

Evaluation with Humility and Courageously Improve

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1). Evaluation on Importance of Holy Work:

The message given by John the Baptism was full of power; leading many confess their sins and repent. The main reason was because everyone knew the dreadfulness of their sins; that if they did not repent right away, great and unbearable disasters will come upon them. Therefore, they came to receive the baptism of repentance.

In order for today's church to revive, it must start with God's servants emphasizing on repentance. If we can not realize what our own lacking, we will not feel a need for improvement; this is a very serious matter.

A servant who knows how to repent knows the importance of evaluation during execution of holy works. Without evaluation, it is just as dangerous as a blind man walking.

Evaluation is a new beginning to improvement. Evaluation with humility and a heart to improve will surely receive help from God.

2). Measurable Standard for Evaluation

A holy worker must understand the areas of improvement in holy works. So there must be a measurable standard, or else it is hard to know the mistakes made.

There was once an architect, who did not feel he has sin, therefore did not feel the need for salvation. Our pastor invited him to a drawing test and he candidly agreed. He took up the pen and drew a rather straight line on the paper. Then the pastor took up a ruler and drew a straight line with it. The architect immediately contested to the pastor that how he could draw a line with the ruler? The pastor let him know that the ruler was simply a standard. Once you use the ruler to measure the lines, you know which one is the most straight. Likewise, to know whether men have sin or not, all we need to do is compare with the bible.

The master of the fig tree knows how to measure its goodness by the fruits the tree bears (Luke 13:6)

In the same manner how would we measure whether we have reached certain standards in our lines of holy works? It is by having a measurable goal.

Let us take a pastor in training for example: The respective training department in charge will let the pastor in training know what their training goals are. This requires them to come up with an execution plan for training according to their goal; then execute the work according to the plan. The pastor in training are required to present work reports every month, and training department in charge will evaluate the progress of the students according to their training goals. Then point out points of improvement for the pastor in training. Every holy work will often go through periodic evaluation. However, in order to have an effective evaluation, there must be a

measurable standard. In this way, evaluation will not become a formality, and we can face both God and men.

III. There Should Be Goal in Servitude

There must be clear goals in servitude. Just as Paul said, *“Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.”* (1 Corinthians 9:26) If there are no goals in servitude, we cannot see a future and will easily lose direction. Many pioneering areas have failed to set goals in the long run; hence they have not been able to be sure of the right time for independence. There are pioneering areas have over sixty years of history. The development team which later took charge of this project constantly repented in their prayers. They set a five year plan for organization, training, and strengthening of literary ministry. Because they developed a goal and direction, they slowly got rid of their weakness and became independent.

We ask the Lord to let us see the goals to achieve in holy works in the next 5 to 10 years. We will know where we should start and how to work toward the goal. We may discover different doable methods; however, at this moment we need to decide carefully which methods is most effective and economic. That is the way. Once we have a way, there is direction to our work; we will obtain the goal according to faith.

IV. Prayer in Lack of Evaluation is in Vain

Although we often do evaluation on holy works, we must ask with what standard are we evaluating holy works? If without any evaluation standards, how would we know the effectiveness of the work? How do we require ourselves?

Many people have lost faith to the classes of seminars after having attended many of it. After hearing all the encouragements, they thought as long as they pray earnestly and read bible, the church will prosper. After the seminars, many will rebuke themselves for not praying enough. However the fact is that there is no goal and clear plan in servitude. Some may feel setting goals or developing plan is un-spiritual; in truth it is neglecting teachings of the bible: *‘How could you fight to beat the air?’* *“Shouldn’t you make a plan before building a house?”* If man neglects the teachings of the bible, how then can our prayers be heard by God? We ask God to grant us wisdom, to know the goal for planning is the teaching of the bible. When we carry out these teachings, we will know God’s words are true and effective.

V. Religion cannot Have Extremities

We cannot say that there does not need to be no any goal, plan or methods for holy works and simply pray and ask God to move His works. This is wrong. However, we cannot only stress on goal, plan, methods and neglect a heart of reliance on God. This is also wrong. Extreme ideas are not according to God’s will.

To communicate with God is obtaining spiritual wisdom; utilize it in our lives and experience the effectiveness and liveliness of God’s words. When no good results are produced from the works we do, we must think whether there was any difficulty? Human interference? Or rejecting God’s grace intentionally? If so, God will not give us a hard time and will not require an outstanding performance. However, if we still

fail to bear any fruits/results, we are unfaithful toward God. Therefore, only when we evaluate ourselves in humility and improve courageously can we expect God to work with us.

Conclusion:

We should often pray for the development of holy works; ask God to grant us wisdom, so we may set a clear goal out of reverence. Then with an executable plan, always have periodic evaluation to improve constantly and let our servitudes both glorify God and edify men.