

Lasting Results — Part 2 Introduction

Warning! I've realized something: whenever God's Word is taught, Satan immediately comes to try and steal what has been sown in our hearts.

Mark 4:15 (RSV)

"And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown; when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which is sown in them."

- I've been teaching on the desire to change and grow.
- The kingdom of darkness will do everything possible to discourage us from this desire.
- If they can't reach you directly, they will come against your family and those closest to you.
- The enemy will use circumstances, people, and even character flaws in others.
- So, if you've noticed attacks around this subject (or any teaching), **we must respond**.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (RSV)

"For though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

- We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle.
- We are to take every thought captive — making it personal.
- It doesn't say God will do this for us.
- We cannot be silent.
- **We are responsible** for controlling our thoughts and our words.
- If we don't control them, **who will?**
- We must guard ourselves from discouraging thoughts.

Lasting Results — Part 2: Reviewing Part 1

When I was born again, God put a huge desire in me — a desire to **change and grow**.

That is still my prayer today: that this same desire in me will be **transferred** to everyone who hears this teaching.

I believe there's a key difference between **change** and **growth**:

- People can decide to change today... and stop tomorrow — with **no real growth**.
- But growth is lasting. Growth continues.

I also shared that **God has desires**.

Here's one of them:

1 Timothy 2:4 (RSV)

"Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

God desires to use **His children** to advance His kingdom — bringing about **lasting results** (not just results for a week or a month).

When lost people get saved, that's kingdom advancement.

And we have been **sent** — which means God is looking for lasting fruit through us.

Romans 10:14-15 (RSV)

"But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent?"

Mark 9:7 (RSV)

"This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

Mark 16:15 (RSV)

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation."

John 17:18 (KJV)

"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

We are **all preachers** — whether we realize it or not.

(Not just the leaders standing in front of a congregation.)

And here's what we are to preach — and it can be shared in **under 30 seconds**:

- Jesus came into the world
- Crucified
- Died
- Buried
- Raised on the third day
- Salvation is now available for all who believe

And don't forget: part of this good news is the **baptism in the Holy Spirit** — with the evidence of **speaking in tongues**.

Remember, we are looking for **lasting results**.

Lasting Results — Part 2 (Let's Continue)

It is **not wise** to send people out unprepared.
Lost people need our help — but we must be **ready** to handle it.

And the number one thing that will stop us?
Discouragement.

Let's look at this word:

- **Preparation** (Dictionary): *the action or process of making something ready for use or service.*
- **Ready** (Dictionary): *prepared for immediate use; prepared mentally or physically for some experience or action.*

If we are discouraged in our thought life, we will **not** be ready for immediate use.

1 Peter 3:15 (RSV)

"Always be prepared (#2092 ready) to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and reverence."

In those three testimonies I shared, I had to be **prepared** — and I was. No guessing.

Take Leslie's situation:

- She needed to leave by **1:40 pm** — and when she looked, it was **1:11 pm**.
- That was **not** the time to go study; she had to be ready **on the spot**.

Remember: we are looking for **lasting results**.

In Leslie's testimony, she was prepared **before** she called the Lutheran teacher.
She stepped **out of her comfort zone** because of the opposition the teacher gave to her son Zachery about speaking in tongues:

"You cannot do that; you can only speak in English; you cannot speak what you do not understand."

But that thinking was wrong.

Leslie demonstrated the character of our Master — a good example for us to follow:

Colossians 4:6 (RSV)

"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one."

2 Timothy 2:24-25 (AMP)

"And the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, mild-tempered... patient and forbearing and willing to suffer wrong. He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth."

All of this takes a certain amount of **preparation**.

Remember: we are aiming for **lasting results**.

One thing that will hinder our results?

Discouragement.

Notice this sequence:

1. **Preparation** comes through proper training (and this takes time).
2. Proper training leads to **effective evangelism**.

(Mark 16:15)

3. Effective evangelism comes through **effective and accurate teaching**.
 4. And effective, accurate teaching brings **excellent results**.
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Effective results need to show up in several areas (and there are even more):

- **Teaching truthfully** to avoid cults and help people come to the knowledge of truth.

(1 Timothy 2:4 — salvation and real change)

- Helping believers become **practicing disciples** (so they **grow**).
- Teaching on **water baptism** (Why is immediate baptism important?)
- Teaching on the **Lord's Supper** (which brings strength, health, and long life).
- Teaching on the **baptism in the Holy Spirit**.
- Teaching on **speaking in tongues**.

Some think or have been taught that tongues are *not* for everyone.

But when we rightly divide the Scriptures, there's no problem:

2 Timothy 2:15

"Rightly dividing the word of truth."

There is a definite need for **proper instruction** here.

And remember: we are looking for **lasting results**.

Sometimes we think evangelism is only **out there** somewhere.
But look at this:

- **Evangelism** (Dictionary): *the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ.*

So effective evangelism needs to take place **with our own children and grandchildren** first.

It would be wise to evangelize the *inner areas* of our children and grandchildren — to prevent future regret.

Because again: we are after **lasting results**.

Let me say it plainly:

We are talking about a **desire to change and grow** — so that we produce **lasting fruit**.

God is looking for lasting results.

And in our lives, we all want results in many areas:

- Our **children and grandchildren** (we want them to behave well).

1 Timothy 3:14-15 (RSV)

"So that you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God."

- Our **finances** (we want to be free from debt).
- Our **restaurants** (we want good food, great service, reasonable prices).
- Our **dinners** (we want healthy meals that taste good).
- Our **home repairs** (we want things that function well).
- Our **plants** (we want them to grow).
- Our **church services** (we want the power of God — no compromise, no strife, but comfort, hope, and needs met).

And God?

God desires His kingdom to **advance**.

When people get saved, His kingdom advances — and that's the lasting result we're after.

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