



Seasoning Opportunities (Continued) – Pastor Alton Trimble
Sunday, May 1, 2016

“The Irrefutable Laws of Witnessing”

MATTHEW 5:13 (NLT)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. The Law of the Imperative

A. Jesus, the great commission and the disciples of Christ.

MATTHEW 4:18-20 (NLT)

MARK 16:15 (NLT)

ACTS 1:4-8 (NLT)

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)

MARK 13:10 (NLT)

JOHN 15:16 (NLT)

B. The sent that never went.

ISAIAH 6:1-8 (NLT)

MATTHEW 9:35-38 (NLT)

JOHN 20:21 (NLT)

ROMANS 10:14-15 (NLT)

II CORINTHIANS 5:17-20 (NLT)

2. The law of Divine Evidence

- Best evidence is a good witness.

A. Your belief is evidence of your capacity to witness.

II CORINTHIANS 4:13 (NLT)

But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.”

PSALMS 107:2 (NLT)

Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

PSALMS 107:2 (NKJV)

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

JOHN 3:11 (NLT)

I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen...

II CORINTHIANS 4:13 (NLT)

But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, "I believed in God, so I spoke."

B. Remember what's at stake, life and death.

PROVERBS 14:25 (NLT)

A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is a traitor.

PROVERBS 14:25 (NKJV)

A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies.

ACTS 26:18 (NLT)

To open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.

ACTS 26:18 (NKJV)

To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

JAMES 5:20 (NLT)

You can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

C. Not experiencing Christ and not witnessing for Christ yield similar results.

EZEKIEL 3:17-19 (NLT)

"Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. ¹⁸ If I warn the wicked, saying, 'You are under the penalty of death,' but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹ If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me."

ACTS 20:26-27 (NLT)

I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, ²⁷ for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

MARK 8:38 (NLT)

If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

LUKE 12:8-9 (NLT)

“I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. ⁹ But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels.”

I CORINTHIANS 9:16 (NLT)

Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn’t preach the Good News!

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3 (NLT)

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.

JOHN 1:1-17 (NKJV) *(The gospel story)*

3. The Law of Relationship

A. Must first be in a relationship with God.

I. EXODUS 33:11-23 *God called him friend*

II. PSALMS 25:14 - *Sharing our deepest secrets is a mark of true friendship.*

(NLT)

¹⁴ *The LORD is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.*

(NKJV)

¹⁴ *The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.*

III. You will not relate well with people for God if you do not relate well with God.

B. True friendship is commitment.

PROVERBS 17:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ *A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.*

PROVERBS 17:17 (NKJV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

I SAMUEL 18:1-4 (NLT)

After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. ² From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. ³ And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. ⁴ Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

C. Watch for or eliminate hindrances to the development and maintenance of friendships.

I. Jealousy and envy turn quickly into anger and bitterness resulting in division.

I SAMUEL 18:5-13 (NKJV)

II. Unforgiveness

GENESIS 50:14-21 (NKJV)

- Forgiving can be difficult

MATTHEW 18:21-22 (NKJV)

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

MATTHEW 18:21-22 (NLT)

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!

- Be careful not to judge

LUKE 6:37 (NKJV)

"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

LUKE 6:37 (NLT)

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven."

- We are commanded to forgive.

MATTHEW 6:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ¹⁶ “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

- Unforgiveness hinders our prayers

MARK 11:25 (NLT)

²⁵ *But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.*

- Give what you’ve been given

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NKJV)

³² *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

- Forgiving has a cleansing component

I JOHN 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

III. Lack of respect and appreciation.

PSALMS 41:9 (NLT)

⁹ *Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.*

D. What if I’m having trouble making friends?

I. Everyone has seasons of loneliness.

JOB 19:19 (NKJV)

All my close friends abhor me, and those whom I love have turned against me.

JOHN 5:7 (NLT)

“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

- II. Return to letter (A). Remember our primary relationship with God.

JOHN 15:15 (NLT)

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

HEBREWS 13:5 (NLT)

⁵Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

- E. **Kindness and generosity attract, anger and selfishness repel.**

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NKJV)

³²And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- F. What do I do to maintain friendship?
1. Become a good listener, desire to understand before being understood.
 2. Practice being empathetic with friends.
 3. Relationships must be managed.
 4. Be honest and open
 5. Be proactive versus reactive.
 6. Maintain a positive attitude.