



# INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS ABOUT DISCIPLE-MAKING

Not only do 80% of new believers walk away from faithfulness but at least 80% of those left in churches aren't maturing in Christ.

## **Definition of "maturing"...**

Maturing in Christ means that a Christ-follower is developing into someone who can do the works for which they've been set apart (Ephesians 2:10). It means that they are being equipped for ministering to others within the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-16) and living and speaking the good news of God's Kingdom outside that Body (Matthew 28:18-20). However, Christian maturation and, therefore, transformation won't happen without consistent and frequent Bible study, discipleship, fellowship, and accountability--things mostly neglected by at least 80% of American Churchgoers.

# 80%

## IN THREE MONTHS

By Dr. Ron Braley

Without close relationships that are the backbone of discipleship, most new converts will leave the faith soon afterward—perhaps within several weeks.

Without discipleship and its close relative spiritual formation, most of those that stay will remain untransformed.

For instance, according to information provided by Ray Comfort, Eternity Magazine, The Institute for American Church Growth, The Southern Baptist Convention, and The Assemblies of God, as many as 95% of people deciding to 'accept' Jesus backslid.

These sources reported that only three percent of post-crusade respondents joined a local church after the event. Another said that only three percent of the thousands of post-crusade respondents joined local congregations and stated that "it seems highly probable that most of the remaining 97% were not truly converted."

The Assemblies of God showed a net gain of five new attendees for every 100 recorded professions of faith. Most people leave the Christian faith after the initial newness wears off. But what about those who stay?

Discipleship should be each believer's highest priority as a disciple or disciple-maker. All else flows from it, from worship to spiritual growth. But statistically, fewer than 20% of churchgoers regularly engage in discipleship or related activities like small groups, Bible study, fellowship, prayer, and accountability

(<https://www.barna.com/research/state-church-2016/>). Additionally, only 14% of today's Christians appear to represent the actions and attitudes Barna researchers found consistent with those of Jesus (<https://www.barna.com/research/christians-more-like-jesus-or-pharisees>).

In summary, most respondents to the Christian faith may leave soon after.

Fewer than 20% of converts who don't walk away from faith initially pursue any significant spiritual formation training, and as few as 15% resemble Jesus. The statistics suggest that little discipleship is taking place, and imitation of the One we claim as Savior is even rarer.

When Pastor Grant says that 20% remain faithful to Jesus after accepting Jesus three months later, I believe he is being overly optimistic.

# QUESTIONS

1. How is your foundation?
  - a. Do you have regular answered prayers?
  - b. Do you memorize scripture?
  - c. Do you know your spiritual gifts and grow in your understanding of your calling?
  - d. Have you ever led someone to the Lord? Have you ever discipled someone.
2. What is the difference between foundational formational discipleship?
3. If you are given a new believer. Realizing that there is a high probability that this new believer will walk away from the faith within three months – do you know exactly what to do in discipleship as best practices for that first three months?

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