

Launch Out Into The Deep Luke 5:4-6



Launch Your Faith

- A. We cannot remain in the shallow end of Christianity forever.
 - 1. We are challenged to avoid this shallow end (Galatians 1:6 & Hebrews 5:12ff).
 - 2. We see the sad end of shallow “Christians” (Matthew 13:20, 21).
 - 3. We are told how to avoid being a shallow Christian (2 Peter 1:5-11).
- B. Suggestions For Adding Depth To One’s Faith
 - 1. Be a Bible reader. When we read the Scriptures, God is talking to us (Hebrews 1:1, 2).
 - 2. Pray more! It doesn’t matter how much you pray, you can always pray more (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - 3. Be a Bible teacher.
 - a. Read Matthew 28:18-20. What will happen if Christians stop teaching?
 - b. Titus 2:3-5
 - 4. Talk less and do more.
 - a. The church is really good at having workshops and seminars.
 - b. We must not forget to put these plans into practice. We must plan the work and also work the plan!
 - 5. Always search for more to do.
 - a. “Polls estimate that if companies could get 3.7 percent more work out of each employee, the equivalent of 18 minutes of work for each eight-hour shift, the gross domestic product in the U.S. would swell by \$355 billion, twice the total GDP of Greece.”
 - b. “Only the mediocre are always at their best.” -Jeff Winters
 - c. “Fifty-five percent of workers are unengaged; 19 percent are so uninterested and negative about their jobs that they poison the workplace to the point that companies might be better off if they call in sick.”
The Gallup Organization.

WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Dub McClish

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Brother McClish has written the following based on his years of observing spiritual levels found within any local congregation. Which describes you? –Barry M. Grider]

1. **THE DESERTER.** Such a person has utterly quit the church. He (or she) is not bashful about it. He openly criticizes the church and does not want anything to do with it. He will not allow anyone to talk to him about it. In spite of the fact that his allegiance is openly to the world, often he continues to be listed in a local church directory.

2. **THE HANGER-ON.** This member has quit the church, practically speaking. He may attend Sunday morning worship only a few times a year, but he wants his name in the church directory! He knows all of the excuses for not worshipping regularly, giving liberally and doing his part of the work.

3. **THE SPASMODIC.** This person is as hot as a pistol for awhile, but then is as cold as a cucumber. Such may zealously work for a few months, but not consistently. Just when he really gets involved, he becomes offended or disinterested and drops out. He can't be depended on.

4. **THE SAMPLER.** This member just sort of nibbles at religion. He dabbles in it somewhat like a hobby, picking it up when he has nothing better to do. No need to worry about such becoming offended--he never personally applies the teachings of the Scripture enough to take offense.

5. **THE PERFORMER.** His religious "commitment" is for sake of appearance. He may never miss an assembly and may even give quite generously. He is good at seeing what "the church" needs to be doing, but he is not about to do much of it! Many in this level are known to be hypocrites between Sundays.

6. **THE TROOPER.** He is consistent--the same on Monday and Sunday. When there's work to be done you know he'll do his part. He sees work that needs to be done and does it without being told. The church grows because of such. Thank God for him, and may he multiply!