

Evangelism Tip

Lift up your eyes and look about you:

All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the arm.

Isaiah 60:4 (New International Version)

Connect Group Notes 31 Jan 2010

Ps Phil Pringle- Your Best Life -Given to God

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. (NKJV)

In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.

(Living Bible)

Christians should be THE most successful people on earth. God did not create us to fail, but to bless us in all we do. Our best life is to be found by putting God first.

- God's blessings only fall on us when He is our number one priority.
- We must commit to Him and the beginning of a new year is a perfect time to renew our commitment.
(in the Old Testament, Kings and rulers regularly asked their people to re-commit, to renew their covenant with God).
- Everything in our life needs renewal, as our commitments and priorities can become distorted. January 2010 is a great time to re-set our compass to God.

We can slip away from God because of:

1. Distraction

- Other events and relationships can distort our thinking away from placing God first.

2. God must be first

- Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac to be born and when his son arrived, he loved him with all his heart.
- Yet when God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, Abraham was obedient - immediately.
- His obedience and open-handedness with God were repaid many-fold; and Abraham became the father of many nations.
- There is a price to be paid for putting God first, but there are a million blessings that flow. Putting God first is not easy. He will ask us to give up things that are precious to us - and He will re-pay us in abundance.

3. How do we avoid slipping?

- We need to cleanse ourselves of the things that pull us off course.
- We need to commit to the basic things that will set us up with a solid foundation for our life - everyday commitment to prayer, reading the Word, tithing and attending church.

4. Discouragement

- We can slip when we get discouraged.
- David was discouraged because he had tried to do something for God and yet everything had been taken from him and his men when they returned. **1 Sam 30: 1-8**
- David had learned how to encourage himself. (Psalm 42:5; Psalm 56:4; Psalm 27: 1-5)
- God promises to restore everything to him because, despite his situation, David speaks with an encouraged attitude.
- When we speak to God with an encouraged attitude, He comes through for us with an open hand - and in ways we don't expect.

God's intention is to bring back to us everything we may have lost - or yearn for - if we can be strong in our faith and put Him first.

TALK ABOUT

- What is preventing you from putting God first?
- Are there things that are precious to you that you need to give up?
- What do you need to do to avoid your priorities slipping away from God?
- How can you position yourself - even in difficult times - to approach God with an encouraged attitude?

REPORTING <http://myc3church.net/cgi-bin/exform.pl>

Connect Leaders,

You are the best people to identify those people who would benefit from a year at **C3 College**.

Please let them know that 2010 is going to be an amazing year, we have planned incredible updated courses with full time and part time options in Leadership and Ministry (Previously SOM), Creative Ministry (Previously SCA) and a new Friday major in Pastoral Care.

Contact Lauren.Taylor@myc3church for more information – or see the training channel on

www.myc3church.net web site.

Pam Borrow

Assistant Principal C3 College