

MOVING FROM A BELIEVER TO A BELONGER

MOVE: Part Two

July 12, 2015

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*“When they came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon.”
(Luke 6:17, NLT)*

THE FOUR LEVELS OF RELATIONSHIP

1. I WILL WATCH YOU.

“Large crowds followed him wherever he went—people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River.” (Matthew 4:25, NLT)

“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to the crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.” (Matthew 13:34, NLT)

CROWDS MOVE WITH THE MOB.

“Meanwhile, the leading priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas to be released and for Jesus to be put to death. So the governor asked again, “Which of these two do you want me to release to you?” The crowd shouted back, “Barabbas!” Pilate responded, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” “Why?” Pilate demanded. “What crime has he committed?” But the mob roared even louder, “Crucify him!”” (Matthew 27:20–23, NLT)

2. I WILL WALK WITH YOU.

“Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs.” (John 6:26, NLT)

“But some of you do not believe me.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning which ones didn’t believe, and he knew who would betray him.) Then he said, “That is why I said that people can’t come to me unless the Father gives them to me.” At this point many of his [followers] turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, “Are you also going to leave?” Simon Peter replied, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.”” (John 6:64–69, NLT)

FOLLOWERS PROCEED WITH THE PERKS.

3. I WILL WORK WITH YOU.

“As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”” (Luke 9:57–62, ESV)

“Now you are no longer strangers to God and foreigners to heaven, but you are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19, The Living Bible)

“...I want you to know how people who are members of God’s family must live. God’s family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15, GW)

DISCIPLES COMMIT WITH A **CAUSE**.

“For we are partners working together for God...” (1 Corinthians 3:9, GNB)

4. I WILL **WEEP** WITH YOU.

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” (John 13:34–35, NLT)

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another...” (Romans 12:15–16, NIV)

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2, NIV)

GROUPS BUILD A **BODY**.

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” (Romans 12:4–5, NIV)

LAST THOUGHT

The depth of my maturity is measured by the strength of my

COMMITMENT.