God’s Pattern for Soul-Winning

Acts 14:22—*Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*

Acts 13:52*—And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.*

Mat. 5:12*—Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

John 16:22*—And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.* 33*—These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

1. *Soul Winners Working Together*

Acts 14:1*—And it came to pass in Iconium, that* ***they went both together*** *into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.*

* 1. Unity in the Body
     1. Unified spirits working together for souls to be saved to the Glory of God.
        1. *“they went both together”*
        2. “*so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.”*

A Unity in True love for all ministers of the Lord; unified in spirit and in faith.

All God's servants should be serving *together*, working *together* in His Spirit and for His cause.

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

* 1. Faithfulness in the body
     1. We must Speak the Word that men might believe
        1. “*so spake”*
        2. “*a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks* ***believed****.”*
     2. We must go where the people are at.
        1. “*a* ***great multitude*** *both of the* ***Jews and also of the Greeks*** *believed.”*

The servant of God is to speak the truth in love. He bearing witness with his life and with his mouth, preaching the salvation that is only through the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 14:28 “they **abode** long time with the disciples.”

* 1. Fullness in the Body
     + 1. *“filled with joy”*
       2. *“and with the Holy Ghost”*
  2. Fellowship in the Body

When facing opposition, the Lord's servant must carefully weigh what is best for the spread of the gospel. Sometimes taking a stand will bring greater results; sometimes leaving will bring greater results. The servant must always do what is best for the gospel.

The Lord's servant is not to become defeated and give up the ministry because of opposition. He must always go forth, looking for new fields in which to preach Christ.

Sometimes more harm comes to the gospel by staying, so we go forward in its saving power to reach to those that would believe. The Paul and Barnabus turned away and fled for the sake of the gospel. They turned to willing hearers and continued to preach the gospel.

Mt 10:23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

There are two facts that every servant of the Lord must never forget.

1)  Christ came to expose and mark the division in the earth and be crucified.

Luke 12:52—*For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.* 53*—The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*

2)  The servant of the Lord must expose and mark the division in the earth and shall suffer persecution.

Ro 16:17 ¶ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Php 3:17 ¶ Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

1. Two great ministries in the church
   1. Preaching the gospel to make disciples to build up the body of Christ
   2. Strengthening brethren in the church.

There is terrible neglect in both evangelism and strengthening the church.

How are churches made strong?

Acts 14:8—*And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:*

9*—The same heard Paul* ***speak:*** *who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,*

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

True Believers must undertake and give themselves to both tasks.

Oh that men would speak the Word of God with all authority against what is hindering.

Gen. 24:56—*And he said unto them,* ***Hinder me not****, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.*

Gal. 5:7*—Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*

2Thes. 2:7*—For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way*

Acts 14:23—*And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.* Acts 14:28—*And* ***there*** *they abode long time with the disciples.*