

1:3000 or 3000:1

INTRODUCTION

A. Acts 2:22-41

We who love the Lord thrill to read Peter's Pentecost sermon, preaching who Christ is, showing from the Scripture that He is the fulfillment of prophecy, convicting the audience of their sins, answering their desperate plea, and finally seeing 3,000 souls baptized into Christ for remission of sins!

B. Proverbs 11:30

We want to be soul winners!

C. Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus commanded the apostles to proclaim His gospel worldwide, and to baptize those they taught, and to teach those souls to do what the apostles themselves were doing, including the ongoing fulfillment of this Great Commission.

I. THEY HAD WHAT WE DO NOT

On the Day of Pentecost, one sermon preached resulted in 3,000 souls converted. As our brother Ricardo Berdoza has relayed to me in the past, it seems that now it takes 3,000 sermons to yield one soul converted! It's an exaggeration, but nearly true. The fact is that our circumstances are not identical to those of Pentecost.

A. Spiritual Gifts

1. Acts 2:2-4

The Holy Spirit noised a great sound, appeared as flaming tongues, and filled the apostles with the gift of tongues, enabling them to communicate miraculously to their multilingual audience.

2. 1st Corinthians 13:8-10

The end of spiritual gifts was foretold by Paul. They would end when the partial was replaced with the complete, which refers to the whole

New Testament being recorded as a replacement to the bits and pieces approach of multiple prophets conveying the Word.

3. **Acts 2:22; Mark 16:20**

Those miraculous abilities served the purpose of authenticating the inspired words of the miracle workers as divine. If that has been accomplished, then they are no longer needed.

B. A Ready People

1. **Acts 2:1, 5**

Multitudes of Jews from several countries were present in one city to worship God. This was an audience primed to receive the good news!

2. **Luke 2:25-38; 23:50-51**

Present when the infant Jesus was dedicated and when the corpse of Jesus was buried were those who had been anticipating the prophesied kingdom. This was a generation who knew to expect their King.

3. **Daniel 2:44**

Those people were ready because of prophecies like Daniel's that pointed to the establishment of God's eternal kingdom in the time of the Roman Empire.

II. WE NEED WHAT THEY HAD

We could hardly expect to match 3000 conversions in a day, but there are many qualities possessed by first century preachers we can duplicate.

A. Love for Souls

1. **2nd Corinthians 5:14-15**

The apostles were compelled by the love of Jesus who died for all. We should have the same motivation.

2. **Romans 9:3**

The word “love” is absent from this text, but the concept is not lacking. Just the thought that one might choose hell for himself in order to get others to heaven is astounding in its depth of love.

3. **Matthew 22:37-40**

How can we claim to love our neighbors and not want to share heaven with them?

B. Fear of Hell

1. **2nd Corinthians 5:10-11**

One motive for persuading people specifically cited by an apostle is fearing for their eternal condition.

2. **Jude 22-23**

We better preach the hell out of these people!

3. **Hebrews 10:31**

God’s power to punish is something to be afraid of.

C. Boldness in Christ

1. **Acts 4:29**

The apostles prayed the Lord for boldness to preach the gospel.

2. **Ephesians 6:18-20**

Paul asked brethren to pray for him to be bold in the proclamation of the gospel and he had already demonstrated his boldness as he was in chains for Christ’s sake!

3. **2nd Timothy 1:7-8**

God is not a god of timidity, but power, and He empowers us!

D. Knowledge of Scripture

1. **1st Peter 3:15**

We are under command to prepare our hearts to answer those who question our hope.

2. **Colossians 4:6**

Knowing how to answer is a moral imperative.

E. Accommodating Spirit

1. 1st Corinthians 9:19-23

In his passion for saving souls, Paul was flexible to the utmost, unwilling to be offensive unnecessarily.

2. James 3:17

Heavenly wisdom is, among other qualities, *“willing to yield”*. Are we sinfully stubborn to such a point we would lose a prospective convert?

F. Goal Prioritization

1. Matthew 7:6

Successful soul winners know when to quit. Some folks just aren't interested in the truth and it is wasted on them.

2. Luke 9:5

Those who reject the gospel are to be rejected, themselves.

3. Acts 13:50-51; 18:5-6

The apostles practiced this, and we can, too.

G. Worthy Example

1. Matthew 5:16

We must develop godly influence on others and draw them to Christ thereby.

2. Romans 2:21-24

If we claim Jesus, but behave contrary to that claim, we become hypocrites who cause sinners to move further from the truth.