



Devotional 7

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS WHAT MATTERS!!

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Proverbs 2:1-6

“My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

Introduction

Cities are primarily inhabited areas of notable size, bigger than a town or village. Consequently, you would expect to experience the sight of many people, lots of cars, bright lights, tall buildings and hear lots of noises with very little or no agricultural activity, but what is critical for today’s reading is the fact that cities have people. Among the inhabitants of cities are the well-educated. This is precisely because most organizations employ educated people. In addition, tertiary institutions are found in cities. So, the city is much more than a physical imprint on a map. It is a place where we see many different types of people, some of whom may be endowed richly with knowledge, information, concepts, and understanding.

However, all these do not matter if one does not fear God!

Learned people are normal human beings with natural inclinations like us. The fact that they have reached the high echelons of education does not absolve them from the realities of life under the sun. Someone has got to reach out to them because the word of God is no respecter of person. It is like a double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It cuts across all stratas of the social pyramid. There is no human being who can safely say they don't need Jesus or any encouragement because of what they have. Besides, Jesus has sent us with the gospel of grace to all people (Revelation 14:6-12). Christ's method by Ellen White (*Ministry of Healing*, p.143) is worthy of emulation,

“The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, ‘Follow Me.’”

Following this method, here are some practical ways of reaching the well-educated:

1. Belong to scholarly organizations so that you can get to know them and meet them.
2. Attend research conferences (Christian and non-Christian) to mingle with them.
3. Show sympathy by sharing in their sadness in their low moments.

4. Invite them to a health-expo or family fun day to minister to their needs.
5. Establish a center of excellence for children to win over their parents.
6. Speak from scientific evidence that is not against Bible truth to win their confidence.
7. Proclaim Christ to them through God's word and an authentic lifestyle.

Do it because you fear the Lord because it is all that matters. Do it to introduce the fear of the Lord to others because it is your duty.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Today I choose to celebrate all types of people in my city. Please give me boldness, clarity of thought, nobility of character, and stability of purpose so that I may be everything to my educated brothers and sisters. I want to stand in the gap for your glory. Please open pathways for my influence. I need your wisdom to connect with people, mingle with them, show sympathy, minister to their needs, win their confidence and ultimately invite them to follow you. In Jesus' name.

Amen.