



Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

July 2010

I was recently at the Southern Baptist Convention and heard this statistic quoted from the platform, “*More than 90% of the churches in America have plateaued or are in decline.*” When I heard these words it really gave me a sick feeling deep inside. I knew we were troubled but this is astounding. How could this be with all that we have available in ministering to a lost world?

We have every thing we need! We have the finest churches ever known to man, cutting edge technology, music tailored to meet each age group, and wonderful conservative Bible colleges and seminaries. We have attained all that we have dreamed, hoped, and worked for but something is missing, we seem to have no real power. To quote the late Dr. Stephen Olford, “*Maybe what we have is just **painted fire.***”

Dr. Adrian Rogers sheds light on this with this illustration: One day, two pastors were looking at a glorious new auditorium that had been built. One pastor said, “*The church can no longer say, ‘Silver and gold have I none.’*” And the other pastor said, “*That’s right, and neither can it say, ‘Take up thy bed and walk.’ The church has money, but no power.*”

As I listened to the report from the Great Commission Resurgence Committee I was also surprised to hear that by far most of our time, energy, and resources are spent trying to keep our present members happy so they will not transfer to another church.

The committee said we must have change and I agree. I know this will only happen when we get back to what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ left us here to do. Go and make disciples! Now that is positive! Making disciples is the answer to the stagnation in our churches.

As a ministry, we are continually discipling people all across America through the mail with our Bible correspondence courses. These are basic Bible lessons with a systematic approach to theology. We are also involved in discipling individuals on a one-to-one basis as well. This process is called spiritual multiplication. If a Christian begins to disciple someone and in the process teaches him or her how to disciple another, it is amazing how God will use that person in His kingdom work and for His own glory!

To obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples you must begin where you are and make disciples who will in turn make disciples and so on.

Example: If you were married and had 3 children and they each had 3 children and they each had 3 children and they each had 3 children, how many great-great grandchildren would you have?

YOU
3 children
 $3 \times 3 = 9$ grandchildren
 $9 \times 3 = 27$ great-grandchildren
 $27 \times 3 = 81$ great-great-grandchildren
Total 121 descendants to this point



“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2

My friend, you want to reproduce yourself as a child of God. This is done as you help others become disciplers. Multiplication comes only as you reproduce yourself and equip others to do what you do. Deep down you feel God calling you to

something; you want to do more than attend church and go to another Bible Study. We have all been filled with teaching over these many years. We know more than enough to be an exceptional discipler of others. Simply begin.

You might say, *“I don't know how.”* We can help you. Write to us for more information about discipling one to one. God bless you and make you a blessing to many till He comes for you!

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris S. Hodges".

Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3