

Reading: Matthew 13:3-9

Topic: Achieving Goals Through

The Retention Process

INTRODUCTION: We have studied about the importance of setting _____ for growth in our ministry and one aspect of attaining the _____ is having a good retention rate.

I. THE INITIAL COUNT:

A. The Excitement Of The Births:

1. It is thrilling and exciting to participate in the reaching of _____ souls and seeing them born-again and beginning their new spiritual _____ in Christ. Acts 8:5-8
2. The enthusiasm of a new _____ is contagious and a blessing to watch as the changes in their life and conduct causes many people to marvel and other unsaved people to _____ questions. Acts 2:12

B. Keeping Records:

1. It is a good idea to keep records of people repenting, being baptized and receiving the _____ of the Holy Spirit so that people may _____ over the lost being saved. Lk. 15:7
2. The story of the shepherd who went out and found one _____ sheep illustrates the importance that God places on each individual that we _____ with the Gospel. Lk. 15:4,5

II. THE NET GROWTH:

A. The Numbers Do Reveal:

1. So the church rejoices together seeing many people who repent, and are _____ in Jesus Name and receive the Holy Ghost, but then as Jesus _____, not everyone will stay. Mt. 13:20,21
2. Some people have a marvellous conversion experience and they _____ well but unfortunately not everyone will _____ to the end. Mt. 13:22
3. What can happen in any church or ministry is that for example, one hundred _____ souls are born-again in one _____, but at the end of the year, the attendance has only increased by thirty.

B. Increasing The Net Growth:

1. If any maternity ward in a hospital had a death _____ of sixty-six percent or two thirds of all the newborn babies, there would be a _____ investigation carried out to find out why.
2. As the church continues to reach the lost _____, we must find a way to prevent them from being destroyed spiritually by the _____ and the influences of the world. Heb. 3:12-14
3. The retention rate of new converts must be increased and sustained in _____ for the net growth rate of the _____ to increase continually.

III. INCREASING RETENTION:

A. New Convert Care:

1. Each new _____ that is reached with the Gospel and is born again is spiritually like a newborn baby that requires an extensive amount of _____ in order to survive. Gal. 4:19

2. The adversary will begin to _____ on them to try to destroy their faith and to nullify the new life that they have just received through the _____ birth in Christ. Mt. 13:19

3. The church must assume the responsibility not only for new _____ of spiritual babes in Christ but also, as a mother for the _____ and survival of those precious souls. Acts 14:21,22

B. Care Ministry For New Converts:

1. Care partners – like every newborn _____ needs to be closely cared for, so do newborn babes in Christ need to be closely ministered to in the early _____ of their new spiritual life.

2. Often the one who teaches an individual a Home Bible Study will end up being the _____ partner for that person to help them until they can _____ on their own.

3. Discipleship Program – a survey that was done several years ago _____ that people who were born again and then participated in a discipleship class or program had a 75-80 percent survival rate, whereas those who were born again and did not participate in any discipleship _____ had a survival rate of only 20-25 percent.

4. Home Friendship Groups – Involving new converts in _____ groups such as Home Group meetings and other ministry groups brings an attachment to the individual with the _____ of Christ that they may not get in the larger congregation.

C. Growth through Retention:

1. In Jesus teaching of the parable of the sower, the _____ that fell on good soil came to life and it produced growth and maturity that led to a production of a _____. Mt. 13:23

2. However, it is important to understand that in _____ for that harvest to come to fruition, there was someone to help those plants to _____ to maturity – pulling out the weeds, watering the soil, fertilizing the ground, etc. – caring for the tender plants.

CONCLUSION: For a church and ministry to have healthy _____ it needs to have a healthy retention ministry, and that requires that many people become _____ in the process of helping new souls to grow in Christ.