

*Following Jesus*  
**“Random Thoughts on Discipleship”**  
John 15:4, 5

*Church health is traditionally evaluated by tracking certain common features of institutional life such as attendance and giving. While this is easy to do, it misses the biblical priority of discipleship which marks a truly healthy church. To experience the life of the first-century church, we must again esteem what God esteems: Christ-like obedience.*

**Random Thought #1**

The missing role in today’s church is that of saint. (1 Corinthians 1:2)

**Random Thought #2**

The desire for spiritual growth (as well as the power for that growth) comes from God. (Philippians 2:12, 13)

**Random Thought #3**

Spiritual maturity is always evident, never hidden. (Ephesians 5:18)

**Random Thought #4**

Obedience to Jesus Christ is the foundation of the Christian life.  
(Matthew 7:24-27)

**Random Thought #5**

Discipleship must be character-based rather than activity-based.  
(Matthew 7:21-23)

**Random Thought #6**

The Pastor’s job description is based on scriptural statements, not congregational expectations. (Acts 6:4; Ephesians 4:11, 12)