

THE HIRELING

Many Christians are frustrated with the difficulties of trying to save souls and produce increase for their church. Many new converts don't last long and leave without grasping hold of many of the great blessings that God is offering. Is there a solution?

It is a popular belief that increases in evangelism and outreaching will resolve these issues, but this is not the biggest part of the problem. Blessing and success are not measured by the numbers of baptisms a church has... no New Testament author ever recounted baptism numbers in any of their letters: however, all made references towards growth in knowledge and personal development.

It becomes clear that church growth is not associated with church activities alone, but moreso with the attitudes of the church members.

The following verses reveal the basis for a healthy church and effective Christian management.

JOH 10:11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. *Healthy Christians maintain their first love and honour their commitment to God (to preach the gospel and put God first). The 'hireling' is representative of all those who allow pressures, fears, weaknesses, laziness, scriptural ignorance, false loyalties, bad management, etc., to come between them and their calling. They shirk away from their true Christian duties when other natural priorities arise. The sheep... both old and new lose their sense of purpose and are scattered from God's service.*

The first priority for all Christians is as follows.

LUK 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. *[God doesn't want any of us to get distracted from our true purpose... MAT 28:19* Go ye therefore, and teach **all nations** *(make disciples), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe (obey) all things* whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even unto the end of the world. Amen... Witness, baptise, learn all truths.]*

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. *We all have desires additional to God's directives... God knows this and will support you, but only if you put his principles first.*

The quickest and most profitable way to prosper and find blessing for your family is as follows...

1PET 4:8 And **above all things (the greatest priority)** have **fervent charity** among yourselves: for **charity shall cover (hide from view)** the multitude of sins. *The desired result of our greatest priority is to manage the sins and shortcomings (real and imagined) of all those to whom we deal... encouragement is essential... support is essential... victory is essential... forgiveness is essential... discreetness is essential.*

9 Use **hospitality** one to another without grudging. *Friendliness and generosity should be natural practices... because we have trained ourselves in God's priorities.*

10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. *Give as God has given... this attracts people and keeps people.*

Putting the needs of others ahead of our own is the attitude that God wants us to practice.

ROM 15:1 We then that are **strong** ought to **bear the infirmities** of the **weak**, and **not to please ourselves**. *Not only are we to put people first... we are to manage their sin without a self righteous or judgemental attitude. This give people room to grow and overcome... good attitudes feed each other.*

2 Let **every one (not just some of us)** of us **please his neighbour for his good to edification**. *This means our attitudes towards fellowship, prayer, study, outreaching, forgiveness, might need to be given much greater priority than we currently have committed ourselves to.*

A good attitude will bring growth in all areas of God's domain.

EPH 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend **with all saints** what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. *Blessings and prosperity, health and happiness, growth and increase.*

20 Now unto him that is able to do **exceeding abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, *God can do more than we think possible... do we have the faith to do it his way or do we have the attitude of the hireling, who only will please himself and overlook God's commendations?*

Those with any aspects of the hireling mentality will not help God, nor will they bring the prosperity and growth that God has proclaimed. The attitude has to be right... then baptisms and other signs of external growth will occur with God's blessing and support... the church will grow and so will its numbers. You will prosper more than ever.