

Personal Preparation

Evangelism Starts Here

“WHAT A MAN IS HAS MORE INFLUENCE THAN WHAT HE SAYS.”
Help for Daily Living, p. 7

“It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ’s grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world. If we would draw sinners out of the swift-running current, our own feet must be firmly set upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.” *Help for Daily Living, p. 7*

4 key areas that prepare us for evangelistic outreach

1. Recognition of our sinfulness apart from Christ

In Psalms 51, David cries out to God:

*Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow
Make me to hear joy and gladness
Create in me a clean heart
Renew a steadfast spirit within me
Do not cast me away from Your presence
Do not take Your Holy Spirit from me
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
Uphold me with your generous Spirit*

NKJV vs. 7, 8, 10-12

This cleansing is essential to being used by God in reaching others.

“Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.” (Psalms 51:13)

“To know one’s self is great knowledge. True self-knowledge will lead to a humility that will allow the Lord to train the mind, and mold and discipline the character. The grace of humility is greatly needed by the workers for Christ in this period of the world’s history.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education 525*

2. Humbling ourselves before God

“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3-4

What is childlike humility?

1. Realizing that you don't know how to go out or come in.
1 Kings 3:7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.
2. Realizing that you don't know how to speak
Jeremiah 1:6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.
3. Realizing your position and resting in the LORD
Psalms 131:1-2 LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

“The spirit of the slothful servant we are often fain to call humility. But true humility is widely different. To be clothed with humility does not mean that we are to be dwarfs in intellect, deficient in aspiration, and cowardly in our lives, shunning burdens lest we fail to carry them successfully. Real humility fulfills God's purposes by depending upon His strength.” COL 3:6

3. Communicating with God

DANIEL'S 5 P's TO ANSWERED PRAYER:

1. Daniel was a **PERSON** of prayer- *Daniel 2:18; 9:3; 10:2*
2. Daniel had a regular **PLACE** for special prayer time with God. (in His upper room)- *Daniel 6:10*
Jesus also had a regular place of prayer – *Matthew 26:36 & John 18:2*
3. Daniel had a **POSITION** of prayer (on his knees) *Daniel 6:10*
Jesus also had a position of prayer. *Luke 22:41*
4. Daniel had scheduled **PERIODS** of prayer (3 times per day) *Daniel 6:10*
Jesus prayed at certain times – *Mark 1:35*

- *Note: Daniel didn't wait until the crisis to pray...he was prepared for the crisis before hand! He prayed 3 times per day "as was his custom since early days." Dan 6:10 – Let this be a lesson to us!*
- 5. Daniel had a **PLAN** for prayer (ACTS) – *Daniel 6:10*
 - **A – Adoration** – Giving God praise for His glory – *Daniel 9:4*
 - **C – Confession** – Confess your sins to God – *Daniel 9:5*
 - **T – Thanksgiving** – Offer up thanksgiving to God – *Daniel 2:23*
 - **S – Supplication** – Asking God to provide for needs – *Daniel 9:27*
- What happens the moment we begin to pray even when we don't see an answer immediately? *Daniel 10:12* – (God begins to work to answer it) – *1 John 5:14*
- Why does God not always immediately answer when we pray?
 - i. Our hearts may not be right with him. We need to confess our sins and align ourselves with God's will before He can work to answer it. *Isaiah 59:2 & Micah 3:4*
 - ii. Our hearts may not be right with others. We need to make things right with them first. We need to go to those who we have conflict with, even our enemies, to approach them with a humble spirit to make things right first before we ask God for anything. *Mark 11:24-26 & Matthew 5:23-24*
 - iii. God's response sometimes requires the decisions of others. If we pray for the salvation of our spouse or children, God will do all that He can to save them, but it still must be *their own decision*. *Ezekiel 18:20-21*
 - iv. God may have a better plan. What we *think* we need is not always really what we need. Sometimes, God says *no* or has another plan because He knows what is best for us! He always has our best interest in mind and promises never to withhold anything good from His beloved children that strive to please Him! *Psalms 84:11*

Let your prayer each morning be:

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ." SC 70

4. *Receiving instruction from God*

Engaging in personal Bible study is as essential as eating your daily food.

God's word is like food. It will sustain and nourish us. What if you constantly prepare food for others (write Bible studies), feed and nourish others (comfort them through prayers and Bible promises), but don't take time to nourish your own life? It is very easy to spend all of your time studying for other people while neglecting your own spiritual nourishment. Don't fall into this deadly trap!

Take time in God's word for YOUR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL SOUL. Block out some time each day. Put aside your other studies. Pray that God will bless you with something for YOUR own heart.

Why we need the Word of God

1. To be born again as a child of God:
"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." 1 Peter 1:23
2. To receive the blessing of God:
"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28
3. To receive light (guidance) in our life:
"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalms 119:130
4. To find happiness and joy:
"O Lord, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke. Thy words are found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord of hosts." Jeremiah 15:15-16
5. To experience, sustain and nurture spiritual life:
"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63
"My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food." Job 23:11-12
"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." Luke 4:4
6. To know Jesus:

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” John 5:39

7. To increase our faith:

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
Romans 10:17

8. To understand our own hearts:

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

9. To receive victory over sin:

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”
John 15:3. “The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Psalms 119:130
“And when the tempter came unto him ... Jesus said unto him, It is Written ...” Matthew 4:3, 7
“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Psalms 119:9

10. To find hope and comfort:

“Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.” Psalms 119:49, 50

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.” Colossians 3:16

LIVE IN CONNECTION WITH JESUS

“With one hand the workers would take hold of Christ, while with the other they would grasp sinners and draw them to the Saviour.” Evangelism, p. 293

ALLOW GOD'S SPIRIT TO LIVE INSIDE YOU

“The Holy Spirit will come to all who are begging for the bread of life to give to their neighbors.” Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 90