

Reading: Acts 6:4-7

Topic: Building Upon The Principles
Of Evangelism & Retention

INTRODUCTION: In our last session we looked at the importance of developing an _____ retention and _____ system in order to preserve the growth of the work of God.

I. THE EARLY CHURCH:

A. Basic Spiritual Principles:

1. The church began with a prayer meeting, and the move of God took place as they _____ together and were all filled with the _____ of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:1-4
2. The early church kept the practice of prayer going, knowing and understanding that it is _____ to a continuous move of God. Acts 2:42,47

B. Continuous Evangelism & Growth:

1. As the Gospel was preached and the people evangelized in Jerusalem, people were not just _____ to the church but the Word of God states that the numbers _____ greatly. Acts 6:7
2. The leadership of the church did not abandon the process that began the _____ of God, but they reinforced themselves in the Word of God and in _____. Acts 6:4

II. THE CHURCH OF TODAY:

A. Same Basic Spiritual Principles:

1. In today's modern world, we have so many options and techniques available to us that the _____ church did not have, and yet they were accused of turning the _____ upside down! Acts 17:6
2. They relied upon the _____ of God through continuous prayer, both individually and collectively seeking God and waiting upon Him for wisdom and _____ in ministry. Acts 4:31
3. We must never substitute the role of modern-day technology for the need of the _____ of the power of God through continuous _____ and seeking God daily. I Thess. 5:17

B. Continuous Evangelism & Growth:

1. We must understand the laws of sowing and reaping that God set in order at _____, are still in effect today, both in the _____ and in the _____ realms. Gal. 6:7-9
2. The church must never become _____ to just dwell within the four walls of the building, enjoying the blessings and _____ of God while multitudes outside are lost and dying without God. Jn. 4:35
3. The more seed that is sown, the greater the _____ that will be reaped, and when only a little bit of sowing of the seed takes place, there will only be a _____ harvest. 2 Cor. 9:6
4. That's why we use invitation _____, Home Bible Studies, outreach teams, personal witnessing, and even via the internet to sow the seed.

III. MORE PRINCIPLES OF RETENTION:

A. Survival Rates:

1. In the year 1900, the survival rate of newborn _____ was less than fifty percent, which means that one out of very two babies were dying, a tragic statistic.
2. Today, the survival rate of newborn _____ is ninety-nine percent in most modern countries due to the knowledge that has been acquired through research and experience on how to properly _____ for and protect those fragile babes from disease and infections.

B. Spiritual Survival Rates:

1. As we studied in a previous session, if a church does not have an organized and intentional _____ to protect and _____ for the newborn spiritual babes in Christ, they will not retain many of them.
2. An intentional strategy must be developed to make _____ that none of the new converts fall through the cracks and are lost.
3. Research has shown that most new believers who backslide do so within the first _____ of their new birth experience, thus how vital it is to make _____ that this won't happen to them.

C. First Time Counselling:

1. A number of churches have now put an intentional _____ in place that moves into action right at the altar or the baptistry, and the new soul is given some brief but important counselling before _____ the building.
2. From experience, we know and understand that the adversary of souls will attempt to _____ the newborn believer right away, so they will _____ to be prepared. I Pt. 5:8
3. The plan to help the new individual survive involves a mature believer taking a few _____ of time to sit down with the person and explain a few basic points:
 - a. The new life that they are just beginning through the new birth, as some even receive forgiveness of sins, are baptized and receive the Holy Spirit without really understanding what just happened.
 - b. The three basic nutrients for spiritual survival – prayer, the Word of God and consistent attendance with the Body of Christ via church services, home friendship groups, etc.
 - c. The attack of the adversary – they know nothing about spiritual warfare, and they will need to understand what they may face because of their choice to follow Jesus. Eph. 6:12,13
 - d. There is someone who cares about them and if they need to call or talk to someone for help, there are people who are available – a phone number or two given to them if they need to call.

CONCLUSION: God is not pleased when people _____ away after being born again, and may we as the Body of Christ on earth do our best to see that every newborn soul survives to live for God the rest of their lives.