

What Slows Movements Down

Terry Ruff

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WHAT SLOWS MOVEMENTS DOWN

IDENTIFYING AND REMOVING
THE PATTERNS THAT STALL
DISCIPLE-MAKING MOVEMENTS



DELAYED
OBEDIENCE

KNOWLEDGE-
BASED
DISCIPLESHIP

ONLY THE
QUALIFIED
LEAD

EXTRA
BARRIERS

COMPLEXITY

PRAYER
BECOMES
OPTIONAL

VISION
LEAKS

OBEDIENCE
NOT EXPECTED

LOST NOT
THE FOCUS

BREAK THROUGH. REMOVE BARRIERS. RELEASE MOVEMENTS.

TERRY RUFF

DMM CATALYST & ZUME TRAINER

What Slows Movements Down

by Terry Ruff

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exploring Disciple Making Movements.

WHAT SLOWS MOVEMENTS DOWN AND HOW TO RESTORE MOMENTUM

Ten Patterns That Stall Disciple-Making
Movements—and How to Return to What Jesus
Modeled

TERRY RUFF

DMM Catalyst & Zume Trainer

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About the Author

Terry Ruff is a DMM Catalyst and Zume Trainer with more than 50 years in ministry. For 25 of those years he served in two US mega-churches.

In 2010 he shifted to northern Ghana, where over 14 years he helped catalyze a Disciple-Making Movement that produced more than 3,000 Discovery Bible Study groups reaching approximately 20,000 people—at zero cost, with no buildings, budgets, or salaries.

“In 50-plus years of ministry, I have never been involved in something so fruitful.”

Now based in the US, Terry coaches disciple-makers worldwide through Zume training. His classes include participants from Africa, Asia, Europe, and beyond.

To join his next Zume class, visit: zume.training

Introduction

Movements don't usually collapse. They drift.

There is rarely a single decision that kills a disciple-making movement. There is no dramatic failure, no obvious turning point. Instead, momentum drains away slowly—through patterns that seem reasonable in the moment but quietly shift the DNA of what God is doing.

This book identifies ten of those patterns. Each chapter describes one way movements slow down—and points back to what Jesus actually modeled.

If you are leading a group, a church, a coaching circle, or a movement—and something feels stuck—you may find the answer somewhere in these pages.

The good news: none of these patterns are permanent. Momentum can be restored. The same God who sparked the movement has not left it.

But returning to that momentum requires honesty about what has drifted—and a willingness to obey what Jesus already showed us.

When Baptism Waits, Obedience Waits

The Pattern We Can't Ignore

In the Acts of the Apostles, the pattern is unmistakable:

- A man hears the Gospel on the road... “Here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” → He is baptized immediately (Acts 8:36)
- A jailer believes in the middle of the night... He and his household are baptized that same hour (Acts 16:33)
- Thousands respond at Pentecost... They are baptized that day (Acts 2:41)

No delay. No prerequisites. No system.

Just: Repent. Believe. Be baptized.

What Changed?

Somewhere along the way... we added steps:

- “You need to go through a class first”
- “You need to prove you’re serious”
- “You need approval”
- “We’ll schedule it later”

And without realizing it... we delayed obedience.

What Happens When Baptism Waits

When baptism is delayed:

- The urgency fades
- The moment passes
- The step of obedience gets postponed

And often... it never happens at all.

Baptism Is Not the Finish Line

We've treated baptism like graduation. But in Scripture... it's the beginning. Jesus said:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them..." — Matthew 28:19 (NKJV)

Not after months of preparation. Not after proving maturity. Right at the start.

Why This Slows Movements Down

Movements grow through immediate obedience. When someone believes and is baptized right away:

- Faith becomes action
- Identity shifts quickly
- They step into following Jesus immediately

But when we delay:

- People stay observers
- Leaders stay in control
- Reproduction slows

Restoring the Biblical Pattern

What if we returned to the simplicity of the early church?

- Share the Gospel
- Call for repentance and belief
- Baptize immediately
- Continue teaching in community

Simple. Biblical. Reproducible.

A Hard Question

If someone believed today... and there was water nearby... what would stop them from being baptized? Is it Scripture? Or is it us?

Final Reality

Every time we delay baptism... we unintentionally teach: "Obedience can wait." But Jesus never taught that.

One Simple Practice

The next time someone responds to Jesus, ask: "Is there any reason you shouldn't be baptized today?" If the answer is no... Don't schedule it. Don't delay it. Do it.

When Discipleship Becomes a Knowledge-Based Program

We don't have a discipleship problem... We have an obedience problem. And most of the time—we created it.

The Shift We Didn't Notice

Somewhere along the way, discipleship changed. It became:

- A class
- A curriculum
- A program
- A transfer of information

People sit. Listen. Learn. But rarely... obey.

What Jesus Actually Meant

Jesus never said: "Teach them everything I commanded." He said:

"Teaching them to obey all things that I have commanded you." — Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

That's completely different. Not knowledge. Not information. Obedience.

The Dangerous Trade-Off

When discipleship becomes knowledge-based:

- People feel like they're growing
- But nothing actually changes

They know more... but obey less. And over time:

- Knowledge replaces action
- Learning replaces doing
- Comfort replaces mission

Why This Kills Multiplication

Knowledge-based discipleship creates:

- Consumers instead of disciples
- Dependence instead of reproduction
- Experts instead of practitioners

People begin to think: "I'm not ready yet." "I need more training." "I don't know enough." So they wait. And while they wait... the mission stops.

What Happens in Movements

In multiplying movements:

- Discipleship is simple
- Truth is immediately applied
- Obedience happens right away

People ask: "What did God say?" "How will you obey?" "Who will you share this with?" And then... they actually do it.

Restoring Momentum

What if we shifted just one thing? From: "What did you learn?"
To: "What will you obey?" That one shift changes everything.

A Simple Example

Instead of teaching for weeks about prayer... ask: "Who will you pray for today?" Instead of explaining evangelism... ask: "Who will you share with this week?" Instead of more content... create immediate action.

The Hidden Cost

When obedience is delayed:

- Confidence shrinks
- Fear grows
- Urgency fades

And eventually... discipleship becomes passive.

Restoring What Jesus Modeled

Jesus' pattern was simple: Teach. Send. Expect obedience. Then repeat. No long delays. No complex systems. Just obedience.

Final Thought

Disciples are not made by information. They are made by obedience. And when obedience becomes normal again... movements begin to multiply.

One Simple Practice

The next time you meet with someone: Don't ask "What did you think?" Ask: "What will you do?" Then follow up.

When Only the “Qualified” Are Allowed to Lead

Most movements don't slow down because of opposition... They slow down because of permission.

The System We Built

In many places, leadership is reserved for:

- The trained
- The educated
- The experienced
- The approved

People think: “I’m not ready yet.” “I need more training.” “Someone else is more qualified.” So they wait. And while they wait... nothing multiplies.

What Jesus Actually Did

Jesus didn't choose the most qualified. He chose:

- Fishermen
- Tax collectors
- Ordinary people

And then He did something shocking: He sent them out quickly.

*“As you go, preach... heal... cast out demons...” —
Matthew 10*

They weren't fully trained. But they were willing and obedient.

The Early Church Pattern

Look at Acts:

- New believers shared immediately
- Households began following Jesus together
- Leadership emerged from within

There was no long process. Obedience came first. Leadership followed.

What Happens When We Require Qualification

When leadership is restricted:

- A few people lead
- Everyone else watches
- Growth becomes addition, not multiplication

People begin to believe: "I need permission." And when people need permission... movements stop.

What Happens in Movements

In multiplying movements:

- Every believer is expected to obey
- Every disciple can make disciples
- Leadership is discovered, not assigned

People are told: "You can do this." And they do.

Restoring Momentum

What if we flipped the model? Instead of asking: "Are they qualified?" Ask: "Are they obedient?" Because obedience—not

expertise—is what God multiplies.

A Simple Shift

After someone follows Jesus: Don't say: "Now sit and learn."
Say: "Now go and share." Don't wait months. Don't wait years.
Start immediately.

The Hidden Cost

When only the "qualified" lead:

- The harvest stays untouched
- The workers stay sidelined
- The mission slows down

Not because people don't care... but because they were never released.

Returning to Jesus' Way

Jesus trusted ordinary people with extraordinary mission. And the world was changed.

Final Thought

The Kingdom doesn't grow through a few qualified leaders. It grows through ordinary people who obey. And when everyone is released... multiplication begins.

One Simple Practice

Find one believer this week and ask: "Who could you share this with?" Then tell them: "You don't need permission. Just obey."

The Barriers Jesus Never Built

The Gospel is simple. But somewhere along the way... we made it harder than Jesus did.

The Barriers We Don't Realize We've Added

No one sets out to block movements. But over time... we build systems, expectations, and requirements that quietly say: "You can't move forward yet." Not because Jesus said so... but because we did.

Jesus Never Built These Barriers

When you look at how Jesus made disciples... it's shockingly simple. He didn't require:

- Lengthy training programs
- Formal classes before obedience
- Institutional approval
- Cultural conformity
- Perfect understanding

He simply called people to: Follow. Obey. Share.

The Barriers We've Added

1. Extra Requirements Before Obedience

We often say (directly or indirectly):

- “You need more teaching first”
- “You’re not ready yet”
- “Let’s walk through a process”

But Jesus didn’t say: “Learn everything... then obey.” He said: “Obey what I tell you.”

2. Cultural Expectations That Aren’t Biblical

In many places, people feel they must dress a certain way, talk a certain way, or fit into church culture before they can fully participate. But Jesus welcomed people as they were... and transformed them as they followed.

3. Institutional Barriers to Participation

Sometimes the system itself says:

- “Only approved leaders can start something”
- “You need permission”
- “This must happen inside our structure”

So instead of movement... everything becomes centralized.

What These Barriers Do

They don’t just slow things down... They change the entire environment.

- Obedience gets delayed — People wait... instead of act.
- Initiative gets suppressed — People hesitate... instead of step out.
- Multiplication gets blocked — Fewer people are actually doing the work.

The Tragedy

Most of these barriers were added with good intentions: to protect, to guide, to ensure quality. But the result is often the opposite: fewer disciples, fewer leaders, less multiplication.

Back to Jesus' Model

Jesus trusted the process of obedience. He allowed people to act quickly, learn as they went, and grow through obedience. Not after it.

How to Restore Momentum

If barriers have been added... they must be removed.

- Return to Immediate Obedience — What can someone obey today?
- Remove Unnecessary Requirements — If Jesus didn't require it... why are we?
- Decentralize the Mission — Release people to act without waiting for permission.
- Focus on Obedience, Not Perfection — Growth comes through doing.

The Shift That Changes Everything

Instead of asking: "Have they completed the process?" Start asking: "What can they obey right now?"

The Bottom Line

Movements don't stall because the Gospel loses power... They stall because we add barriers Jesus never built.

One Simple Practice

Take a hard look at your current process. Ask: "What have we added that Jesus never required?" Then remove one barrier... and invite someone to act immediately.

When Simplicity Gets Complicated

It usually starts with good intentions... Someone wants to “improve” the process. Make it deeper. Make it stronger. Make it more effective. So they add more training, more structure, more steps, more requirements. And slowly... almost invisibly... simplicity disappears.

The Moment Movements Begin to Stall

At first, everything still looks good. People are learning. Systems are forming. Leaders feel more “equipped.” But something subtle begins to happen:

- Fewer people start
- Fewer disciples multiply
- Fewer groups reproduce

Why? Because what was once simple and reproducible has now become complex and dependent.

The Core Problem

Here’s the tension we cannot ignore:

If it's not simple... it won't multiply.

Not because people don’t care. Not because God isn’t moving. But because complex things don’t reproduce easily.

1. Over-Engineering Discipleship

Jesus didn't create a complicated system. He said:

"Follow Me." — Matthew 4:19

And then:

"Teach them to obey..." — Matthew 28:20

That's it. But over time, we've turned discipleship into multi-step programs, structured curriculums, and long training pipelines. None of those are inherently bad. But here's the danger: the more complex it becomes, the fewer people will actually do it.

In movements, discipleship must be:

- Simple enough to remember
- Simple enough to obey
- Simple enough to pass on immediately

If someone can't turn around and do it with another person... it's already too complicated.

2. Systems That Don't Reproduce

Many systems are designed to grow... but not to multiply. They depend on central leadership, special environments, and consistent oversight. So what happens? They scale... until they hit a ceiling.

Movements are different. They require systems that are: decentralized, transferable, repeatable anywhere.

Ask this question: Can a brand-new believer do this with someone else this week? If the answer is no... the system won't multiply.

3. Tools That Require Experts

This is one of the biggest hidden barriers. We create tools that require training to understand, experience to lead, and confidence to use. And unintentionally, we send this message: “You’re not ready yet.”

But Jesus did the opposite. He gave ordinary people simple tools: share your story, tell what God has done, obey what you hear, go and do the same. No degree. No certification. No expert required.

When tools require experts, movements slow down. When tools empower ordinary people, movements accelerate.

Jesus Modeled Radical Simplicity

Look at how Jesus operated:

- He used stories (parables)
- He asked simple questions
- He focused on obedience
- He sent people out quickly

He didn’t complicate the mission. He clarified it.

What Happens When We Return to Simple

When simplicity is restored:

- More people start
- More disciples obey
- More groups multiply
- More leaders emerge

Why? Because simple things travel faster, spread farther, and multiply easier.

Restoring What Was Lost

If things have become complicated, here's how to reset:

- Strip it back — Remove anything that isn't essential to obedience.
- Shorten the path — If it takes months to start, it's too long.
- Empower immediately — New believers can obey and share right away.
- Test for reproducibility — If it can't be passed on quickly, simplify it.

A Hard but Honest Question

Are we building something impressive... or something that multiplies?

Because those are not always the same.

The Stakes Are Too High

Billions are still waiting. We don't have time for systems that only a few can lead, only a few can understand, and only a few can reproduce. We need something different. Something simpler. Something that works everywhere.

Final Thought

Movements don't stall because people stop caring. They stall because we make simple things complicated. And when that happens... multiplication slows.

One Simple Practice

Take one tool you use regularly (discipleship, Bible study, evangelism, etc.). Ask: "Could a brand-new believer use this

tomorrow with someone else?" If not... simplify it until they can.

When Prayer Becomes Optional

The Quiet Shift That Changes Everything

It doesn't happen overnight. No one announces it. No one plans it. But slowly... almost imperceptibly... prayer moves from essential... to optional.

We still believe in prayer. We still talk about prayer. We may even open meetings with prayer. But functionally? We stop depending on it. And when that happens... everything begins to change.

When Prayer Becomes Optional, Power Fades

Movements are not built on strategy. They are born in dependence. From the very beginning, Jesus made this clear:

“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” — Luke 10:2 (NKJV)

Before He sent them... He told them to pray. Why? Because the harvest doesn't respond to human effort alone. It responds to God's activity. When prayer fades:

- We rely more on planning than on God
- We trust methods more than the Spirit

- We move faster... but accomplish less

And slowly, quietly... power drains out of the movement.

Activity Begins to Replace Dependence

Here's the danger: you can still look busy... while becoming spiritually empty. Meetings increase. Training continues. Programs expand. But something is missing. Not effort. Not sincerity. Dependence.

The early church didn't just pray occasionally. Prayer was woven into everything they did.

"They continued steadfastly... in prayers." — Acts 2:42

Before decisions—they prayed. Before sending—they prayed. Under pressure—they prayed. Prayer wasn't a segment. It was their lifeline.

Luke 10:2 Was Never Optional

Jesus didn't give prayer as a suggestion. He gave it as a command tied directly to the harvest. Notice what He didn't say:

- "Organize better systems"
- "Create stronger programs"
- "Wait until you feel ready"

He said: Pray. Because God sends the workers. God opens hearts. God prepares persons of peace. God brings multiplication. When we ignore Luke 10:2... we unintentionally step into something dangerous: we try to do God's work... without God's power.

The Turning Point in Every Movement

If you study movements around the world, you will notice a pattern: when prayer is strong → movements accelerate. When prayer weakens → movements slow. It's not complicated. Prayer is not preparation for the work. Prayer is the work. Without it:

- Disciple-making becomes mechanical
- Outreach becomes inconsistent
- Leaders burn out
- Multiplication stalls

Why? Because movements were never meant to run on human strength.

Restoring What Was Lost

The solution is not more activity. It's returning to dependence. Here's what that looks like:

- Re-center Prayer as First, Not Last — Not a closing moment. Not a transition. The starting point of everything.
- Obey Luke 10:2 Practically — Don't just read it. Do it. Pray for workers by name. Ask God daily to send laborers. Pray for persons of peace in specific places.
- Build Rhythms of Extraordinary Prayer — Simple prayer groups. Weekly rhythms. Shared prayer focus.
- Lead by Example — People don't follow what we say. They follow what we model.

The Hard Truth

You can have great training, clear strategy, passionate people... and still see little multiplication. Why? Because without prayer... it's all human effort.

The Invitation

What if the breakthrough you're waiting for... isn't found in doing more... but in returning to prayer? What if the next disciple, the next group, the next generation is waiting... on the other side of prayer?

Final Thought

When prayer becomes optional... movements become human. But when prayer returns to its rightful place... God moves again.

One Simple Practice

Take 10 minutes today and do only this: Pray Luke 10:2 out loud. Ask God to send workers into specific places you know. Name people and locations. Do it again tomorrow. Then ask yourself: What if this became a daily rhythm?

When Vision Leaks

Vision doesn't usually die with a loud crash. It leaks. Slowly. Quietly. Almost unnoticed. Until one day... you realize: you're still meeting, still gathering, still doing "church." But something is missing.

The Subtle Drift

At the beginning, everything is clear: "Go make disciples." "Reach the lost." "Multiply." There is urgency. There is faith. There is movement. But over time... the focus shifts. Not intentionally. Not rebelliously. Just... gradually.

What Drift Looks Like

You can feel it when:

- Conversations shift from lost people → internal preferences
- Time shifts from mission → maintenance
- Energy shifts from sending → sustaining

And eventually... you stop asking: "Who are we reaching?" And start asking: "How do we keep this going?"

When Maintenance Replaces Mission

This is the turning point. Movements are designed to advance. But institutions are designed to maintain. And if you're not careful... even a movement can slowly become something it was never meant to be.

Jesus Never Lost the Mission

Look at the life of Jesus. He was constantly moving toward the lost.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” — Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

He didn’t build systems to preserve activity. He called people into mission.

The Early Church Stayed Focused

In the book of Acts: they gathered... yes. But they also scattered. They preached. They discipled. They multiplied. And when pressure came... it didn’t stop them. It spread them.

“Those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” — Acts 8:4 (NKJV)

How Vision Leaks Today

It often sounds like this:

- “Let’s just stabilize for a while.”
- “We need to take care of our own first.”
- “We’ll get back to outreach later.”

None of these sound wrong. But together... they quietly replace mission with comfort.

The Real Danger

Here’s the truth: when vision fades... multiplication stops. Not because people don’t care. But because they’ve forgotten what they’re called to do.

How to Restore Vision

You don't need a new strategy. You need a renewed focus.

- Recast the Mission Constantly — Vision must be repeated... again and again. Every gathering. Every leader. Every disciple. If you don't repeat it... people forget it.
- Tell Stories of the Harvest — Nothing restores vision like real stories. A new believer. A transformed life. A new group starting. Stories remind people: this is why we exist.
- Put the Lost Back in Front — If people don't see the harvest... they won't feel urgency. Pray Luke 10:2 again. Walk your neighborhoods. Engage real people.
- Call for Immediate Obedience — Vision grows when people act. Share your story this week. Start a discovery group. Pray with someone. Action restores momentum.

The Wake-Up Moment

Every movement faces this moment: will we maintain... or will we multiply?

Jesus' Invitation Still Stands

"Lift up your eyes, and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" — John 4:35 (NKJV)

The harvest didn't disappear. Our focus did.

Final Thought

Movements don't stop because God stopped working. They stop... because we stopped seeing what He sees.

One Simple Practice

Take 10 minutes today and do this: Write down the names of 3 lost people you know. Pray for them specifically. Ask God: "What is one step of obedience I can take this week?" Then... do it.

When Obedience Isn't Expected

"What did you obey this week?"

For most Christians... that question is never asked. And that might be one of the biggest reasons movements stall.

The Subtle Shift That Changes Everything

Somewhere along the way... we replaced obedience with intention. We say things like:

- "Just try your best"
- "Do what you feel led to do"
- "Take your time"

It sounds gracious. It sounds patient. But slowly... obedience becomes optional. And when obedience is optional... discipleship becomes theoretical.

Jesus Never Made Obedience Optional

Jesus didn't say: "Teach them to understand everything I commanded." He said:

"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." — Matthew 28:20 (NKJV)

And even more direct:

*“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” — John 14:15
(NKJV)*

In the early church, obedience wasn't a suggestion. It was the natural response to following Jesus.

The Reality We Must Face

Most believers today:

- Know far more than they practice
- Hear sermons but don't act
- Feel inspired... but don't obey

Not because they don't care... but because no one expects them to. There is no rhythm of: “What did God show you?” “What will you do about it?” “Who will you share this with?” Without expectation... there is no movement.

Where Movements Are Different

In multiplying movements, obedience is normal. Not forced. Not controlled. But expected. Every time people engage Scripture, they ask:

- What is God saying?
- What will I obey this week?
- Who will I share this with?

And then... they follow up. Not to pressure... but to help people walk in obedience. Because obedience is where transformation happens.

The Danger of “Try Your Best” Christianity

“Try your best” sounds kind... but it often produces:

- Passive disciples
- Delayed obedience
- No multiplication

Because nothing is actually expected. But Jesus didn't call us to try. He called us to follow.

Why This Matters for Multiplication

Here's the truth: knowledge doesn't multiply. Inspiration doesn't multiply. Intention doesn't multiply. Obedience multiplies. When one person obeys... and helps another obey... that's where reproduction begins. But if obedience is optional... reproduction is rare.

How to Restore Momentum

It doesn't require a new program. It requires a simple shift: from teaching for knowledge... to expecting obedience. Start asking:

- "What is God asking you to do?"
- "When will you do it?"
- "Who will you tell?"

And then... follow up. Lovingly. Consistently. Expectantly. Not to control people... but to help them actually follow Jesus.

A Movement Prayer

Lord, forgive us for making obedience optional. Forgive us for settling for knowledge without action. Restore in us a heart that responds to Your Word. Give us courage to expect obedience... grace to walk with others in it... and faith to believe that simple obedience can multiply. Let Your Church not just hear Your Word... but live it. In Jesus' name, amen.

One Simple Practice

At your next gathering—small group, DBS, or conversation—ask this: “What is one thing God is asking you to obey this week?” Then ask: “Can I check back with you in a few days?” That one shift... can change everything.

When the Lost Are No Longer the Focus

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” — Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

The Shift No One Notices

It doesn’t happen overnight. A group starts with passion. People are praying. Sharing. Reaching out. Lives are being changed. But slowly... subtly... almost invisibly... the focus shifts.

- From outside → inside
- From mission → maintenance
- From lost people → church people

And when that happens... movement begins to stall.

What It Looks Like

- Church turns inward
- Activities replace mission
- Time is filled—but impact shrinks

Calendars are full. Programs are running. People are gathering. But one question is rarely asked: “Who are we reaching?” Not: “How was the service?” “How many attended?” “How did the event go?” But: “Who is far from God... and how

are we moving toward them?" Because when that question disappears... so does multiplication.

The Pattern We Repeat

This is not new. In Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son. Each story reveals the heart of God: relentless pursuit of the lost. But the context matters. Jesus tells these stories because the religious people were upset. Why? Because He was spending time with sinners.

The Real Issue

The problem wasn't just behavior. It was focus. They had become: gatherers of the found—neglecters of the lost. And Jesus confronts it directly. Because a community that stops pursuing the lost... stops reflecting the heart of God.

Movements Are Built Differently

Movements don't grow by gathering. They grow by going. Jesus never said: "Build a place and invite people to come." He said:

- "Go..." — Matthew 28:19
- "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." — John 20:21

And in Luke 10, He sends disciples out into the harvest. Not to wait. Not to host. To go.

The Dangerous Drift

Here's what often happens: we start with mission... then we add structure... then we protect the structure... then the structure replaces the mission. And eventually... we are doing

many things for believers... but almost nothing among the lost.

The Question That Reveals Everything

Ask this in any group: "When was the last time we engaged someone far from God?" Not: "Thought about it." "Talked about it." "Planned for it." But actually engaged. If the answer is unclear... you've found the problem.

What Movements Keep Central

In movements, the lost are not an afterthought. They are the focus. Every disciple is trained to:

- Pray for the lost (Luke 10:2)
- Go to the lost
- Find Persons of Peace
- Share immediately
- Start discovery with those who respond

There is no gap between being a disciple and engaging the lost.

Jesus Set the Model

Look at His life. He went to: Samaritans, tax collectors, sinners, outsiders. He didn't wait for them to come. He moved toward them. Because the mission has always been clear: seek and save the lost.

Key Tension

No lost people = no movement. You can have great teaching, strong community, excellent gatherings. But without engagement with lost people... there is nothing to multiply. Because movements don't multiply believers. They multiply

new disciples.

How to Restore Momentum

It's not complicated. But it requires a shift.

- Reorient conversations toward lost people
- Build rhythms that move outward, not inward
- Train every believer to engage
- Celebrate obedience, not just attendance
- Start simple discovery with those who are open

And most importantly: go.

A Final Reflection

Imagine if every believer you know... engaged just one lost person this week. Not perfectly. Not professionally. Just faithfully. What would happen? That's how movements begin.

One Simple Practice

Ask yourself: "Who is one person far from God I can intentionally engage this week?" Pray for them by name. Then take one step: start a conversation, ask a question, share your story. Don't wait. Because the moment the lost are no longer the focus... the mission quietly fades.

Restoring Momentum

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.” — Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

When Momentum Is Lost

It rarely happens all at once. There’s no announcement. No clear turning point. Just a slow drift. Less urgency. Less obedience. Less dependence on God. More structure. More meetings. More activity. And over time... what once felt alive... starts to feel heavy. What once multiplied... starts to stall.

The Patterns That Slow Movements Down

We’ve walked through them one by one:

- When baptism is delayed
- When discipleship becomes knowledge-based
- When only the “qualified” are allowed to lead
- When we add barriers Jesus never built
- When simplicity gets complicated
- When prayer becomes optional
- When vision leaks
- When obedience isn’t expected
- When the lost are no longer the focus

Each one seems small. But together? They quietly shift the DNA. And when the DNA changes... multiplication stops.

The Real Problem

Here's the truth most people miss: movements don't stop because people don't care. They stop because the wrong things slowly become normal.

- It becomes normal to wait
- Normal to learn without obeying
- Normal to attend without engaging
- Normal to gather without going

And once that becomes culture... even passionate people get stuck inside it.

The Contrast That Changes Everything

If you want to restore momentum... you don't need a new strategy. You need to return to what Jesus already gave.

- Delay → Immediate obedience: "Repent... and be baptized..." — Acts 2:38
- Knowledge-focused discipleship → Obedience-based discipleship: "Teaching them to observe..." — Matthew 28:20
- Only leaders minister → Every believer multiplies: "They were all scattered... preaching the word." — Acts 8:4
- Complexity → Simplicity and reproducibility: "...commit these to faithful men..." — 2 Timothy 2:2
- Prayer as an add-on → Prayer as the engine: "The harvest truly is plentiful... pray..." — Luke 10:2

- Inward focus → Relentless pursuit of the lost: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” — Luke 19:10

What Restoring Momentum Actually Looks Like

It’s not complicated. But it is costly. It looks like...

- Asking again: “Who are we reaching?”
- Expecting obedience every week
- Celebrating simple steps, not polished performance
- Releasing ordinary people immediately
- Returning to prayer as the first work—not the last
- Going back out to the lost

It feels different. Lighter. Clearer. Alive again. Because now... it’s not driven by effort. It’s driven by obedience.

The Turning Point

Every movement—past or present—has a moment like this: a decision point.

- Will we continue what’s comfortable?
- Or return to what’s biblical?

Because you cannot have both. You cannot maintain comfort... and expect multiplication.

Why This Matters Now

We are living in a moment of incredible opportunity. The Gospel can move faster than ever before. But only if it stays simple. Only if it stays obedient. Only if it stays focused on the lost. Otherwise... we will be busy. But we will not multiply.

The Reset Prayer

God is not asking for something new. He's inviting us back. Back to His ways. Back to His heart. Back to His mission.

Final Challenge

The world is still waiting. The harvest is still plentiful. The command has not changed. The only question is: will we return to what Jesus already showed us?

One Simple Practice

Ask one question this week: "What is one thing Jesus is asking me to obey... and who will I help do the same?" Then do it. And help someone else do it too. That's how momentum returns. That's how movements multiply.
