

Tips for Growing in Devotion to God Through Mission

1. Remember that all Christians are part of God's mission

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6 NIV

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you**; yet do it with gentleness and respect... 1 Peter 3:15

- a. Every Christian is part of God's mission to reach the world with the Gospel!
- b. We are all heirs of the Abrahamic covenant, including the call to spread the blessing of God to all nations (Genesis 12:2-3; Galatians 3:8), and we have all been given the New Covenant gift of the Spirit to equip us for the mission.
- c. Paul and Peter expect us to be ready to engage in conversations with unbelievers, making the most of every opportunity as we explain the Gospel.

2. Prayer is an essential part of having doors opened to share the Gospel

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And **pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ **Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.** ⁵ **Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, **so that you may know how to answer everyone.** Coloss. 4:2-6

- d. The call to be devoted to prayer is given in the context of praying for open doors for the Gospel to be shared, and for the believers to be wise in their relationships with outsiders, making the most of every opportunity that presents itself. Prayer is the foundation of mission.
- e. This certainly includes praying for missionaries and for those teaching the Word in our public worship, but it also includes prayer for God to open doors for me to share the Gospel with others as well.

3. RELAX - the power is in the Word and the Spirit, not your words!

For I am not ashamed of **the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ **And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin & righteousness & judgment:** John 16:7-8

- a. Many believers feel inadequate to convince others to follow Jesus - and the fact is that we can't! The power to open people's eyes and draw them to Jesus is in the Word of God, the Gospel, and the Spirit of God.
- b. The Gospel has the power to save, even if my presentation of the Gospel is not professional. It is the Word that produces faith, not my clever arguments. It is the Spirit Who will convict of sin, not me. So I can relax!

4. I do not need to have an answer to every question a scholar might raise; I need to share what God has done for me

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” John 9:24-25

- a. The man born blind who was healed by Jesus was not a scholar like the people questioning him, yet he knew what Jesus had done for him!
- b. There are people God calls to interact on a scholarly level, but most of us just need to share what God has done in our lives with our neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family. Never underestimate the power of a personal testimony of Jesus’ work in your life!

5. Remember that the basics of the Gospel are very simple!

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared** to Cephas, then to the twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹ And they said, “**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household.” Acts 16:30-31

- a. The basics of the Gospel are very simple:
 1. Christ died to pay for our sins
 2. Christ was buried and then raised from the dead
 3. Christ appeared to many after His resurrection
 4. We are called to believe all of this and look to Jesus for salvation.
- b. The most important thing is to share these basic points and to let the Holy Spirit work through God’s Word to draw people to Christ.

6. Remember the power of being part of a Spirit-filled, devoted community

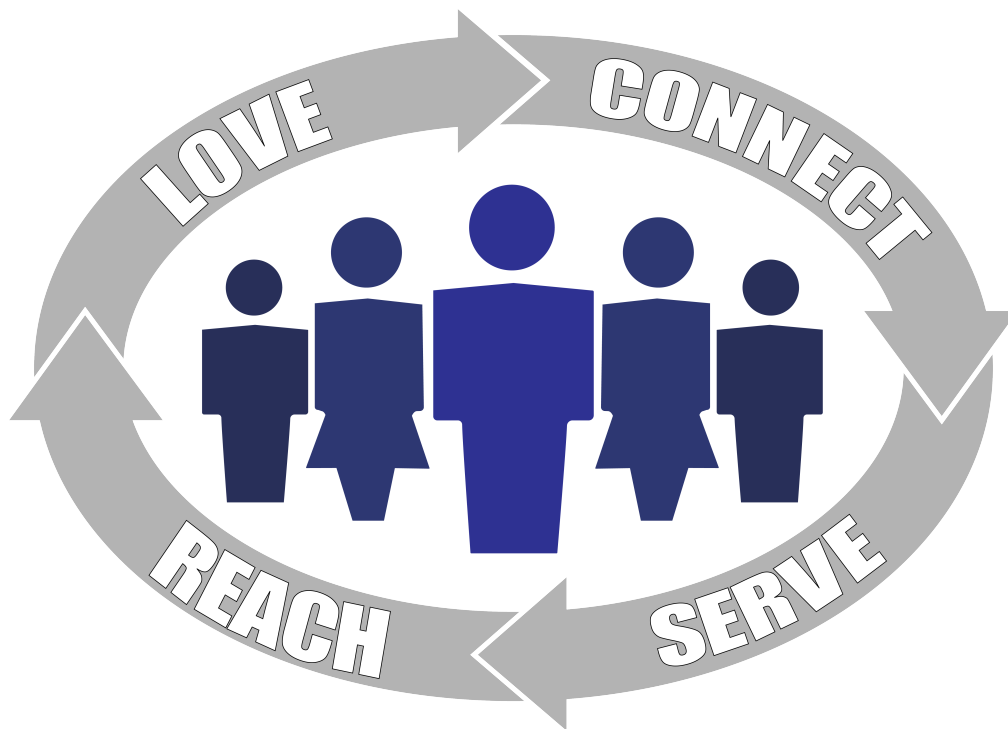
And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.** Acts 2:46-47

- a. Luke shows us that the devotion of the early Spirit-filled church was attractive to the unbelievers around them! People are drawn to a church like this!
- b. I am not alone, nor am I responsible for reaching everyone - I am part of a community that God will use to reach others.
- c. Often, we can simply invite someone to come experience God’s work in BRCC and let the Spirit work through that!

7. Remember that participation in God's mission in the world increases my own joy and delight in God!

and I pray that **the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.** Philemon 1:6

- a. Paul says that as we share our faith, our own knowledge of every good thing we have in Christ grows.
- b. This is also seen in our discipleship pattern at BRCC: LOVE, CONNECT, SERVE, REACH (see the logo). Each step feeds into the next, and then at the end feeds back to the beginning. Thus, the more we are engaged in reaching the world with the Gospel, the more it will stir up our love for God.



- c. Join in the mission to spread the blessings of the Gospel to the world, and see how it deepens your own delight in God!