

Hints for remaining Faithful and Growing

As we begin this year, we are certain that it'll be a great year of Gospel growth. ie. seeing the gospel grow in our lives, in the lives of others and in this world. But having said this, let us be assured that it'll be a busy year and at times a tough year. Growth, if we are serious about it, always brings with it pain. When there is no pain, there is no gain. In the midst of all this, the temptation will be to give up and to take the easy way out.

So having said all this, how do we keep pushing on? How do we not only survive, and but persevere and grow? Here are a few tips from our past experience.

1. Be Proactive

- Take responsibility for your decisions and responses
- Don't blame the situation or others.
- Don't wait for something to happen, make things happen yourself!

2. Keep the end in mind

- As with anything, it is the goal that we have set before us that determines how we respond to any situation.
- These goals can be conscious or they can be unconscious. Whatever the case, it is our long term goal that determine our daily response.

3. First things first

- The practical application of these goals is what we mean by putting first things first.
- In other words, our daily decisions should reflect and be decided upon by a clear recognition of our long term goals
- This does not mean merely a matter of adding more responsibilities onto our already over crowded daily/weekly program.
- What this means is "REORGANISATION". We need to accept the fact that if we want to live by our priorities, then we have to reorganize ourselves so that our pattern of living reflects our priorities: that being, following God's plan for our individual lives.
- What things are important?
 - Bible Reading
 - Prayer
 - Meeting together
 - Loving others

It also means saying **NO** to many other things.

Often times you will be asked to do a number of different things. Before you say yes, think and pray whether you have the time and whether it will contribute to your own growth.

It is not God's desire for you to do everything that you see 'could' be done at the expense of your well being. 'Burnout' is not a godly witness. There are many good things that need doing, but ask God to give you peace about what are the **best things** for you to do according to your gifting from God.

4. Encourage each other daily

Running the race and growing in the gospel is never and was never intended to be a solo effort. Although we are responsible for our own growth, we also have a responsibility to others in the group. Therefore, remaining faithful and growing this year must be seen as a team effort. We need to keep praying, be sensitive and helpful to each other.

.....let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24,25).

5. Rely on God for the results

- Finally, we are reminded from Scripture, that while we are to take responsibility for growth, in the end it is God who brings about growth.
- It is God who will bring forth fruit both in our lives and in the lives of others.

And, it is God who will advance His gospel through this year. For this reasons, there is a quiet confidence that we can have, that is mixed with earnest prayer.