

Last week:

- What is God doing around us?
- Extraordinary moves of God being with ordinary acts of obedience.

Today: How to see breakthrough in the lives of others.

That statement strikes fear in the heart of some people. The thought of talking to someone about their spiritual life, God or church scares them to death.

Introvert vs. Extrovert

VIDEO: Invite

For many, the idea of reaching out to someone else or talking to them about God is difficult. If I was trying to convince you to do something difficult, I would convince you how capable you are. I'd assure you that you've got what it takes. I'd want you to know that I believe in you.

However, the Kingdom of God doesn't work that way. I don't believe you can do this based on who you are or what you can do. I believe you can do this based on who God is, what he's already done and what he will continue to do.

It's God who will prove that he's got what it takes. The unfailing faithfulness of God through his promises-not our capability or performance-is the solid ground we can stand on as God opens our eyes to others that He puts in our life. God's primary promise as we live this life...

1. God is with Us

During this series we have emphasized the fact that God is with us. He is everywhere even when we are not aware or sensitive to His presence.

As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ...you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." Luke 19

Jacob experienced God in a dream or vision when he wasn't expecting it. Sometimes it's not till later we look back and see how God was working through us.

"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How

awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Gen. 28:16-17

We are the "house of God", the "gateway of heaven" to others.

How are we going to be this conduit between God and people who do not know Him?

We are going to have to be, **"In touch with the world, and in tune with the Spirit."**

2. In Touch with the world

Realize God is at work wherever we go. Anticipate & expect He is going to use us.

In the past the best evangelists were those who were charismatic, outgoing, attention-getters. Today, the most effective people at touching others seem to be attention-givers.

It's less about our "witness" than our "withness".

Question: ***If you had 10 minutes with someone to share the Gospel with them, how would you spend that time?***

We need to have a love for people that causes us to show interest in them and earn our right to speak. This happens best when we just listen.

David Henderson proposes 10:1 ration between listening & speaking: "If you have 10 minutes to share the Gospel with someone, spend the first nine asking questions and listening."

The Old Testament book of 2nd Chronicles begins with Solomon anointed to lead Israel as it's king. God told Him that he could anything.

Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" 1 Chron. 1:10

What Solomon literally asked for was a "hearing Heart". He knew that if he could discern what was going on in people and connect it with God's Spirit then they truly be helped.

By listening to someone we are giving them the gift of ourselves and our time. We have PAY ATTENTION. It will cost us something but the reward is an opportunity to show God's love and make an eternal impact on someone's life.

“It is a sin to speak if you’re not moved to speak.
It’s a sin not to speak if you’re moved to speak.” - Quaker principle.

Jim Collins who wrote two of the best-selling books on business and leadership was mentored by John Gardner. John once told him, ***“Jim, you spend too much time trying to be interesting. Why don’t you invest more time being interested?”***

Questions to ask: Where are they from, how did they get to where they are? What have they learned along the way?

Everyone needs God. But people also need to be loved. **We earn our right** to speak by showing interest and investing out time, paying attention to others God brings across our path.

3. In Tune with the Spirit

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. John 16:13

With Holy Spirit guiding us we can know what is going on in people’s lives beneath the surface.

In 2005, Two Harvard researchers studied and interviewed 860 of the top executives for their book, The Greatest Business Leaders of the 20th Century. They look for common qualities in them that contributed to their success. One thing they all had in common was an **ability to read the forces that shaped the times in which they lived and to seize on the resulting opportunities**. They called this trait, **“contextual intelligence.”**

Group of people in the Old Testament called the men of Issachar, ***“who understood the times and knew what Israel should do.”*** 1 Chron. 12:32

VIDEO Testimony: Daniel Klinger

It used to be said that it takes about seven touches before comes to Christ. Today with the skepticism and hardness of people it may take 30-50 touches. You may be number 25 along the way. Just being faithful to do what God prompts you do moves the person closer to God. Who knows, you may building a relationship to where you get to provide touches 26-50 and see them cross the line of faith.

Who is God putting on your mind to reach out to?