

Reading: Acts 19:1-7

Topic: How To Work With People Who Already Have An Experience With God

INTRODUCTION: There are many people who have _____ for God and some of those have already had an experience of some kind with God, but they do not have a _____ of the full plan of salvation.

I. THE MEN AT EPHESUS:

A. They Were Disciples:

1. The Apostle Paul went to the city of Ephesus and there he found some people who were _____ believers that had been _____ by John the Baptist. Acts 19:1, 3
2. The fact that these men were called _____ showed that they had spiritual hunger, a spiritual experience and spiritual _____ to keep following the Lord.
3. There are many people who have spiritual _____ and who have had a spiritual _____ with the Lord and they are doing their best to follow Jesus the way that they know how.

B. They Didn't Know:

1. When these men were asked if they had received the Holy Ghost when they _____, they replied that they had not even _____ about such an experience. Acts 19:2
2. These people were sincere in their spiritual _____ but their lack of knowledge had left them outside the plan that Jesus Christ had _____ for them.
3. This situation of Acts 19 represents many _____ in our world who are sincere in their spiritual life but who do not have the knowledge or understanding of the full _____ that God has for them.

C. They Were Taught:

1. These men had faith so the Apostle Paul connected with them from the _____ to which they had already come and then asked about their _____. Acts 19:3
2. Once the Apostle knew where they were at, he proceeded to lead them on into further _____ and then opened to them the understanding of _____ in the Name of Jesus Christ. Acts 19:4

D. They Responded:

1. Once the truth was opened up to these disciples, they did not _____ against it or try to justify themselves but instead they responded and _____ the Word that they just heard. Acts 19:5
2. When they obeyed the Word of God from their heart, the Lord confirmed it and they _____ the Gift of the Holy Ghost just as it happened on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 19:6

II. WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE WITH GOD:

A. Acknowledge Their Experience:

1. When you meet a believer in Jesus Christ, do not _____ their experience that they already have had or else you will _____ the opportunity to lead them into the full truth.
2. There are many people who have had a genuine encounter with the _____ in some measure due to their _____ and sincerity in seeking for truth.
3. Many of those people are trying to do what is _____ even though they don't have full truth.

B. Open The Door For Dialogue:

1. Once the door is open to talk, begin to _____ your own testimony of your personal experience with God and how you came to the knowledge of the _____ and the Apostolic experience.
2. Once you have shared your own personal experience with the individual, you will _____ if this person is receptive to _____ of God or whether they will close the _____.
3. If they begin to argue or debate, it may not necessarily mean that they are not _____, just that it is hard for some people to swallow their _____ and admit that they might not be right.

C. Teaching A Receptive Heart:

1. Once an individual expresses interest to know _____ about the truth, the door is now _____ to proceed with a Bible Study to open the _____ to them.
2. Again, it is very important to use _____ from God when teaching someone who already has had an experience with _____ - do not degrade what they have already experienced in God.
3. It is important to find and understand the _____ that your student is at spiritually and then proceed to lead them on to more _____ and spiritual understanding.

III. POINTS TO REMEMBER:

A. Don't's:

1. Do not attack their _____ or their experience that they have already had with God for though they may not know or understand the full _____, remember that God will move towards any _____ heart no matter where or who they are in order to _____ them to the truth.
2. Do not attack or degrade other _____ or religions but instead point them to the original church that Jesus started in the Book of Acts.
3. Jesus told His disciples that other people do have an _____ with God even though at that time they were not yet wholly following Him. Mk. 9:38,39

B. Speak The Truth In Love:

1. The Word of God instructs us to speak _____ but to do it with _____, that is the _____ of God that is in us by the Holy Ghost. Eph. 4:15
2. This is the method that was used by Aquila and Priscilla when they met a _____ named Apollos who knew some _____ but not the whole _____. Acts 18:24-28
3. Apollos became a mighty _____ of God and was referred to by the Apostle Paul in the Scriptures a number of times. I Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 16:12

C. The Gospel:

1. Many other churches and groups also preach the _____ of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but they fail to present the _____ plan of salvation at the altar call. I Co. 15:1-4; Mk. 16:15
2. There is great misunderstanding among many churches and _____ that preach the Gospel on how to rightly divide the _____ of God. 2 Tim. 2:15
3. They go to the Epistles that are written to _____ who are already saved and take verses from there to show people how to be _____ instead of going to the Book of Acts where the church was _____ and the Plan of Salvation was revealed. Acts 2:37-39

Examples: 1. Rom. 10:9,10, Romans 1:1,7 2. Eph. 2:8,9, Eph. 1:1

Conclusion: May God give us the wisdom to _____ people who already have some knowledge of truth and to bring them on into the whole Plan of Salvation that Jesus ordained for all _____ who need to be saved.