

North Christian Church -

Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

8/18/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 114

"through sanctification by the Spirit"

"Here we have the Holy Spirit's pre-conversion work. He sets individuals apart to God from the world, convicts them of sin, and points them to Christ. Someone has well said, "If it had not been for Christ, there would be no feast; if it had not been for the Holy Spirit, there would have been no guests!" - MacDonald

Perspective

A human being has never saved or sanctified anyone, not themselves nor others. That is God's work. (1Co 3:7)

"born of water and [even] the Spirit"

Refers to the spiritual cleansing/purification man undergoes at salvation. This is a supernatural act, not an evangelist's. Only God can save/sanctify, so learn to leave that onus on Him.

Perspective

We must show love, inviting others into our hearts (Christ's heart), but the Gospel truth about Jesus Christ is still necessary for salvation. We never know how much the Spirit desires to "fill in the blanks", which is why we let HIM fill our mouths. (Is 59:21; Mk 13:10-11; Lk 21:13-15)

The Hands-On Spirit

The Spirit isn't a pontificating snob, nor a Helper who only teaches from afar. He is within believers, working, showing, prodding, moving, convicting. God the Holy Spirit's ministry is more like a vocational shop teacher than a college philosophy professor.

Knowing the Father

I can teach someone eternal security, but unless God the Holy Spirit endorses it, they won't ever possess the living hope (1Pe 1:3) it provides (aka - professing, unsaved Christians are insecure). (ref: Ro 8:16)

Harvey Penick - Golf Coach

When I tell you to take an aspirin, please don't take the whole bottle. In the golf

swing a tiny change can make a huge difference. The natural inclination is to begin to overdo the tiny change that has brought success. So you exaggerate in an effort to improve even more, and soon you are lost and confused again.

Blog - The Last One In Syndrome

This "last one in syndrome", then, is merely a catchphrase for that phenomenon that sometimes occurs when a person has an epiphany in their life.

Blog - The Last One In Syndrome

That person tends to become so wrapped up in it, especially immediately following the event, that they vomit their emotions all over those around them, not fully understanding the adverse effects this might have on others. While the intentions are good, the results may not be.

Blog - The Last One In Syndrome

Living for others means having the wisdom to understand the nuances here. It means always considering others in whatever we say or do. That's why over time, when emotions die down, true wisdom sets in, and a person transitions from being a potential liability to the Kingdom to an asset. Patience, my friends.

Blog - The Last One In Syndrome

Patience is so very important in times like these.

Patience

It's quite possible that God will convict you to wait on His timing to "do" this or that. Do not ever ignore His convictions, whether or not it seems rational that you should be "doing" something. (eg. pastoring or evangelizing, etc.)

The Local Church Mission

Once a person is saved, their first objective is to keep on learning the Word of God (imagine the attacks!). If/when we evangelize someone, we ought to encourage them to attend a sound church, under a sound pastor, such as w/ NCC. Our relationship with new believers shouldn't end after the Gospel presentation!!!

Do Not Forget Where You Came From

God prepared all of you for the battlefield. Consider how much work has been done inside these four walls. Do not forget where you came from. NCC is like a FOB (Forward Operating Base). Soldiers must be trained/retrained (Eph 4:11-12) after they are enlisted!

NCC - Your FOB

A forward operating base (FOB) is any secured forward military position, commonly a military base, that is used to support tactical operations. A FOB may or may not contain an airfield, hospital, or other facilities. The base may be used for an extended period of time. - Wikipedia

NCC - Your FOB

FOBs are traditionally supported by Main Operating Bases that are required to provide backup support to them. A FOB also improves reaction time to local areas as opposed to having all troops on the main operating base. - Wikipedia

Patience

Do not confuse encouragement from others as commandments from the Spirit. Conviction to "do" in the spiritual life MUST be from the Holy Spirit, not man. While encouragement is good (Heb 3:13), we mustn't try to mimic another's calling.

Man Fails Encouragement

Since man is flawed, he tends to overstep his boundaries when trying to encourage others in the spiritual life. Receive encouragement, but diligently sort it out with the Spirit before "doing" anything.