

Chapter 4

What Does This Research Say?

Chapter Four, entitled: What Does This Research Say? gets into the research findings. This chapter outlines the research design and provides the statistics based on the participant questionnaires which help to demonstrate how people have been personally affected and how they actually recovered.

Chapter Four covers the following topics:

**Description of the Research Project
Analysis of the Surveys
Analysis of the Pastor's Surveys
Summary and Conclusions**

Chapter Four gives the gender, age, and marital status of the participants. It shows the length of time at their previous church, the demographic location of the church, and how long ago they exited. The reasons why people left their home church, the positive and negative emotions, how they coped, and eventually how they recovered are described. This chapter includes four graphs and two charts. It also includes selected participant comments to illustrate the points.

Excerpt from Chapter 4

What Does This Research Say?

What do the participants in this study have to say to the Church? What can be learned from their trial by fire? This chapter explains the design, the procedures, and the results of this ministry research project. The research question for this dissertation was: How have Christians recovered after experiencing perceived spiritual abuse in a local congregation?

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Description of the Research Project

This research focused on Christians who exhibited Christian maturity and had regular and faithful church attendance. They had been involved in church ministry by helping to lead in ministry areas. The denominational streams that participants came from were Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic. The age range was between twenty and seventy-five years of age. Many of these individuals have reintegrated into a local church after their season of grief and disillusionment. Others have not reintegrated into a local church but have found ways to participate in Christian fellowship such as corporate worship, fellowship, sharing of Scripture, prayer, ministry to one another, and service in the surrounding community. Essentially, spiritual integrity has been reestablished in their lives.