✿ The teaching of Jesus – (John 15:4)

✿ **a) One Body:** (Romans 12:4) –

✿ One with Christ and His 'Body' –

✿ **b) One In Spirit:** (1Corinthians 6:17)

✿ A relationship of personal intimacy –

- ✿ **c) One Family:** (John 17:21,23)
  - ✿ Related to the Father and the Son

- ✿ Perfect union – life in relationship

John Stott - *'...something much more than a formal attachment or nodding acquaintance. Something more even than a personal friendship; it is nothing less than a vital, organic, intimate union with Jesus Christ, involving a shared life and love.'*

## **2. GOING DEEPER:**

- ✿ (Psalm 42:7) "Deep calls to deep.."

- ✿ To make - spiritual warriors who will make a dynamic impact –

- ✿ The substantial foundation – (Hebrews 3:14)

- ✿ **a) Foundational Beliefs –**
  - ✿ We need to 'seize and retain' –

*'Perhaps there is nothing more important to a person's ultimate conversion to the Christian faith, and even to the pace and depth of their spiritual growth over a lifetime, than to fully understand and accept the implications of these core beliefs.'*  
[Greg L Hawkins]

- ✿ **b) Christian Friendships –**
  - ✿ Acts of service & times of fellowship –

- ✿ Sunday services & small groups –

- ✿ (Hebrews 10:25)

*'Church activities form the most critical 'on ramp' for the development and reinforcement of spiritual beliefs and attitudes... providing social structures for early believers so that spiritual friendships and other relationships form.'*  
[Greg L Hawkins]

- ✿ **c) Spiritual Practices –**
  - ✿ Bible reading –

- ✿ Reflection on the Scriptures –

- ✿ Prayer to seek guidance and to confess sins –