

North Christian Church -

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8/21/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 115

Perspective

To God, sanctification is a reality, not something on a timeline. This is why, from our perspective, we might rightly say: to be saved is to be sanctified; to be sanctified is to be saved (eg. 2Th 2:13-14).

"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

Leave the supernatural things up to faith!

2Co 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight -

Perspective

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

A Person Is Never Saved By:

- saying they are
- joining a church
- living a "good" life
- being baptized (or baptizing their kids)
- etc.

"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.

John 3:8

You don't have to understand everything about something to know it exists and that it affects people. Just like you have faith in the affect of wind, you have faith that the Spirit affects us.

Parable of the Soils

Only God knows the condition of a person's soil. There are a variety of responses to sowing the Gospel seed, as Jesus described. He also explained that conversion is thwarted in a multitude of ways.

Our Part In Evangelizing

If we can't save anyone, what must our job be??? It's easy - speak the "word of Christ" to others! The Spirit will use the content of your message to convict them of the Gospel.

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 out 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

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.

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.)

"Evange-Shaming"

When one person feels pressured by another to "go out" and evangelize a certain way. There are infinite ways to accomplish the Great Commission! Some may have small audiences, while others large. Some are public ministries, some are private. The SPIRIT decides! (1Co 12:5-7)

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.

The Local Church

Most converts are already addicts, addicted to the world system. For years they have been intoxicated by it. Just because a person gets "clean" through a detox program (eg. saved), it doesn't mean they're no longer tempted! Recovered addicts require support programs (eg. spiritual addicts require churches).

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

Patience

One of the greatest tragedies that the Bible counsels us against is encouraging someone who's NOT actually being led by the Spirit to "do" something that others might be led by the Spirit to do!

Motivating Pride

- If a person succumbs, they "do" something that is "wood, hay, and straw" (1Co 3:12).
- If a person refuses to "do", their sense of pride makes them stumble (1Co 8:9)

A House Divided

Satan is looking for EVERY opportunity to divide this church. He's intelligent and crafty enough to capitalize on good things, even. He's really good at sowing perversion.