



**WHEN THEY**

# Walk Away

PART TWO



# The Bad News

This year marked the first time since the Gallup organization started tracking data that fewer than 50% of Americans belong to a church or religious organization.

In 2021, religious “nones” make up 25% of the U.S. population. It was 16% in 2007.

# Why are Christians walking away?

1. Overwhelmed by troubling questions
2. Disappointment or disillusionment
3. Irrelevant to my life (“meh”)





# The Good News

1. The Christian faith is exploding across the globe.
2. We HAVE the good news. It's called the Gospel of Jesus.

# Let's journey towards God together

There are 15 “LET US” statements in Hebrews.

And they are like an “on-ramp” to getting back into communion with God and community with his people.

# Let's journey towards God together

- Hold fast
- Leave behind the basics
- Move into maturity
- Confidently approach
- Not fear
- Stir up
- Keep meeting
- Run with endurance
- Fix our eyes on Jesus
- Continually offer up praise



# Spiritual discipline and practices

- Prayer
- Bible reading
- Worship
- Community
- Accountability
- Perseverance
- Active growth in learning
- Sabbath/rest (having margin in our life)
- Thankfulness
- Rejecting things in our lives that result in sin



What must we do before we are  
ready to approach or address  
someone who is deconstructing  
or falling away?



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# Colossians 4:2-6

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

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## 1. Prayer

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What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. *1 Corinthians 3:5-9*



# 1. Prayer

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. *Matthew 7: 7-8*



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1. Prayer

2. Preparation

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## 2. Preparation

Let us hold fast onto our faith that we confessed. *Heb 4:14*

Let us leave behind the basics and move into maturity. *Heb 6:1*

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. *1 Peter 3:15*

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# 3. Poise

- Removing emotion
- Grace
- Cool under fire
- Self-assurance
- Respect
- Balance
- Confidence
- Calming clarity
- Dignity
- Presence

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# 3. Poise

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. *Prov. 15:1*

Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body. *Prov 15:24*

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful. *1 Cor 13:4-5*

Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. *James 1:19-20*



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# Engagement



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# Engagement

## 1. Quick to listen

Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. *James 1:19-20*

# Engagement

## 2. Slow to speak

Let every person be quick to hear, **slow to speak**, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. *James 1:19-20*

**FIX IT**



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They are not looking for advice,  
but are looking for us to LISTEN.



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# Three modes of typical response

1. We shut down.
2. We feel threatened.
3. We start defending. (Apologetics mode)

**I NEED TO FIX THIS**

# “SPIRITUAL CONSENT”

Are you inviting me to help you to try to find answers?



WHEN  
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A person is walking away from the viewer on a path through a dark, foggy landscape. The person is silhouetted against the slightly lighter fog. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

What if they say no?  
Then honor them.

WHEN  
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A person is walking away from the viewer on a path through a dark, foggy landscape. The person is silhouetted against the light fog. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

What if you don't have all the  
answers to their questions?

Then be honest.

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# Engagement

## 3. Slow to anger

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Quick to listen  
Slow to speak  
Slow to anger

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Prayer  
Preparation  
Poise

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