

Why evangelism matters:

People try an event or two and receive no baptisms and say door knocking does not work, or that people have hard hearts and won't accept Jesus in this day and age. Or that God does not work His message to save others anymore, etc. I've heard this from time to time, from well-meaning saints, with whom I love.

My friend's evangelism is like anything else in life. It will work if we invest in the process. If we realize it's worth and will sacrifice for this treasure. The kingdom of God should be our greatest prize and where our greatest investments lie. (Matthew 13:44/Matthew 6:21)

How do you harvest fruits? It's by a lifestyle of consistency, is it not?

No one tries a secular activity once or twice yearly and expects massive success. We count the cost and plan accordingly.

If I went to the gym once or twice a year or went on a diet, or pursued a relationship a few times a year and got minimal results for such minimal action, would it not make sense that I had not invested in the process?

If I went to an adult Karate class a handful of times a year would I expect to receive a new belt and level in my martial arts? Of course not, I would not have invested in the process.

It's like taking your kids to 2-3 soccer games a year and complaining to the coach that your children "aren't any good at the sport." Or going to college as a teen for a few classes and complaining to the professor about getting bad grades.

If a young man courted a young lady, a handful of times a year and expected to be married, with 2.3 kids after 3-5 dates, he'd not have a grounded view of the dating process.

What we do regularly defines us in growth and helps mold us into the men and women we are today.

Evangelism is no different.

We spiritually grow up more into Christ when we live as He lived. (1 John 2:4-6) Jesus lived a lifestyle of evangelism. The gospels clearly show this. The book of Acts details what those who were "Christians" did. They too lived lifestyles of evangelism.

The first and greatest commandment says we are to be 100 percent committed to God. (Matthew 22:36-38)

As in any Bible commandment, from honoring one's parents to not committing adultery, we know we are expected to be faithfully living these teachings.

We don't honor the teachings of being kind and in showing forgiveness... a few times a year. We know God wants us to obey His Biblical standards all the time.

How is the commandment to do evangelism any different?

All of God's teachings are to be actively practiced and faithfully followed. No one honors their parents on a few selected days a year or abstains from committing adultery on pre-selected times during the annual seasons of a year. Why should we apply such a standard to evangelism?

The Christian spirit of empathy, tenderness, and grace... that we read about in the scriptures, should in conscious and in attitude call us to do no less... than to show concern (daily) for those going to hell.

Evangelism is not solely about duty. (Matthew 28:18-20) The heart of soul saving is about compassion and love. That is the second commandment. (Mark 12:30-31/Luke 10:29)

We should want to share the cross. And tell about the truths that lead to heaven and a relationship with God. We should feel a fear of hell (Jude 23) that makes us want to share a message of grace for those who need forgiveness, hope, mercy, and peace...

(2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

Evangelism is not about us promoting ourselves but of us sharing a gift. (2 Corinthians 4:5-6) It's about a gift, that if truly understood... would make the tongue speak words. Words that hold a promise. A promise of hope, freedom, and at the end of our last day, LIFE.

If evangelism becomes a process, like our daily secular activities, then...

We will "seek first His kingdom and righteousness" (Matthew 6:33) by living the kingdom-building commandment of the Great Commission. Results come with time, commitment, and an investment to the process.

In Jewish times, a fisherman fishes as a daily lifestyle practice to feed his family. The future Apostles, brothers Peter and Andrew knew this truth, they were fishermen. What did Jesus tell Peter and Andrew to do?

Matthew 4:18 "As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were *fishermen. 19 "Come, *follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will MAKE you *fishers of men." 20 And at once they left their nets and followed Him."

To be followers of Jesus (His Word) means we will be made into fishers of men. When we invest in the process of fishing we will begin to catch others for Jesus.