INTENTIONAL TRANSFER OF FAITH

SERIES BREAK

WORD

But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Matthew 13:23
(Read also Matthew 13:1-8 and Matthew 13:18-23)

SPARKS

- Have you ever experienced rescuing someone from a strong earthquake or from drowning? Even though you needed to save yourself, you still chose to help.
- Do you remember the time when you repented and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior? How old were you at that time?
- When was the last time you shared about Jesus with others and led them to repent and pray for salvation?

According to the Center for Study of Global Christianity in Gordon Cornwell Seminary, by 2050 there will be fewer Christians than Muslims for the first time in history. On the other hand, in South Korea, 40 years ago there were only 2% Christians until there was a great revival and it went up to have 33% Christians in their country(www.gospealcoalition.org). Today, it is estimated there will be 1.7% Christians only for the next generation. Christianity is shrinking. We need to do something to disrupt this trend. We have to intentionally transfer our faith to others.

The good news is that according to the Global Study by the International Bible Society, 83% of all christians make their commitment to Jesus Christ between ages 4-14 years old. In Matthew 13:23, Jesus told the crowd about the Parable of the sower, it talks about the seed and the good soil. The word of God is the seed, and the good soil is the heart of man. Based on the study of the International Bible Society, we can see in that survey, the age where most people get saved and radically transformed their lives are ages 4-14, and we can consider it as the good soil. Let us offer our life to God as an instrument to be used to reach the next generation for Jesus.

There are three ‘S’s that play an important role in the Intentional Transfer of Faith: the Sower, the Soil, and the Support. Let us take a closer look at each one and understand their role in passing on our faith to the next generation.

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1. SOWER

Matthew 13:3-8
'A farmer went out to sow his seeds. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no roots. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seeds fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

1

There must be a "sower" to make the "intentional transfer of faith" take place. The Sower or the farmer is Jesus by himself or by his ministers, or anyone who shares the word of God. They are followers of Christ or called Christians who intentionally transfer their faith in Jesus to others so that everyone will be saved, will not perish and be reconciled to God. The seed is the word of God. (the message about the Kingdom of God, about the gospel of Christ). Have you ever shared the gospel to others? What was the result? If you have not shared the redeeming love of Jesus to your friends and family, pray that God will put that desire in your heart to share to others and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you so you will have courage and boldness to share the word of God.

2. SOIL

Matthew 13:23
'But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

2

The good soil represents the heart of man with a character of full surrendered life and trust God the moment they hear the word of God. Life is transformed and no cares of life/trials can hinder the fruitfulness and growth of this person to become matured spiritually. Compromises and hypocrisy have no place in the heart of this person. Instead, this person consistently holds on to God's word, living in obedience and service to others for the furtherance of God's kingdom. Based on the Global Study by the International Bible Society, we can consider the good soil is the heart of the next generation ages 4-14 where most people get saved and radically transform their lives. Do you have a child/children aged 4-14? Sow the seed to their heart, plant the word of God in their young heart and lead them to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Or do you know parents who have children of this age? Invite them to our church and let their kids join the Kids church so our teachers can sow the seed in their heart.

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3. SUPPORT

Psalm 71:17-18

Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.

In his old age, David experienced physical weakness, yet he prayed to God not to let him die. He wanted to live long enough to declare God's love and power—which had rescued him from danger many times—to the younger people and the next generation. In the process of intentional transfer of faith there must be a "support". Let our ultimate business be to declare God's goodness in our life for God's glory and for the good of others, especially the younger generation. Let us align our hearts to God just like David. In Proverbs 3:27 it says, "do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act". It means do not delay to do good to those who need help when you are able and have the resources. The next generation need help and there are practical ways to support the youth in our community. You can support them by praying for them, give them a ride to join a youth fellowship, volunteer to assist in teaching, give financial support when an opportunity arises, and send them to a convention or mission trip. What is God calling you to do now? How can you support reaching the young generation for Christ? What's holding you back, and how will you get going.

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LIVE IT!

- It's time to share Jesus to others (you can use New Book as your reference and guide)
- Volunteer to assist in teaching kids in Sunday school.
- Invite and bring those youth you know to church and encourage them to join a youth group. If you are a parent, bring them to youth fellowship.
- Let Prov 3:27 come alive in your life. Pray, help and support the next generation.

PRAYER

- Thank God for sending Jesus Christ to save us and give us eternal life.
- Ask God to give us strength, wisdom, and intentionality in passing the baton of faith to the next generation.
- Ask God for forgiveness for the times we have been passive, complacent, or neglectful in sharing our faith.
- Pray that the next generation will develop a genuine and personal relationship with Jesus.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to empower us to live out our calling with faithfulness, boldness, and love.

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