

God Giveth the Increase

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:7

The Great Commission given by our Lord is for every Christian to fulfill in one way or another. By spreading the Word, we can help change the direction of a life that was headed in the wrong way, and as the book of James says "... save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins". If we have played a part in influencing someone with the gospel and they choose life, we must always remember that we have played a significant yet small part; it is Christ that has done the saving.

In Paul's first address to the Corinthians in Chapter 3 we are reminded of how pride and the flesh can creep into the purest of intentions. Strife and divisions existed in the Corinthian church. One way this became manifested was when the members began taking allegiance with Paul or Apollos. They seemed to think that if their conversion occurred by the work of one or the other, they could claim an elevated status. Paul brings them down to earth by clarifying that it mattered not who led them to the Lord, or who was discipling them, but that it was God who performs the most important work. There are many ingredients that go into a person coming to Christ for salvation and their growth in the Christian life. We may share our testimony with someone, and they may politely listen without responding. During that same time, that person might have a friend or neighbor who is praying for them. At some other time, they may pick up and read a gospel tract that was placed before them, but all the while the Spirit of God is working through all those circumstances of their life drawing them to Him. Finally, one day through the word that produces faith, while the Spirit is convicting and drawing them, God commands the light to shine out of darkness and into their heart, and they respond by calling upon the name of the Lord for salvation. After this new birth, the Lord uses pastors and teachers, as well as Christian brothers and sisters to help the new convert to grow; but always remember it is God that giveth the increase.

May we look for some opportunities this week to plant some seeds and watch and pray to see what God will do.

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