

Taking It Personal! Perspectives and Attitude For Success In Evangelism**Matthew 28:18-20**

INTRODUCTION

- A. Review – Motivation.
1. Definition of Motivation.
 2. The early church looked to Jesus and found the motivation to grow. We can do the same today being motivated by:
 - a. Compassion for lost souls.
 - b. A strong sense of purpose.
 - c. The love of the Father.
 - d. The terror of the Lord.
 - e. The joy set before Him.
 3. The Key Source Of Motivation – Acts 17:11; JE 20:9.
- B. Many start with great enthusiasm, but become discouraged and apathetic. Why? “Stinkin thinkin” – The wrong way of looking at things.
- C. Perspectives are crucial to maintaining high levels of enthusiasm and persistence – NU 13:31-33 – The Grasshopper Syndrome.
1. We need PMA – Positive Mental Attitude
 2. 70% of anything we do is ATTITUDE.
 3. We need a “can-do” not a “can’t do” attitude.
- D. I Can’t (Negative Attitude):
 We’ve never done it before
 It’s too complicated
 It will never work
 There is no way it will work
 It can’t be done
 It will never fly
- I Can (Positive Attitude)
 We have the opportunity to be first
 Let’s look at it from a different angle
 We’ll give it a try
 We can make it work
 It’ll be a challenge
 We’ll never know until we try
- E. What are some things that help us keep a positive attitude?

DISCUSSION

- I. THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IS AT WORK
- A. In every example of conversion in the book of Acts, God worked in some to create an opportunity for the person to hear the Gospel. Acts 8, 9, 10, 16.
 - B. God knows the hearts of all who seek Him and will make sure those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness” will somehow be filled. 2 CH 16:9.
 - C. God knows who will be receptive to the Gospel – Acts 18:9-11 – and He will “open doors” for reaching the lost. If we are truly “asking, seeking, and knocking” for the truth, then we will find it – MT 7:7.
 - D. Remember: We are not alone in reaching the lost. We are “labourers, together with God.” 1 CO 3:5-9.
- II. GOD “OPENS DOORS” FOR PREPARED WORKERS.
- A. God “open doors” for those ready to serve Him – 1 CO 16:9; 2 CO 2:12-13 – RE 3:8.
 - B. If we desire to be used by the Lord in His providence to reach those who are seeking the truth, then we must prepare ourselves to be useful. 2 TI 2:19-21.
 - C. Individuals must be prepared to teach or lead honest and sincere souls seeking the truth to those ready to teach. Congregations must assimilate and nurture new converts.
- III. PRAYER IS THE “CATALYST” IN EVANGELISM.
- A. Prayer plays an important role for those who are prepared to teach as well as those who are seeking the truth. Acts 10:1-4, 9.
 - B. Being prepared for evangelism is not too different from a sales pitch. The desired results are more than following the right procedure. It is putting prayer into action. CO 4:3.
 - C. Prayer is the “catalyst” that starts the whole process. We need to pray, “Lord, Lead Me To Some Soul Today.”

IV. THE POWER IS IN THE SEED – WORD!

- A. God's Word is "alive" and "powerful." It is capable of influencing people and always accomplishes its intended purpose. HE 4:12; RO 1:16; IS 55:10-11.
- B. Conversion will not be the result of smooth speech or fancy presentation, but through life-changing truth of the Gospel. The seed must be planted. LK 8:4-8, 11-15.
- C. We get the desired result only by sowing the right seed!

V. THE RESULTS DEPEND UPON THE TYPE OF SOIL.

- A. The same seed sown produces different results. Results may be no reaction, temporary success or bear fruit. The blame for only one of four bearing fruit is not upon the seed or the sower, but the type of soil.
 - 1. The sower's responsibility – EK 3:19.
 - 2. The soil's responsibility - MT 10:14-15; Acts 13:44-46.
- B. Every time we sow the seed, we are successful. If a person rejects it, we have not failed, they have! We must learn the joy of sharing the word for its own sake. Goals should center on how many are taught, not converted.

VI. THE PLACE OF THE SOWER.

- A. We are simply "seed-throwers" and "water-boys." God is the one responsible for the increase. There is no room for boasting about the number of people a person may convert. 1 CO 3:5-7.
- B. God can even use "defective" seed-throwers. Not only those defective in motive, but also experience. The power is in the seed, not the sower! PH 1:15-18.
- C. Those that tremble or are not eloquent can be used by God. 1 CO 2:1-5.

VII. THE PRINCIPLE OF SOWING AND REAPING.

- A. The law of sowing and reaping applies to different areas of life such as sales, acting and the Parable of the Sower.
 - 1. One out of nine sales calls are successful.
 - 2. One job out of thirty auditions are successful.
 - 3. One out of four soils produces desirable results.
- B. 2 CO 9:6. If we want to reap more, then we must sow more! We can become discouraged because we don't reap more, but really it is because we are sowing sparingly.
- C. Set goals on how many we teach, not how many are converted.

VIII. QUITE OFTEN, ONE SOWS AND ANOTHER REAPS!

- A. Winning souls involves sowing and reaping. JN 4:35-38.
- B. What is sowing? Sowing involves preparation and planting.
- C. What is reaping? It is harvesting.
- D. Every honest and sincere soul seeking the truth will come across someone prepared to explain the Gospel. We are "...labourers together with God..." 1 CO 3:5-9.

CONCLUSION

- A. Avoid "stinkin thinkin!" The wrong perspective produces negative attitudes and eventual failures. The right perspective maintains positive attitudes and eventual success! Remember:
 - 1. The Providence Of God Is At Work.
 - 2. God Opens Doors For Prepared Workers.
 - 3. Prayer Is A "Catalysts" In Evangelism.
 - 4. The Power Is In The Seed (Word).
 - 5. The Results Depend On The Type Of Soil.
 - 6. The Place Of The Sower.
 - 7. The Principle Of Sowing And Reaping.
 - 8. Quite Often, One Sows And Another Reaps.
- B. Perseverance and Enthusiasm are keys to success in evangelism. Those who persist in sowing the seed of eventually bear fruit.
- C. 1 CO 15:58.