

Understanding Follow-Up Of the New Believer

DEFINITION OF FOLLOW-UP

There are two Greek words in the New Testament that are significant in understanding the scriptural basis for follow-up. These words are often translated “establish” and “mature.”

Teleios

This adjective is used in Greek literature to distinguish between the accomplished master and the novice in a trade. It suggests something that has reached its end.

I Corinthians 2:6

I Corinthians 14:20

Ephesians 4:12-13

Philippians 3:15

Colossians 1:28-29

Colossians 4:12

Sterizo

This verb has the meaning to fix, to set, suggesting the confirmation or establishing of persons.

Luke 22:32

Acts 14:21-22

I Thessalonians 3:2-3

I Peter 5:10

Bebaioo

This verb means to make firm, to make secure or to establish.

Colossians 2:6-7

Based on these verses and the Greek meanings of these words, write a short definition of follow-up.

THE PROCESS OF FOLLOW-UP

The purpose of follow-up is to bring the new convert or believer who has not matured, to maturity. Maturity is not perfection, it is consistency in a walk with God that involves the whole person.

Follow-up begins after a person identifies herself as a follower of Jesus Christ. The new believer may not be able to articulate this clearly, nor have understanding of doctrinal nuances, but nevertheless acknowledges her trust in Jesus.

We can identify a **genuine convert** by:

1. Changes in their attitude about Jesus
2. Changes in their attitudes about sin

BABES _____ MATURITY

(Ephesians 4:14)

(Colossians 1:28)

What are some characteristics of babes?

Ephesians 4:14

Isaiah 40:11

What do babes need?

1 Peter 2:2

I John 2:28

I Thessalonians 2:7

I Thessalonians 2:11

What does maturity look like?

III John 4

Where is truth found?

John 14:6

John 17:17

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOLLOW-UP

It is important to understand what our role is in the follow-up of a young believer and what it is not. We do not bear sole responsibility for their growth.

God

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:13

Spiritual parent

I Corinthians 1:28

I Thessalonians 2:5-13

Young believer

Colossians 2:6-7

Hebrews 5:12-14

THINGS TO REMEMBER IN INITIAL FOLLOW-UP

1. Make no assumptions about prior knowledge or application
2. Communicate by example, not lecture or even material alone
3. Do not move too far too fast
4. Growth is stimulated by opportunities for ministry
5. Encourage and confront
6. Prayer is key
7. Thoughtful planning and observation is essential
8. Impart vision for spiritual multiplication
9. Growth must take place in the whole life of the individual

REFERENCES

Leroy Eims, *The Lost Art of Disciplemaking*

Walt Henricksen, *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*