

Be Professional, Respectful, and Cheerful to the Work

(the first part)

Written by En-Che Chang

I. Be Professional

“It is better to teach your children a skill than giving them a great sum of money.”

It is indeed very important to have a skill; however, in this era filled with knowledge, many shall run to and fro, study hardly, and earn money and gain the benefit. Not only labor, the brain storming is demanded to satisfy the masses to unceasingly be creative.

“Until the time of the end, many shall run to and fro, and knowledge will increase.”

(Dan 12:4) “Coco cola”, “McDonald”, “Kentucky”, the extremely famous brand, also established their unique brand and market over the world by city and city, land by land with great profit. The “brand” represents “the guarantee of the quality” which means “profession”. And it is the priority and direction of the consumption.

*** Lord Jesus established His own brand**

In fact, when Jesus came to this world, He had established His own brand. He said

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (Jn 14:6) We can only rely on Jesus to be saved. It will be a wrong way and dead end to rely on the law, deed, righteousness, and money.

How to establish a brand? He can satisfy the demand of all. In that time, the medical techniques fell behind; people were commonly in poverty; the citizen were hardly to gain food, and they somehow straggled with illness and had no way to call for. The Lord saw it, hence He performed miracle to fill their hunger; He healed the sick and cast out the demon; He performed the miracle to solve the problem. Yet His utmost purpose is to spread the gospel of heaven, the way of eternal life to the people.

It is only several decades for man to live in this world. It is meaningless if we gain the whole world and lose our life. Money cannot exchange with life. Only to receive the eternal life and eternal joy is a blessing. Before speaking to the “eternal life” of future which is unseen by eyes, we need to solve the practical problem of man, so that they may be convinced and understood that men are only passengers in this world and eventually will return to heavenly home someday. By this thought they are able to endure the tiresomeness and labor of reality and to earnestly desire, hope, and pursue the eternal joy.

The discrepant result of the beggar and the rich man recorded in Lk 16:19-24 is worthwhile for us to ponder upon. Lazarus was a beggar throughout his life and had no place to live with; pitifully he had sores and been in illness. After he died, he was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom. Yet the rich man fared sumptuously every day and enjoyed the splendor all his life. After he died, he suffered in hell and was unable to attain even the dip of water on his tongue. Which kind of life described above do you want?

So to perform bread, to heal, to perform miracle is only a “process”, “mean” of the previous process of the goal of spreading the gospel. The utmost goal is to lead people to receive the eternal joy.

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ... Because the foolish of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1Cor 1:22-25)

Paul succeeded Jesus with the work of salvation in the world to lead man come to the Lord. He relied on the power of God to perform the miracle and spoke about wisdom to the Greek who was asking for wisdom. He performed the miracles for those Jews who were asking for miracles. Yet His goal is to proclaim Jesus’ crucifixion of salvation. If the Lord did not fulfill the salvation, men were unable to remove the sin, and then they are unable to enter the love of God. As an orphan without parents, they are anxious, lost, have no reliance, lonely, in pain, and helpless. However, the crucifixion of the Lord and salvation of rising from the death brought us a great hope. This must be received by faith. When you believe, you will experience it on the faith.

The belief requires faith, not as science emphasized on experiment and the process from doubt into proof and analogy. The Lord said “as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” “Your faith has made you well.” Miracle establishes the faith of all and further proves that God became flesh and came to the world. If it is not so, this would not had been fulfilled. Yet some people only focus on eating, drinking, and wonton in this world, and before comprehending for eternity they departed from the Lord. Yet only Peter had the wisdom to know that Jesus was the son of living God. (Jn 6:26-27)

“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you also want to go away?’ But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the word of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that you are the Christ, the son of the living God.’” (Jn 6:66-69; refer to Mk 1:36-38)

When the Lord spread the gospel, He first understood the need of man – Then he filled their need by miracles, healing, and casting out demon – to bring up faith in their hearts – and eventually bring them into the utmost goal ~ “Pursuing the eternal life”. He came for preaching the word. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:13)

*** A good example**

Mk 1: 29-35 After the Lord kept the Sabbath, he found that Peter’s mother-in-law who had never been absent did not appear. Out of care, He led the disciples head off to her house right away after the service. Later on Peter’s mother-in-law was found lay sick with fever. Jesus came – took her by the hand – lifted her up – And immediately the fever left her. And she served them. – As a result, the whole city was gathered together at the door. Those who were sick and demon possessed came to be healed by Jesus – Jesus healed the sick, cast out the demon to fulfill every one’s need. He must have been very busy until mid-night.

“Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.” (Mk 1:35)

The Lord truly knew that the labor of whole day requires deeply prayer to once again receive the power from the Father in Heaven to face with the challenge of another day. Despite working until midnight yesterday, He still went to a quiet wildness to closely communicate with Heavenly Father in the very morning of the other day before the sun rises.

Thus a good shepherd would care for the situation of the sheep in any time. Whoever sick, weak in body or soul, and cannot rise up, He would at once go and care and counsel them by the actual understanding. He acted with love by “coming”, “taking by the hands”, and “lifting up” to help them. After the work, He focused more on spiritual cultivation to communicate with God in quietness to acquire power.

*** Lord Jesus entrusted the patent to the disciples**

The utmost goal for the Lord to come to the world was to spread the gospel~ To preach the way of salvation and to proclaim how people can come to the Father through Him to bring man in the front of God. During that time, He performed the signs and healed the sick. To give man peace in body is only the “process” which proved that He has power and came from God. For continuing the holy work, before resurrection, solemnly He entrusted to the disciples all the “patent” and “brand” given by God- giving the Holy Spirit, forgiving sin, being close to God, and to enjoy the eternal life.

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you!’ As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’” (Jn 20:21-22)

To receive the Holy Spirit is the proof of being sent to preach the word. It is the contract and a potent certificate between God and man to lead us into the mystery of truth. Thus we called it “the Spirit of truth”. (Jn 16:13)

*** The misleading of other denomination (Part 1): “We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe. (Eph 1:13)**

Although many of other denominations nowadays spread about Jesus, they do not have the abidance of the Holy Spirit as the proof. How can they bring man to the Lord without being sent? *“And how shall they preach unless they are sent? ...” (Rom 10:15)* They used the verse *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”(Eph 1:13)* to mislead the believers that “We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe.” Actually it is only quoting out of the context of the Bible.

In this verse, it clearly states that there is prerequisite to receive the Holy Spirit ~ To hear “the word of truth. If the word preached is not “the word of truth”, even they believe in Jesus, they cannot receive the Holy Spirit. In addition, the background when Paul wrote the letters to Ephesians Church is as follows:

“... that Paul... came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples, he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard

whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.” (Acts 19:1-6)

Paul clearly described the salvation of the Lord. John the baptism said that he only baptized by the water and prepared the way for the Lord. Jesus, the One who sent by the Holy Spirit, comes after him baptized by the Holy Spirit. (Jn 1:19-35; Mk 1:8)

*** The misleading of other denomination (Part 2): “Only recognize Jesus and believe Him in heart will be saved”**

The verse they quoted “*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*” (Rom 10:9-10) has its background: During that time, if the Jews believed in Jesus, they will be harshly persecuted and rigidly murdered by the Roman government or the Jewish people, because they were deemed as man betraying their ancestor and family, hence, their sins could not be forgiven.

Just as in the early stage of Taiwan Society, those who believed in Jesus would be attacked by all and received various persecutions and insults by families, neighbors, relatives, rulers to be prevented in believing.

The above verses are based on special situation and background. But to be saved and reborn, which is being baptized, must rely on water, the precious blood of the Lord and the testimony of the Holy Spirit, the sin can be forgiven. In John Chapter 3, the Lord talked about rebirth with Nicodemus. The truth was explained very clearly.

The baptism in our church has effect of sin forgiven through the water, the precious blood of the Lord, and the testimony of the Holy Spirit. ~ This is a “patent”. Therefore, to discern for the true or false gospel, we will see it when we examine whether there is the seal of the “Holy Spirit”.

However, due to the high price of the brand, a lot of people sold the fakes which are mostly identical with the right product for gaining more benefit. After being bewildered, people can only recognize himself unlucky and throw the fake away in anger. Yet faith is about the eternity and salvation of spirituality. Shall we not to discern it carefully?

After receiving the patent, how do we sell out the gospel?

1. Faith

1) Have faith in our church

Our church was sent by the Holy Spirit and possesses the patent which has the proof of the abidance of the Holy Spirit. No one can go to the Father without passing through the way of the Lord. Since we are the church promised as recorded in the Bible and established by the Holy Spirit before the Lord’s coming in the end day, we will have the truth and miracle to display the power of God, and our baptism and sin forgiving are effective.

2) Have faith in Jesus

“for I know whom I have believed” (2 Tim 1:12) For the content of the gospel, we shall not only acknowledge, but also being skillful, steadfast, and persistence. We shall not be moved, even though facing with suffering, insult, judgment, threatens, enticement. *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith.”* (Rom 1:16-17)

3) Have faith on the truth of reborn

When Nicodemus saw the miracles performed by the Lord, he deeply believed that He was from God; since without the abidance of God, no one can do so. Thus he believed that *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”* (Jn 3:2-14) He realized that only relying on the renewing of the Holy Spirit, the heart and thought of men can be transformed and lived out a new being with God’s image. *“Then Peter said to them, repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 2:38-39; refer to Tit 3:5-6)

Sum up, we need to establish our faith ~ have faith on ourselves, on the Lord, on reborn, and on the future to strive forward to spread the gospel~ *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...”* (Mt 28:19) to fulfill the mission entrusted by the Lord.

2. Skill

We are to promote our products based on the understanding of the demand of the people and to fulfill their needs. Except advertisement, we can provide the demo skillfully for them to experience it and promote the effect.

For example, the Lord discussed the truth with the Samaritan woman. (Jn 4:1-30)

1) First of all, the Lord asked for the water and then skillfully turned the topic into the spiritual living water. He, as a Jewish and single person, asked for water to the Samaritan woman who was despised by all to draw her curiosity to continue the event.

2) In the conversation, the Lord pointed out a shameful and personal issue ~ she had 5 husbands who did not belong to her. The woman was surprised that there is nothing can be hid to Him. She deeply believed that He was the Messiah.

3) Looking into the emptiness, thirst, loneliness of the inner of the woman (therefore she had five husbands who did not belong to her.) The Lord talked with her the way of eternity and the fountain of living water to fulfill her heart. As expected, she left her water pot and went her way to city to proclaim the Lord after she received the truth.

4) As a result, the truth of the Lord has been spread, *“And many more believed because of his own word. Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”* (Jn 4:39-42) We shall also be cautious not to build up our faith upon man, since man have errors and weakness. By establishing our faith on the solid Rock of the Lord, we will be able to stand on the test.

The techniques of the evangelism mentioned above starts from the materials in daily life and the care of the body, disaster, and illness. Then skillfully it turned to the layer of everlasting life of the soul. After all, the flesh only can be carried for decades and it eventually perished; only the spiritual life can live forever. Although encountering the trials, aging, illness, and death in reality, the light affliction, which is but for a moment, will be despised, once the truth is confirmed, the everlasting and immortal heavenly inheritance will be joyfully hoped.

- * We need to accompany and follow up the truth seekers, so after gradually seeing the truth he/she may want to be baptized.
- * To have evangelical training for the believers.