

Focus on the Process and not Results

Scripture

“A Psalm of Thanksgiving. Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He [is] God; [It is] He [who] has made us, and not we ourselves; [We are] His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, [And] into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, [and] bless His name. For the LORD [is] good; His mercy [is] everlasting, And His truth [endures] to all generations.” (Psalms 100:1-5 NKJV)

Commentary

I was on a Christian radio talk show one time, and the host asked this question to be discussed. “What do you think about setting goals?” His other guest and he thought it was important to set goals in the ministry. I found myself trapped in a little 4’x4’ sound-proof room with a microphone in my face. Had I know the subject ahead of time I likely would have bowed out so as not to be controversial. However, the host’s rules were such that he didn’t give out the subject until you were in the room.

Now I don’t have a problem setting goals. However, I have a problem setting goals for God. I cringe every time I hear someone say, “We have a goal of seeing X number of people saved this year.” While their intentions are great, they are not in charge of how many people God will save this year.

A good goal might be to strive to share the Gospel with X number of people this year, or to pray consistently for souls to be saved, but to focus on results is folly. We would do better to focus on the process.

If you focus on results, you will be tempted to compromise the message. Organizations are always touting numbers. However, when a person walks an isle or raises his hand or fills out a card he is not automatically saved.

The other danger of focusing on results is missing out on communion with God and becoming discouraged. We are to serve the Lord with gladness. The process of serving the Lord may lead to great numbers of people being saved, but it might also lead to very few. Jeremiah spent his years watching the wickedness of his people, and the judgments of God against the same. Known as the weeping prophet, he had to find comfort in his relationship with God to go on. The Lord encouraged Jeremiah with His protection not promises of success.



“Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them. For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land—Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I [am] with you," says the LORD, "to deliver you." (Jeremiah 1:17-19 NKJV)

Friends, it could be that you are discouraged right now. Therefore, “. . . let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9 NKJV) Not reap numbers, but everlasting life for ourselves.

Focus on the process and enjoy your God. He can deal with the results perfectly, amen.

Prayer

Father, we do want to see souls saved for your glory and their good. However, Lord, sometimes we want to see things happen so we might validate our actions. Forgive us when we act selfishly. Lord let your will be done and not ours, amen.