

Spiritual Multiplication

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I. Introduction.

- A. Paul, Timothy, faithful men and others is the sequence presented in 2 Timothy 2:2.
- B. Multiplication adds at a rapid pace - this is how the world was populated. This is what was likely in mind in the passage from Timothy.
- C. God holds the whole world in His heart. (John 17)
- D. Christ was not defeated in the garden, but He glorified God by completing His work.
- E. Christ's work was to make it possible that all could know Him.
- F. There was three parts to the plan: the men given to Christ, the words Christ gave to them, the sending of the men.

II. The results of the work.

- A. The gospel had come to the whole world - every creature under heaven. (Colossians 1:6, 23)
- B. Whatever is meant, great progress had been made through the gospel.
- C. Christian history also testifies to the spread of the gospel.
 - 1. Tertullian said that Christians had infiltrated every part of the Roman Empire except the heathen temples.
 - 2. Early martyrs of the faith: James, Philipp, Matthew, the other James, Matthias, Andrew, Peter, Thomas and all the early disciples except John.
- D. Whatever it did that Christ did worked. He took the men the Father gave them, gave them His words and sent them out.
- E. The disciples were in a training program that was twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week for about three and a half years.

III. The method of the work.

- A. Jesus imparted knowledge, skill and character to the disciples during this time.
 - 1. This means teaching the student how to do what one is doing and passing on the same motivation that one has. (Galatians 4:19)
- B. Paul dealt with the men one by one. (1 Thessalonians 2:11)
 - 1. The needs of each individual Christian are different.

2. This requires individual attention.
3. The most well developed Christians are more often than not ones who have been given individual attention.
4. You can determine the importance of a task by the amount of personal individual attention it takes to get the job done. The task of developing Christians is the most important task.
5. It is not more widely practiced because it is hard work and one is required to expose himself in regards to his own spiritual development.
6. You cannot really find out what is in a person's heart without individual contact and development.

C. The key is spending time with men individually teaching them about prayer, Bible study and evangelism one by one.

IV. Conclusion.

- A. Only Christ knew how much time he would have. With a limited amount of time He selected the plan that would not fail.
- B. Knowledge, skill and character were key in the curriculum.
- C. It can work just as well today as it did then.

Application questions.

1. What is the method that the speaker claims Jesus employed for reaching the world?

2. How did this method show itself to be effective early on? Have you seen it have success in the present era?

3. Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, used to press his disciples: "Where is your man?" Where is the person you are investing in? What will you do to either initiate this process or engage it in a better way?
