

SECRETS OF SURVIVAL IN THE SERVING LIFE

By Titus Chu

MESSAGE SIX: A FOURTH PRINCIPLE FOR PRODUCING A GENUINE CHILD

VALUE BROTHERS MORE THAN THE WORK

One of the biggest temptations when learning to serve the Lord is to use those who have some desire or ability in our work. We need to learn to let the work go if our work means sacrificing others. Instead of sacrificing others, we must learn how to help others grow into their usefulness.

LABOR TO BRING OTHERS INTO A VISION

You may feel that a brother has been helped by you to the extent that he is no longer cold. The immediate temptation is to use this one. The real need of this brother, however, is the vision of Christ and the church. Of course, we must help others with their needs, but helping others with their needs eventually means little if we do not bring them into the vision of God's economy.

HAVE A BUOYANT AND AVAILABLE SPIRIT

How can we infuse the saints with a vision in life instead of imparting mere knowledge? This can only be accomplished when we are buoyant in life with the truth that we have. If you are not rich in life, you will not bear fruit. If you are not a person in life, you will be unable to give people an adequate appreciation of yourself. Some brothers' spirits do not seem readily available to them. They have to pray for a period of time before they are able to give a word or meet a need. Others have a spirit that seems able to come up immediately; they are released and exercised any time there is a need. If you are able to exercise using the Word, your spirit is available. How can we exercise with the Word?

Usually, in our experience, not every verse in the Bible has the same affect on us. However, every verse can definitely render us the life supply and buoyancy as we exercise over it. Therefore, we should learn to be exercised whenever we handle the Word.

BE ENLARGED

Many of us remain very limited. It is easy to lose sight of what is crucial. This is because we are narrow. This is why it is hard for workers to take time out to spend a week with Brother Lee, or for elders to visit other churches. Few know how to care for the things which overreach their limited concern. Most care for the little things in their hand. It is easy to lose the overall view and become opinionated according to our own situation. This is often what gets us into trouble.

My own feeling is that now that the training is over, I am available to go wherever I am needed. Wherever I go I am fulfilled. Too few have this attitude. No region belongs to any worker. Paul said, "Whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas - all are yours, but you are Christ's, and Christ is God's" (1 Cor. 3:22-23). Don't become too excited to go and do something -- that may be according to a movement; and yet neither wait unnecessarily for the elders to tell you to go. Be before the Lord.

How to be one with the Lord's recovery is not always an easy lesson. In your church, learn to be one with the elder's burden. The elders must learn to be one with the burden in the Lord's recovery. The more you practice this, the bigger your person will become. Learn to be one with the Lord's overall move. This will enable you to become buoyant, for you will be enlarged.

THE MOST CRUCIAL ITEM FOR PRODUCING A GENUINE CHILD: TRAVAIL FOR THEIR GROWTH

The most crucial thing that we all must learn is to suffer and travail in our person for other's growth. This is more than being bothered because they don't make meetings. This is to suffer because they have not come up to their full measure, their full growth. Christ suffered with God's goal in view -- to gain the Church. We should suffer when a brother has not yet come up to what God expects for him. Instead, we view the church as an army: every brother is either my commander, my comrade, or my subordinate, and if one dies, a replacement can be found. But in the eternal life nobody dies. Our attitude should be that we are ready to make up whatever is lacking. At first you may be able to bear only one or two, and then four or five. One day you may be able to bear an entire church. Eventually we should be able to suffer for the entire recovery.

Before this one year labor I was worried about the coming migrations. Where were the brothers who could take the lead? Instead of rebuking the elders, I developed a fighting, a struggling for what the Lord was trying to gain. Through such a struggle, brothers can be freed in life. Paul said that he was travailing to give birth, which is the greatest pain a human can bear. The Lord should anoint one or two brothers or sisters in your heart. Then within there should be a kind of expectation for them, a hope in view, as a mother would have for her children. If there is no divine burden or vision in your spirit, there will be no birth pangs. Without this divine burden through the Lord's anointing you will become like a pastor seeking after numbers to glorify yourself.

Nothing is more pitiful than to be fruitful without learning anything. Even Paul, who was fruitful, had the concern that he might be cast away. What is the secret of being saved from this? Your travail; your prayer, even your fasting, because of the brothers. Then, even though the Lord may allow Satan to come in and cause damage, those whom you have raised up will always own that you are their father.

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