

Series: The Great Commission 4

Title: Being an Effective Witness

Text: (Matt 28:18-20)

Gardening takes Patience, Persistence, & Purpose.

You have to plant to receive a harvest.

You have to tend the plants rather than neglect them.

Constantly learning & adapting to different climates/soils.

Watching the Weather to protect and water.

Soul Winning is like Gardening

We have to plant to be able to see a harvest.

The Gardener can prepare the soil, the Soul winner can prepare the heart through prayer.

Just as the gardener is at the Mercy of the weather, the soul winner is dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

Not everyone will respond to your invitation.

Neglect will cost you your harvest.

(1 Cor 3:6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

(John 4:38) I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

Sometimes it will take multiple encounters with the soul winner and the gospel to be saved.

The best way to remain diligent & thorough is to use a Prospect List.

I. Using a Prospect List:

A. What is a Prospect List? People you encounter.
It enables you to be intentional and persistent.
Name and Contact info, the ability to make contact.
Like tending a garden.

B. Who Do I Include on My Prospect List?

Everyone who you believe is a candidate for the Gospel & the church.

Co-workers, Neighbors, Business Contacts.

People you meet at the playground, or at Children's Activities.

It helps you keep track of them & your interaction.

It gives you and your spouse a spiritual service goal.

We always talk about the negatives, but rarely the +++

It helps you target who to build a relationships with in your free time for the Gospel.

C. How Do I Use My Prospect List?

1. Pray Daily.

The Gardener can prepare the soil,

The Soul winner can prepare the heart through prayer.

2. Contact Weekly.

Neglect can kill a garden.

Weeds grow up.

Plants go without nurturing die.

3. Update Regularly.

People move, change phones, etc.

Things come up, and they need encouragement.

II. Developing an Everywhere Mentality:

A. See People as Souls for which Christ died.

Don't Be Afraid: (Prov 29:25) *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

B. Look for Opportunities

(1 Thes 2:4) *But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

The Check out line: Especially if you see them buying things that you can relate to.

Walmart: 3 tall military guys all buying pillows & toiletries.

Young family: - New babies:

In Church: New people, invite them to sit with you.

Get to know them.

Compare notes, make sure I get their contact info.

Invite them to your Sunday School Class.

Invite them to go to lunch and get acquainted.

C. Steward Relationships.

What do I do when I meet with them? - Pray for Wisdom!

Try to build a Friendship.

Take an interest in them. This is a long term process.

If you are successful they will be your friends for Eternity.

They are new, be the regular attender who cares!

Hear their stories?

How they met.

Where they have lived?

What they do for a living?

Ask what they like about it.

Encourage them to visit with you in church: Everybody here should be in a Sunday School Class somewhere!

Invite them to it. - Talk it up!

Invite them to a church activity!

Never criticize their beliefs: (John 4:23) The woman at the well tried to lead the conversation into a conflict of beliefs, Jesus brought her back to matters of the heart.

Never Fix their Doctrinal Beliefs in 1 setting: Let's build a relationship and then lead them in a bible discussion when you have build trust.

If they believed like you, then they would already me a member of this church.

Never talk alone with a person of the opposite sex:

(Rom 14:16) *Let not then your good be evil spoken of:*

If you do, always out in the open!

Note: Islam, Mormonism, JW are group religions.

Talk to the same sex, one on one, not in front of the others or they will cut you off entirely.

Never be Rude or Verbally Combative:

(Prov 15:1) *A Soft answer truth away wrath.*

Never talk to a young child without a parent present:

Besides, if you don't get Mom and Dad you will never keep the child anyway.

D. Obey Every Prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Always seek to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Always seek to be a good ambassador for Christ.
Always seek to be a good representative of our church.

(Phil 1:27) Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

III. Staying Motivated:

Bernard “Kip” Legat, Olympic marathon runner for Kenya. Asked in 2000 how Kenya produces so many great runners. His Response: “*The Road signs*” “*Be Ware of Lions*”.

Many of us, struggle to stay motivated in the things that matter most in life.

We are great at starting new things:

Home Projects, Diets, etc.

Obstacles and time causes us to lose interest.

This may be OK for some areas of life, But not Soul winning!

Soul winning is not just a Once a Year Mission.

It's our life's Commission.

Irregardless of how you feel on a given day, there is a world that needs a savior.

We have been entrusted with the Message of Salvation.

(1 Thes 2:4) But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

How can we stay Motivated over the decades of our lives?

A. The Love of Christ.

Every time we share the Gospel, we are sharing the Love of Christ. (Rom 5:8)

We forget that He died for Us, He died for ME!

This should fill our hearts with Gratitude!

(2 Cor 5:14-15) For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

His love for you & your love for Him are the purest of motives.

When you feel your motivation slipping, meditate on Christ's love for you. (Matt 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19)

B. The Reality of Eternity.

We live in a day of short attention spans.

Urgent demands press for our time.

Fleshly amusements promise stress relief.

If we are not careful, we will live shallow lives, driven from one urgent demand to next, and all of our free time swallowed up by mindless distractions.

We forget the Reality of Eternity.

People around us are not bodies with a soul, but Souls in a body!

(Mark 16:16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The soul lives on for eternity somewhere.
(Luke 16:19-25) *Hell, torment, flames Are REAL!*

C. Compassion for the Lost. (Matt 9:36-38)
Real Compassion moves us to Passionate Action.
Jesus didn't see a multitude, or a mass of humanity.
He saw people, individuals.

Do we REALLY SEE People? Or a Nuisance?

If the ground outside of your grocery store opened up to swallow people as they stepped out of the checkout line, ***would you say something? Or just Watch?***

We are to be Soul Warners

(Ezek 33:9) *Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*

(Acts 20:

Having the compassion of Christ motives us to be a faithful witness as ALL times for the Duration of our lives.

D. The Judgment Seat of Christ.

Instead of just being motivated by fear or pity, we are also to be motivated by Joy!

(Rom 14:10-12) *for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Our Real Goal should be...

(Matt 25:21) *His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*

What ever reward I am given for serving, I will be able to Worship Christ with for all eternity.

(Rev 4:10-11) *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Looking forward to this Moment Motivates us to invest our time and lives into Eternal Souls.

Paul was looking forward to this: (1 Thes 2:19-20) *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy.*

(Phil 4:1) *Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.*

What a joy it will be to stand before Jesus with the fruit of Souls.

Time is Short: (John 9:4) *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*

(Matt 28:19-20) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

God has placed you here for a reason.

God has placed you among these people for a reason.

God has placed you in this church for a reason.

Take it personal - Take the gospel to others.

Invest your life in theirs -

Make His Great Commission your Personal Mission.