

## Can I Succeed in the Christian Life Without Being Personally Discipled?

How spiritually healthy is Cornerstone Church?

Do we preach the gospel often?

Do we take stands on moral issues?

Are we unified behind our mission of making disciples?

Are we seeing lots of conversions and baptisms?

Are we growing in numbers and dollars?

  
  
  
  

Are these our targets and measurements of success?

Or, do we measure the spiritual progress of each member of the church individually and use those as measurements of success corporately?

A mature and equipped believer is someone who:<sup>1</sup>

1. Is living consistently under the control of the Holy Spirit, (Ephesians 5 & 6), the direction of the Word of God (John 15) and the compelling love of Christ (John 13)
2. Has discovered, developed, and is using their spiritual gift(s); (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12)
3. Has learned to effectively share their faith, while demonstrating a radical love that amazes those it touches (John 15:5)
4. Gives evidence of being
  - a. A faithful member of God's church (1 Corinthians 12)
  - b. An effective manager of life, relationships and resources (Matthew 25) and,
  - c. An available messenger to nonkingdom people (Acts 1:8)
5. Demonstrates a life characterized as
  - a. Gospel driven,
  - b. Worship focused,
  - c. Morally pure,
  - d. Evangelistically bold,
  - e. Discipleship grounded,
  - f. Family faithful,

g. Socially responsible.

Ministry Models

1. The **Pastoral Model**, simple single shepherd pastoral care devoid of consumerism. Pre 1970's
2. The **Attractional Model**. Key focus: relevance. Music and message had to relate to the next generation. Programs had to be created to fit every need. Mid 1970's. Worked well for middle class seekers but not for cynics, outsiders, homeless, poor, and abused. Think Willow Creek and Bill Hybels. Weakness: catered to consumerism without lifechange.
3. The **Influential Model**. If the church is not attracting the previous group to come in, the church needed to go out to them. Weakness: caters to people's genuine needs without the gospel message of transformation.

What's the best description of a biblical model? The **Discipleship Model**.

**(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV) And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."**

Jesus' discipleship model includes the essential elements in the mechanism for individual change.

Those elements include:

- The Word, (to know and love the Word so it speaks to us)
- Equipping, (to be taught how by one on one training)
- Accountability, (to repent from our sin and run to Jesus)
- Mission, (to seek and save the lost)
- Power of Prayer. (see below)

The Lord's Prayer is a Power Prayer for mission purposes:

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<sup>1</sup> Insourcing, Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church, Randy Pope, Kindle edition, location 94 - 106

**Matthew 6:9-13 ESV Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. (By whom?) Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Where? What would that look like?) Give us this day our daily bread, (What for?) and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (for what impact and purpose?). And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Why? Will obedient followers be more attractive to non-Christians?)**

Discipleship in action: Luke 9:1-6; Luke 10: 1-10

Jesus threw the disciples out into mission without being totally prepared for all the variables and possible questions. What do you think was their response to the Word when they came back?

**(Mark 3:14 ESV) And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might *be with him* and he might send them out to preach.**

Can a person be discipled apart from one-on-one discipleship?

Is the proclamation of the word on Sunday mornings (sermon) enough to produce lasting transformation?

If so, why did Jesus leave the masses to focus on the twelve?

Is the fellowship of small groups enough to produce lasting transformation?

If so, why did Jesus concentrate on the three more intensely?

What was the Jewish concept of disciples following their chosen Rabbi?

**(1 Corinthians 11:1 ESV) Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.**

What tools does Cornerstone offer for one-on-one discipleship?

1. The Heartbeat Bible Studies – an in depth overview of the Bible leading to a gospel commitment empowered by the Holy Spirit for genuine belief.

2. Two Hours to Freedom – A Spirit-led journey through one’s past to uncover hidden barriers that have hindered fellowship with Jesus and removing them through Spiritual warfare prayers and forgiveness.
3. Gospel DNA – 18 sessions of applying the gospel for life transformation and missional multiplication. These sessions cover areas such as:
  - a. The overarching Story of the Bible which is God’s restoration plan for humanity
  - b. The Gospel and what it does for us
  - c. The Heart and Motivation (If we love Jesus we will obey Jesus)
  - d. Our New Identity
  - e. What the Law and rules can do for us
  - f. Freedom in Christ and what it means
  - g. Worship
  - h. How God’s Truth sets us free
  - i. Identifying and dethroning idols of the heart
  - j. Genuine repentance and faith
  - k. Pride
  - l. Using God’s means of grace
  - m. Community of change
  - n. Being on Mission for Christ
4. Specialized discipleship plans for fathers and teens (Do Hard Things University and recommended reading list)
5. Elder training by Alexander Strauch’s book *Biblical Eldership*