



Episode 7: Gospel Perseverance Part 1:

Evangelism is Hard

Hosted by Chris Repp

chris@findlivinghope.com

Guest: Cathy Wisnom

findlivinghope.com/stepping-stones

“For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” — 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Summary

Not everyone is going to respond to the gospel with faith. Some will reject Christ outright, while another person will become a believer only after a long journey with lots of stumbling. There are hiccups, hangups, and hard conversations along the way. Evangelism is hard. We all face discouragements, rejection, and disappointment as we share the gospel. Don't despair. Don't quit. The success of the gospel is not dependent on your ability to answer every question. People aren't converted because of the quality of your presentation or how articulate you are. Neither are they lost because you weren't convincing enough. God calls us to pray fervently and proclaim the gospel faithfully (Mat 9:37-38). He does the saving. Remember that God is sovereign over the redemption of souls. While we make the outward call, pleading with people, “Be reconciled to God,” (2 Cor 5:20), it is the Spirit who makes the inward call. Trust that God will take your efforts and make them fruitful for his kingdom. Don't let obstacles or frustrations get you down. Press on in faith. God is able.

Podcast Listening Notes

Reflection Questions

Have you had to deal with disappointment and discouragement when people didn't respond to the gospel as you hoped? How did you respond?

Read Matthew 28:20. What is the promise of this verse? How can this encourage you, especially when times are tough?

Take a moment and ask that God would lay on your mind people you should be praying for. List them in a journal and spend time praying for them by name. Consider the sample prayer prompt below.



Action Point

Be diligent and intentional with prayer. Keep a journal of your prayers and how God opens doors and answers, even in little ways. These little victories build our faith and stir us to pray even more. Recruit a prayer partner or group to join you.



Prayer Prompt

Lord Jesus, you call us to beg the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into your harvest. Here I am, Lord, send me! Prepare in me a spirit of willingness to speak of Jesus to those who desperately need a Savior. I am especially mindful of _____. Lord, bring _____ to faith in Christ. Give me the opportunity to speak and the words to say. Grant me the faith to believe both that you can use me and you can save to the uttermost those who trust in Jesus. Encourage me today Lord. Be near to me as I seek to walk with you.