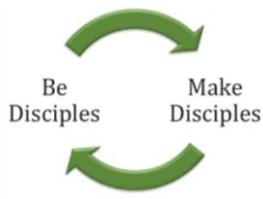
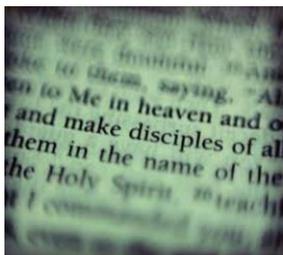


The Making of a Personal Worker



**LET'S GET
ENERGIZED
ABOUT
EVANGELIZM!**



We all have heard the old saying, "Leaders are not born, but are made." This is such a true statement because with the right attitude and proper training, a person can be developed into anything he or she wants to become. Our colleges and universities are filled with young men and women who are training to become something... either a doctor, nurse, engineer, school teacher, etc. Many of these individuals were not born diagnosing illnesses, nor drawing blood, or designing buildings, or developing curriculums for classrooms. They all possessed an attitude of learning and received the proper training from the school where they were enrolled.



The same concept is true when it comes to being a personal worker in the Lord's kingdom. The local church is just like a university or college. Courses should be made available to help Christians become personal workers and more effective Christians. Yes, each individual Christian is responsible for personal growth, but the church can play an important role in helping to develop Christian into the best they can be (Eph. 4:11-12). The life of Ezra the scribe is one worth duplicating when it comes to developing into teachers of God's word. Of course, Ezra was called to teach among God's people, but the same principles apply.

Ezra began his development by preparing his heart. How does one prepare the heart? It must have a disposition of humbleness, submissiveness, and a willingness to listen and implement the things being taught. What is it that Ezra prepared his heart to do? First, his heart was prepared to seek the law of the Lord. One cannot become a teacher or personal worker for the Lord unless the heart is being filled with the word of God. Remember, it is His words that will be spoken to non-Christians, so as a personal worker my heart must be willing to seek after His law. Second, he prepared his heart to do or practice the law of God. Once the heart has received the law, it must practice those things. In order to be an effective personal worker, the personal worker must make God's work personal. It is easier to teach what one is implementing in everyday life. Third, Ezra prepared his heart to teach the law. Again, notice the order. He practiced them, then taught them. This does not mean that we need to be practicing the entire Bible before we can teach someone, but we must be living in such a way that it will be evident that we are striving to live by the word of God daily. One mark of a great teacher is he or she is continuing to learn to be more effective even though he or she may be teaching. As a Christian, learning is a lifelong process that never ends.

This is a great formula for becoming an effective personal worker for the Lord. Are you ready to be like Ezra?—K.A. Pugh