



The Faithwalking Culture– Defining Our Beliefs and Practices

In his book *The Divine Conspiracy*, Dallas Willard asserts that the church in America is doing a good job of making good church members – but is not doing a good job of making disciples who follow the way of Jesus. Obviously there are exceptions to this broad statement, but in general the statement seems to be accurate. The vast majority of Christians in the western world don't seem to practice the teachings of Jesus very well. It appears that a mix of the American dream and the Kingdom dream of Jesus is how most Christians live their lives.

There is a principle in organizational systems that “systems get what they are designed to get.” If you put this systems idea together with Willard’s contention, you might conclude that the majority of the church systems in American culture are designed to make good church members but are not designed to make disciples of the way of Jesus.

In Faithwalking we come alongside local church ministries offering a system for making disciples that is different. The church does an excellent job of teaching the Biblical content. We offer a discipleship system that is without much religious talk and without as much Bible study. We offer content and coaching that is different. We are intentionally different from the traditional church culture of disciple-making.

We understand that every context is different. We therefore understand that our content and our process need to be contextualized. We expect every Faithwalking Circle to make adjustments to serve their context. There are some values and practices however that must be included in every circle in order for it to be considered a Faithwalking Circle.

The following are key values and practices in Faithwalking. All must be in place for a group to be considered a Faithwalking Circle.

1. **Authenticity** and **vulnerability** are key practices. All leaders must model this.
2. Practicing **Integrity**. Integrity is about learning to give and keep our word. It is not about morality.
3. **Courage** is essential for self-examination, self-discovery, and for having crucial conversations.
4. All Faithwalking groups are **shame and condemnation free**.
5. We practice a **rhythm** of: instruction – silence/solitude – small group gatherings – and large group discussion.
6. We practice the discipline of **mental models** where we identify and evaluate previously held beliefs and assumptions and test them against our current context.
7. The **Core Four** courses (FW 101, FW 201, FW 202, and FW 301) are essential to our work. All leaders in a Faithwalking Circle must complete all four courses.
8. The **apprenticing** process for coaches and facilitators includes observation, practice, and coaching. The apprenticing process must be in place in every Faithwalking Circle.



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9. **Playing full out** is required of all in leadership.
10. **Coaching** based on our coaching principles is essential. All coaches and leaders must be trained and all leaders must offer ongoing coaches training. (See the document *Principles of Effective Coaching*)
11. The Mental Model of **Discipleship** is embraced and lived.
12. Personal transformation that results in **living missionally in community** is our endgame. We are committed to learning to **love** well. We believe that personal transformation and missional living are the keys to growth and discipleship.