ALLIANCE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FIELD ED. SUMMER 2021

CASE STUDY: OVER-ZELOUSNESS, IN KINGDOM WORK

CURRENT FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE WHILE WITNESSING/EVANGELIZING

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ABSTRACT

Over-zelousness can easily become an uncomfortable state of mind, because it can leave us in a spiritual emotional unrest state whether for a moment, or for a long-term period. If it is addressed, acknowledged, and worked on, in a timely manner, then it should be short term situation, if there are no underlying emotional issues involved. However, if this issue is overlooked for a long period of time, then this can lead to maladaptive behaviors. For example, the Meriam Webster defines Overzealous as "too much zeal" "excessively eager" and "enthusiastic." this paper represents an experience I had on 06/15/2021 while on the Mission Field evangelizing, and felt spiritually distraught when I reached home, because I felt that I had missed an opportunity to lead a group of people to the Lord. I felt fine in the field, however, later that evening at home, I felt that I missed 'this big opportunity.' This paper also represents how I encouraged myself in the Lord in the end.

INTRODUCTION

Although this experience in the field was short lived, and although I ultimately encouraged myself in the Lord (1st. Sam. 30: 6). I cannot help but wonder to myself how easy it is for our minds to resort to the 'flesh' and to have our emotions leading us. For example, in the scripture 1st. Corinthians 3:6-9 where Paul admonished he Church of Corinth that as children of God, that they were all labourers with God. For example, Paul states:

> 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he
> that watereth ; but God that giveth the increase.
> 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are
> God's husbandry, ye are God's building. (KJV)

BACKGROUND

I am currently enrolled in the Alternative section of the Summer 2021 Field Ed. Program. I am an ordained pastor, a social worker and a psychotherapist. I am currently retired from a college in New York City (since April 2021). I served 15 years in the capacity of full- time faculty as a psychology instructor.

I currently serve as the pastor, president and CEO of the Hope For The Helpless Outreach Christian Ministries; and the Hope Psychotherapy & Consulting Services where psychotherapy and Christian counseling is provided. In this aspect of the ministries, I integrate Christian Theology with psychology. I provide my psychotherapy and Christian Counseling program on a Pro bono basis. I conduct a Zoom fellowship program on Thursdays, where I teach spiritual disciplines; I also host a program via phone conference where I follow up with converts that I have led to the Lord, in my evangelistic efforts, and with people who have been walking with the Lord already, but choose to join in.

I have based my ministries on three holy scriptures. 1. James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this; to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions'……

2. Luke 14:18; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent me to heal the broken hearted"…… and scripture # 3

Micah 6:8:

He hath shewed thee, o man, what is good.
And what doth the Lord require of thee?
But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk
humbly with your God

CASE PRESENTATION

This experience took place on one of my usual days per week, evangelizing in the mission field. I**n** one of my efforts, I encountered with a group of four. This group consisted of two adult females, and two late-teens also females. This experience took place in a factory outlet, The Crossings in Pennsylvania. This

was a wonderful day, in terms of the weather, and a spiritually productive in terms of meeting subjects. I saw these four people standing in a group, and I crossed over, introduced myself, after my verbal greeting to them. I asked each of the adults if I could interest them, in **something to** read. In unison, they responded "Yes we would like something to read. I gave them all a track. I then, in turn asked the two teenagers the same question asked the two adults. They both said "yes!" **I** then gave them two tracks also. One of the adults shared with me that the two young ladies are her daughters. While they were all holding the tracks, I asked the two adults (while the teenagers looked on, shaking their heads while I spoke, if I could speak to them for a while. They were all attentive to everything that I had to say to them. I spoke to them about the Garden the saving grace of Jesus Christ, Then I asked the adults if they had ever given the thought of where would they spend eternity if they should die. They both responded in unison, "Yes all the time." I then asked the adults if they would like me to pray for them. They both responded again in unison again, saying, "Yes we would like prayer," I then prayed for them aloud (while we all bowed our heads and closed our eyes). In my prayer, I asked the Lord to acknowledge them, I also asked the Lord to speak to their hearts and save them. I gave the adults a copy of my Zoom Fellowship flyer and a copy of my phone conference literature. One of the adults shared with me that she is usually off on a Wednesday, and that she is usually at work on Thursdays (the day of my Zoom Fellowship), she further stated that she will try for my phone conference, because this is on a Friday evening. The other adult shared that she works the same days also, and that they were out shopping, and waiting on a taxi to go home; and that that they were all together.

DISCUSSION

Is there such a thing as an overzealous worker, when your vacation is focused on helping to enhance the Kingdom of God? From me, it was not that I did not know, and believe that it is God who gives the increase. However, for that brief moment "at the end of the day," I felt that I missed an opportunity to

ask the group if they were ready to give their hearts to the Lord at the moment, instead of asking them if they would like me to pray for them?

So, it brings me to the question, Can we become overbearing to subjects we meet in our evangelistic efforts? I would say that what we might perceive as a missed opportunity, the Spirit of the Living God our "Helper, might see it in a different light. Therefore, we should let the Holy Spirit leads us in all our efforts.

CONCLUSION

I must say, that I give honor and thanks to the Holy Spirit of God who brought peace to my heart for this brief unrest in my soul. After all, he is our Comforter (John 14:16) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever."