

Spiritual Multiplication

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I. Introduction.

- A. The basis: John 17.
- B. God holds the whole world in His heart.
- C. Christ was not defeated in the garden, but He glorified God by completing His work.
- D. Christ's work was to make it possible that all could know Him.

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. John may have not been so emphatic about the Great Commission because it may have already been accomplished.
 - 3. A group of men had turned the world upside down. (Acts 17:6)

III. What was completed.

- A. Christ was not talking about the atonement.
- B. Three key phrases: the men given to Christ, the words Christ gave to them, the sending of the men.
- C. Early martyrs of the faith: James, Philipp, the other James, Matthias, Andrew, Peter and all the early disciples except John.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
 - 2. God satisfies the hungry soul and fills it with goodness. Only God can do this. (Psalm 107:9)

3. God is no respecter of persons - He wants to do for everyone else in the world what He has done for the Christian.

IV. Present principles

A. Dawson Trotman believed that the reason that Christians had not accomplished the Great Commission was because they had not discovered the Biblical method of finding the right kind of person to get the job done.

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.

C. The key is spending time with men teaching them about prayer, Bible study and evangelism one by one - the principles Jesus employed are the same today.

D. It is easy to find people who know less about the Christian life than one does - these should become a project for multiplication. One simply needs to get started.

E. It is too late to add Christians - they must be multiplied.

F. God selected a method through Jesus that did not fail. We all have the ability to impart knowledge, skill and character for spiritual multiplication.

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?
