

Lk. 14:25-28. Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?”

Matt. 10:39. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Mt. 13:44-45. The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Goal: The Kingdom of God

1. Probation

2. Spiritual Formation

3. Judgment: The Purging Fire

Mt. 3:12. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

I Cor. 13:13, 15. ...the work of each builder will become visible, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.

Non-discipleship costs us abiding peace, a life penetrated throughout with love, faith that sees everything in the light of God's overriding governance for good, hopefulness that stands firm even in the most discouraging of circumstances, power to do what is good and withstand the powers of evil. In short it costs exactly that abundance of life Jesus said he came to bring.

Dallas Willard