

Love, Pray, Serve

Jerry White

I. Introduction.

II. The job as executive director.

III. Testimony.

A. From Garden City, Iowa.

B. Parents divorced at an early age.

C. Moved to Spokane, Washington where he heard the gospel.

1. Had to make a decision whether to live with one foot in the world or not.
2. The speaker was very reluctant to identify himself with Christ in spite of being surrounded by radical questions.
3. He decided to carry his Bible around at high school and it made him conscious of his need to identify with Jesus. He became very involved in Youth for Christ.
4. Nevertheless, he did not know the Scriptures.

D. College.

1. Encountered Ron who knew how to make the Word of God practical.
 - a. This began the process of Scripture memory and Bible study.

E. Marriage.

F. The Air Force.

1. Got involved with another couple who knew how to do Bible study.
2. God sent them to Patrick Air Force Base in Florida.
 - a. Became a mission controller in the Space program.
 - b. He was prepared to leave, but God did not make them comfortable with it.
 - c. Was working hard and neglecting his family.
3. The speaker and his wife prayed about going into the Academy to be used there.
 - a. They applied to the Academy but never heard back.

b. Was asked to speak about being a junior officer and they learned about the application.

c. He gave his speech and God opened the door for teaching in the Academy.

G. Full-time ministry.

1. In 1973 he left the Air Force to go into full time ministry.

2. God proved his faithfulness to him and his family.

IV. The Word. (1 Peter 4:7-9)

A. Introduction.

1. We never know what is going to happen—things are always changing.

2. What do you do when you know that the end of things is at hand?

B. Be of sound mind and sober judgment for the purpose of prayer.

1. Sound judgment.

a. To be in one's right mind; to be calm.

b. Today we are over concerned with emotionalism.

c. When God is working in our lives, we are not always going to look good.

2. Sober spirit.

a. Our demeanor is not to be frivolous.

b. We are to realize that God has a purpose for all of our lives.

3. Purpose.

a. Prayer.

1) Personal example of praying for someone for fifteen years.

2) Success can only come through prayer.

C. Above all keep fervent in your love for one another.

1. One of the most difficult things to do.

2. Fervent.

a. The word can be used to describe the tense muscles of a runner ready to spring into action.

b. The highest quality.

3. Love covers a multitude of sins.

a. Hate pries in people's lives to uncover sin.

b. Love is blind—it ignores many of the faults.

4. The love of an open home.

a. Hospitality is not when you invite someone in an organized fashion—that is entertainment.

b. Hospitality shares the same root as hospital—it is when people are hurting and need help.

c. Practice hospitality, so that outsiders can observe a Christian family.
(Romans 12:13)

D. Employ the gifts in serving one another.

1. Everyone has been given a gift.

2. God expects you to use it in order to serve one another.

a. The example of a teacher's love.

b. Every ministry is valid and every ministry has its fruit.

3. Find someone to minister to—the world is still in need.

4. If you are available and teachable, God will use your life.

Application questions.

1. What is the consequence of living without sound mind and judgment? What do these virtues look like?

2. Why does the Apostle call his readers to love above all? How does this relate to hospitality? How can you open up your home in a way that can minister to others?

3. Who is in your immediate context that needs to be loved? How can you use your gifts to fill that need?
