

Heart-to-Heart Sharing

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I. Introduction.

- A. Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, had a destiny born out of the promises of God.
- B. These promises were born out of deep prayer and struggle.
- C. Text: Isaiah 54:1-3.

II. The fruitless person can believe in faith that God will do something.

- A. The speaker believes that God will enable his ministry to reach every nation in a decade.
- B. This would have to be a work of God.

III. You have to lengthen and strengthen. (1 Timothy 1:18-19)

- A. We are to remember that God called us to a task and the time that He did it.
 - 1. We are to be inspired by this call.
 - 2. If you are unsure about your call, you need to get this settled. This is for assurance in the battle.
- B. We are to remember that God equipped us. (1 Corinthians 2:13)
- C. We have to join the battle.
 - 1. This is a lifelong campaign. (Psalm 92:14)
 - a. This means that we need to be fruitful our entire lives.
 - b. There are not many that last till the very end.
- D. We have to hold faith in good conscience.
 - 1. These two interrelate. (Acts 24:16)
 - 2. A good conscience is having the inner freedom of spirit and assurance from knowing that you have a transparency toward everyone and no one is able to point a finger toward you concerning wrongs you have done that have not gone unaddressed.
 - 3. Some not maintaining a good conscience have made shipwreck of their faith.
 - 4. If you do not practice what you believe, another is led to believe untruth. We bear guilt because of it.

- a. We choose what to believe.
- b. We must surrender and be obedient to what we believe.(Romans 1:18)

5. We must pay close attention to our faith so we do not drift away. (Hebrews 2:18)

6. The bad conscience makes a man weary, confuses him and hardens the heart. (Hebrews 3:13)

7. How we do this.

- a. It takes time.
- b. We need mortification and aspiration.
- c. What needs to be put off? What needs to be put on in our lives?

IV. Gaining a clear conscience. (Romans 8:13)

A. We seek a daily repentance before God and man and daily say no to temptations.

B. Holiness of life is not an acquired state - it is a condition we maintain daily.

C. It is what God thinks of our lives - not us - that really matters. (Isaiah 6)

1. God is a great teacher and he deals with us with the issues he wants us to work on.

2. We ought to be preoccupied with Him over what we need to fix.

3. When we are preoccupied with Him, He gives us the right “checklists” in order to maintain a clean conscience. (Exodus 20, Psalm 15, Romans 12, Colossians 3)

D. Some consciences may be overly sensitive. They must ask the Lord if there is something wrong that He will bring it to their attention.

Application questions

1. What is the relationship between a good conscience and faith?

2. What are some of the things that the speaker described as being in good conscience? Where did he get these from? What is the solution to an overly sensitive conscience?

3. How does a good conscience relate to the ministry? What are you doing or what will you do to make sure you are accountable and in good conscience before God and man?
