

CONVERSATIONS UNTO CONVERSION

(2 Cor. 4:13)

Introduction:

1. What is assumed = Christians are in it to win it.
2. Three examples we will be considering = Acts 2 (Jews at Pentecost), Acts 16 (Paul with Philipian Jailer), and Acts 17 (Paul on Mars Hill).
3. Let us notice that evangelistic people are motivated, informed, understanding, and accommodating.

Discussion:

I. Evangelistic People are Motivated.

- A. Motivated by fear for others (Luke 16:27, 28).
- B. Motivated by love for others (Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1, 2).
- C. Motivated by a desire to please God (2 Cor. 5:9-11; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; Luke 15:7, 10).
- D. Motivation was strong in all three examples.
- E. The unmotivated lack faith (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 8:8, 9).

II. Evangelistic People are Informed.

- A. Acts 2 = Peter, and the other apostles, knew their audience and began where they were.
 1. They did not seek to convince them of the existence of God or the promise of a Messiah.
 2. They did not sit down and engage them in a thorough study of scrolls.
 3. They pieced together things they already knew and showed how they proved Jesus (a man they would most certainly have heard of and known a goodly amount about) as Lord and Christ.
- B. Acts 16 = Paul knew his audience and began where he was.
 1. He began with salvation being tied to belief in Jesus Christ, a man the jailor did not know.
 2. Paul then taught the man about Jesus which culminated in the man and all his household being baptized.
- C. Acts 17 = Paul knew his audience and began where they were.
 1. He uses their own philosophy to prove that God is not an idol crafted by man.
 2. He used their excessive idolatry to begin the conversation toward salvation via belief in Jesus Christ. And some believed and continued with Paul unto salvation (v34).

III. Evangelistic People are Understanding and Accommodating.

- A. Acts 2 = Evangelistic people convince, they do not convert or save. The word of God converts and God adds the converts to the church (saves them). When 3000 people request salvation evangelistic people comply, not complain.
- B. Acts 16 = Evangelistic people spend the time and effort for only one soul, even enemies.
- C. Acts 17 = Evangelistic people do what they can and not what they cannot. They help those willing to be helped, and are not defeated by those who are not.

Conclusion:

1. "Want to" must be combined with "know how to" and "willing to". The great news about this truism is that we control all three! That is, whether we are evangelistic or not is up to us!
2. The strength of our faith is equal to our "want to", our "know how to", and our "willing to". If you are in it to win, then strengthen your faith so that you can be evangelistic. Understanding that there is no such thing as a Christian who is not evangelistic.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “CONVERSATIONS UNTO CONVERSION”

1. Let us look at each conversion account and see what we learn.
 - A. Acts 2 = Peter took a knowledgeable people and led them in discovery learning.
 - B. Acts 16 = Paul took an ignorant person and led him to the truth, and eventually discovery learning.
 - C. Acts 17 = Paul tried to take a group of ignorant people to the truth. Most rejected the truth, but those that accepted it were led to discovery learning.

2. Why discovery learning works better at creating disciples than other methods.
 - A. The tools (facts) given are Bible truths in their proper context. Once understood they can never be taken away as long as the desire to retain them is present.
 - B. Once the sufficient number of tools (facts/truths) has been acquired the student is then led via questions to put the facts/truths together in order to achieve the “big picture” understanding. This gives them the “tool belt” for the tools.
 - C. Finally the student is asked questions with regards to what conclusions they draw from certain action demanding verses/passages (note 2 Pet. 3:11, 17; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; et al.).
 - D. The result is that the convert is the one with the tools, knowledge of how to use them, and the one who uses them to their own salvation. The convert always asks for baptism; he is not coerced/cajoled into it. Their faith is their own.

3. What we need in order to be successful in our evangelistic efforts.
 - A. Motivation.
 1. We need to understand how important this is to God. His love must be our love!
 2. We must desire to please God more than self.
 3. We must be mindful of the urgency involved (time and circumstance).
 - B. Information.
 1. We must know the Bible (the tools), how it works together ((the tool belt), and be willing and able (patient when necessary, bold when necessary = wisdom) to lead people in it.
 2. We must know people, in general and specific.
 - C. Understanding and accommodation.
 1. We must understand that successful evangelism does not necessarily equal conversion. God gives the increase, and we cannot “make” people be saved.
 2. We must be willing to never stop being evangelistic even if converts are not plentiful.
 3. We must be willing to work hard and sacrifice when interest is intense and converts **are** plentiful.