

“Evangelism”
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Methods and Motivation

- Door Knocking:

Whenever door-to-door evangelism is mentioned, what do you think about?

Is door knocking successful?

- The growth of the **Latter-Day Saints Church** (Mormons) is among the fastest of any denomination on the planet. For the last 15 years, an average of 800 people have joined the LDS Church every day.

(Growth Rates):

1979-1998 = 93.27% (4.66% avg per year)

1999-2018 = 45.93% (2.30% avg per year)

2018 = 1.21%.

The church grows basically from convert baptisms plus baptisms of children born into the church.

Mormon Church statistics show that they knock 1,000 doors before they typically set up one study.

- All **Jehovah's Witnesses** are expected to take part in the door-to-door work. They are referred to as “publishers.” They have to report their activity, which includes the number of hours spent each month going from house to house and in conducting Bible studies with interested people.

(Growth Rates):

1979-1988 = 100.40% (5.02% avg)

1999-2018 = 41.2% (2.06% avg)

2018 = 1.35%.

1962 ... 2,039 hours per baptism.

1986-1990 ... 3,120 hours per baptism.

2011-2015 ... 6,822 hours per baptism.

2018 ... 7,364 hours per baptism.

In 2018, with 8.3 million publishers preaching each month, the Jehovah's Witnesses saw over 281,000 people baptized into their organization.

Over 2 Billion total hours spent in the field = 10 Million bible studies = 280,000 baptisms. It takes 7,364 hours of activity to generate one new baptism,

- **Church of Christ:** From 1990 – 2015, C of C membership dropped 7.8%.

Larry West, director of the “We Care Ministries”, under the direction of White’s Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, LA, has found that over the last 25 years, on average:

- Out of 3 doors they knock, 1 has someone at home.
- Of those at home, they are able to teach the Gospel to one out of every 5 people they meet. The ratio of doors knocked to studies set up for We Care Ministries is 1 out of 15, compared to 1 out of 1,000 for Mormons.
- Of those who hear the Gospel, 1 out of every 3 people obey it in baptism. This means that on average, a conversion is made for every 45 doors knocked ... and 33 % of those who are taught the gospel.

“It’s NOT that people aren’t interested! Our problem has been twofold:

(1) The method: ... knowing how to approach and guide the conversation in a caring way, what to say and what not to say.

(2) The message: We have for too long talked to people about the Church of Christ instead of the Gospel of Christ! ... those first-century Christians ... told the Good News about JESUS and how to obey him for the new birth!”

~~ Larry West

The lie that door-to-door evangelism doesn’t work probably comes from folks who 30-40+ years ago devoted a few Saturdays, for a few hours, or for a day in the sun passing out Gospel meeting flyers or handouts for events, and then decided to give up. It simply requires investment of time, discipline, dedication and effort to see results. The statistics show that it can happen with the necessary effort.

- **Public Study Evangelism:**

This technique simply comes from reading your Bible by yourself or in a small group in a public place where folks interact: Starbucks, a park, or in a small restaurant.

- **Friendship Evangelism:**

Causal interactions with people from waiters, friends, family, co-workers, cashiers, people you see regularly. Friendship evangelism is a method of inviting people you interact with, to a church meeting or to a Bible study.

Sharing the Gospel should be our focus because we appreciate our own salvation and want to bring others to know God in this way, too.

1. Compassion for Lost Souls:

Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the mass of lost souls (Matthew 9:35-36; 14:14; 15:32). That compassion motivated Him to:

- a. Ask His disciples to pray that God might “send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).
- b. Do something about it Himself (Matthew 10:1,5-7).

The best way to develop or strengthen this compassion for lost souls is to let God teach us to love, as He did with the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 4:9), and does through the example of Christ (1 John 3:16-17).

It also helps to be around people. To love people, you have to get to know them.

2. A Sense of Purpose:

While speaking with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus’ disciples marveled at what His motive might be (John 4:27). Jesus explained: “To do the will of Him who sent Me...to accomplish His work” (John 4:34).

He stated this same purpose in life on many other occasions (John 5:30,36; 6:38; 17:4; 19:28-30). The will of His Father was to save a dying world (John 3:16), and to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

Jesus taught that we should have this same “sense of purpose” in our lives (Matthew 6:10,33). As we understand God’s will for us, we learn that our purpose for being His special people centers around proclaiming the praises of Him who called us (1 Peter 2:9-10). One way we do this is through evangelism.

3. The Love of the Father:

Jesus had experienced “the love of the Father,” which prompted Him to love others (John 15:9). This “love” was such that He wanted to share it with others (John 17:26), even if it was necessary for Him to go the cross to make it possible!

If we have experienced “the love of the Father” in our lives, how can we not be moved to want to share it with others? By keeping the commandments of Jesus, (John 14:21,23), we can develop a greater sense of God's love for us. Loving one another as Christ loved us (John 15:12) is crucial to experiencing the love of the Father in our lives.

Another way to increase our experience of the Father’s love is to make our love for Jesus stronger. The best way is to spend time learning more about Him from the Word of God.

4. The Terror of the Lord:

Jesus taught that we should “fear” God (Matthew 10:28) and warned of the judgment to come (Mark 9:43-48). Knowing the “terror of the Lord”, Jesus was willing to go to the cross so man might be saved. He even prayed for those crucifying Him (Luke 23:34).

We can develop a healthy appreciation for “the terror of the Lord?” by frequently meditating upon the Word of God, especially those portions which describe God’s judgments in the past (2 Peter 2:4-9), and provide warnings of the Judgment Day to come (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelations 20:12-15; 21:8).

A lack of concern and involvement in trying to reach the lost for Christ would certainly imply that we have not let the Word of God influence our lives.

5. The Joy Set Before Him:

Jesus was motivated by the joyful prospect of being with His Father (Hebrews 12:2). This enabled Him to “endure the cross” and “despise the shame.”

The prospect of spending eternity with God should move us to do what we can to save souls.

We need to increase our level of appreciating what lies ahead for the faithful by contemplating what God has prepared for us.

Conclusion:

Since Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), we should be “looking unto Jesus” for the motivation we need to do His will. We should “consider Him” (Hebrews 12:3), lest we become weary and discouraged in doing God's will.

The key to developing and strengthening the proper motivation is to let the Word of God have its intended effect upon us. But if Christians are not daily reading, studying, and meditating upon the Word of God, then how can we ever hope to stay motivated like Jesus, Paul and the early church were?

May we also allow God’s Word and the example of Jesus to motivate us in evangelizing the lost! The problem is what Zig Ziegler calls “stinkin’ thinkin’.

Armed with the wrong perspectives, many personal workers eventually lose heart. Before long, evangelistic efforts dwindle, and in some cases, stop altogether.

Next Week: Getting Prepared and Taking Action

10 Incredible Things That Happen When We Invite Someone to Church

By Josh Daffern
August 20, 2018

Something as small as inviting someone to come to church with you can make a huge impact, not just on the person being invited but on the church as a whole. How the person responds is up to them and God, but when we're faithful to invite others to come to church with us, ten incredible things happen:

1. We buy into the mission of making disciples of all nations. We can say we believe in the mission of making disciples all we want, but it's something else entirely to take the first step of inviting someone to come to church with us.
2. Everyone participates and unites around a common purpose. The one thing that Jesus specifically prayed for when interceding for future believers in John 17 is that we would be one, that we would be united. When we all invite others to church, we're united around a common purpose.
3. Inviters come to church more often. When we invite others to church, we're more likely to show up to church ourselves to make sure we're there when our invitees decide to show up!
4. Inviters see church differently. When you invite someone to church, you take a vested interest in their experience and you begin to see church from their perspective. Your mindset moves from a consumer to a contributor.
5. Inviters share their Jesus story more often. Not every invitation to church ends up with an opportunity to share your faith, but those who actively invite have a much higher probability of seeing a witnessing opportunity develop.
6. Inviters experience the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Not only do we buy into the mission of making disciples, we experience the sense of purpose, fulfillment and meaning that comes when we participate in God's divine mission to redeem souls throughout the world.
7. Services have more energy and excitement. When more people invite, more people tend to show up, and fuller rooms will always have more energy and excitement than empty rooms.
8. Church attendance grows. The more people come to your church the more people tend to stick around, creating momentum not just for your church services but for every program throughout your church.
9. More opportunities for life transformation. Again, people's faith is ultimately between them and God, but the more we invite, the more opportunities we help to create for God to get a hold of people's lives.
10. More movement of the Holy Spirit as we align with the Father's heart and purpose. God is on a mission to seek and to save the lost. When we align our hearts and passions with God's heart and passion, we'll begin to see God show up in more and more tangible ways.