

Guarding our Effectiveness



I. Preacher corrects, directs, encourages & stirs up the body.

Heb. 10:24-25 (ESV) 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- A. **Resistant Audience** (Shaun sermon) Isaiah
 - 1. Placitas road to the Crest same as unbelievers now
 - 2. Navigate carefully / risk disaster (open hostility)
- B. **Believer's purpose hasn't changed** (Go ye therefore...)

Matt. 28:19 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

1. Stir up your heart that fields are ripe and ready for harvest

Matt. 9:37-38 (ESV) 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

2. We are His laborers (20% US believers attend weekly 70% seldomly)
3. Our only priority is to serve God, intentionally living for His purposes
4. 2 Main challenges faced in US not hungry & homeless but lonely & no purpose

Phil. 2:12-13 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, **for it is God who works in you, both to will** (emparts his desires in us) **and to work** (give us the strength and ability to accomplish) **for his good pleasure.**

5. **Fear & Trembling** feels like absent God, all changes with: **to will & to work in you**

II. Guarding our Effectiveness (enemy is strategically targeting / antagonizing us)

A. **Take care of kingdom & personal business**

1. Deal with your sins that make you weak, vulnerable & disqualified

Psalms 139:23-24 (NKJV) Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

2. Maintain the full armor, don't run into battle naked

B. **See others as God sees them** (not through our biased lens)

1. We tend to see unsaved as hopeless & without Godly potential
2. Culture of hostility is so opposed to God we withdraw (harden hearts)
3. Reignite our fire & love for the lost (see them as those about to be saved)

C. **Do only what you can do**

1. If called to plant (plant), if called to water (water) yield all growth to God

1 Cor. 3:7 (ESV) So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

2. Stop when the well runs dry, don't overwhelm them (we know you're excited!)

John 5:19 (ESV) 19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

3. Listen to the Holy Spirit, share what He gives you, be content to be done
 - a. Only God can change a heart (do all you can do, then yield)

Prov. 21:1 (ESV) The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

- b. Be ready in all seasons (read, listen, train) put Word in your heart

2 Tim. 4:2 (ESV) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

4. Most impactful example of Christ is your personal story.
 - a. No one can debate this away or deny the truth of your experience
 - b. If you debate another bring it to their personal foundation

D. Engage others relevantly & respectfully on a shared foundation

1 Pet. 3:15 (ESV) ...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

1. Don't argue or respond out of emotion & play into the enemy's hand
2. Don't engage in pointless nonsense (illusions end in confusion)

2 Tim. 2:23-25 (ESV) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

3. To get them passed their bias, you need to 1st get beyond yours
 - a. Become aware of personal detractors (I hog the conversation)

1 Cor. 9:22-23 (ESV) I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

- b. Be willing to go where God sends you
5. Don't give up, even if you don't see results, yield to God for growth

Gal. 6:9 (ESV) And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

***Acts 5:38-39 (ESV)** 38 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; 39 but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"