

Randy Pope journalled thoughts

Lofty ideals are rarely experienced without an outstanding, well thought through plan comprised of intentional practices which support the intended “one thing.”

Herman Bavinck, 1854-1921, Dutch Reformed Theologian

The faith that does not confess becomes shy, timid, retracts, begins to pine away, or is sometimes even discovered in its falseness and unfaithfulness. And the confession without faith is nothing more than a flower without a stem, it withers and falls to pieces. On the other hand, by and through confessing, faith gains in strength, power, and vitality, becomes more firmly founded, and shoots its root deeper and deeper into the ground of the heartland. By and through faith, confessing receives its animation and fire, gains in courage and freeness, and as by a secret, invisible flame, it is constantly preserved and fed.

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Training to help disciples become mature and equipped followers of Christ, absent of the admonition and training to make new disciples of Christ, is a failure in the process to make mature and equipped followers of Christ.

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We have no idea how wrong we are regarding the impact of the Word (truth/directing) without being coupled with coaching and support.

Richard Baxter

I frequently meet with those that have been my hearers (for) 8 or 10 years, who know not whether Christ be God or man...I have found by experience, that an ignorant man that hath been an unprofitable hearer so long, hath got more knowledge and remorse of conscience in half an hours close discourse, then they did from ten years hearing public preaching. I know that preaching of the Gospel publicly is the most excellent means, because we speak to many at once: But otherwise, it is usually far more effectual to preach it privately to a particular sinner.

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To what degree are you, as a leader, championing the process of equipping and coaching disciples to win the lost?

Henry Hammond (English Theologian, 1600s, Puritan)

Private instruction is “a more likely way to fill narrow mouth’d bottles (and such are the most of us) to take them [individually] in the hand, and pour water into them, than to set them altogether, and throw ever so much water upon them.”

Individually applying God’s Word is imperative for effective discipleship.

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“Event” must always be coupled with “process”. Today, our western education has convinced us that power is in knowledge and, thus, feeling satisfied even though the “process” is left behind.

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There are no life skills which are adequately taught without coaching (equipping).

The One Thing – Bishop J.C. Ryle

A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, wholehearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies, --whether he has health, or whether he has sickness, --whether he is rich, or whether he is poor, --whether he pleases man, or whether he is thought offensive, --whether he is thought wise, or whether he is through foolish, --whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise, --whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame, -- for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God’s glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it, --he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work which God appointed him.