



Forming Intentional Disciples

The Five Thresholds of Conversion - by Sherry Weddell

1. **Initial Trust:** When a person is able to trust or has a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, another Christian, or something identifiably Christian. Trust is not the same thing as active personal faith. But without some kind of bridge of trust in place, people will not move closer to God. Trust is the foundation of all relationships.
2. **Spiritual Curiosity:** When a person finds that they are intrigued by, or desire to know more about Jesus, his life, and his teachings or some aspect of the Christian faith. Something about Christ or the Church captures their attention and they are inclined to want to know more. Curiosity is still essentially passive, but it is more than trust.
3. **Spiritual Openness:** When a person acknowledges that they are open to the possibility of a personal and spiritual change in their lives. This is a very difficult step to take, especially in our current culture, with its general negative view of religion and Christianity. Openness is not a commitment to change, but people who are open are simply admitting that they are ok with the possibility of change.
4. **Spiritual Seeking:** When people move from a passive to an active seeking to know God, who is calling them to a relationship with Him in the Church. This is where a person is seeking to know if they can commit to Christ and the Church in a real way.
5. **Intentional Discipleship:** This is the decision to “drop the nets” as the apostles did; to make a conscious commitment to follow the Lord Jesus in the midst of His Church as an obedient disciple and to reorder one’s life accordingly.