



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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We want to take our Scripture text today from **Proverbs 4:25-27**, "**Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right-hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.**"

Often times we are so busy we never take time to consider where we are going-or why. Yet humans are the only creatures that God created with the capability for self-reflection. As Jehovah's most valued creation, we have the ability to look within ourselves and question whether or not we are doing the right things or not. We can think about ourselves, evaluate our lives, and make changes in light of what we witness. Proverbs encourages us to stay on the path of wisdom, to be careful not to stray, "**to the right or to the left.**" What is the case regarding your life at this present time? We are all on a journey of faith; therefore, we must look at our attitudes and our behaviors and consider the path that we are about to choose and the paths we will also choose in the future. The Bible tells us in **Proverbs 11:30**, "**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.**" Have you ever desired to win someone to Jesus Christ? Have you ever prayed and asked the Holy Ghost to give you an opportunity to speak to someone about their relationship with God? Whether you realize it or not God has placed you at this point

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in time to serve this generation. We read in **Acts 13:36**, "**For David, after he had served (or ministered to) his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his father's, and saw corruption.**" The question is a simple one, how are you serving your generation at this present time relative to making a spiritual impact upon the lives of others? Yes, the psalmist David was a murderer and an adulterer, yet he made a tremendous impact on innumerable lives and untold generations because he obeyed God in writing many of the Psalms. Don't ever allow your faults or failures to deter you in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Whose life have you genuinely touched and changed for the betterment in recent years? What about your direction and your purpose in life? If you continue to work the next ten years as you are now working, what will you have gained? Think about what your life will look like in ten years from now. Will things be better or worse, that will be determined by your present decisions? I know the Bible declares emphatically that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord but let us look at **Proverbs 16:9**, "**A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.**" One of the great illustrations of God allowing men to devise their own way, and yet the Lord directing their steps, was between Joseph's brethren and God's will for Joseph's life. Joseph's brethren devised evil

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against him, but at the same time the Lord directed Joseph's steps to get him in the place and position he had predestined for his life. Ask yourself this simple question: where will I be and what will I have accomplished in regards to the kingdom of God in the next ten years? Our objective is not to build a monument, a memorial, or a legacy for our personal recognition but this is about serving the Lord and our rewards in the coming kingdom. Jesus said in **Revelation 22:12**, "**And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward (pay or wages) is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**" It is evident according to the Word of God that our Lord will honor those who love Him and serve Him willingly with clean hands and a pure heart. We are told in **Hebrews 6:10**, "**For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**" Because of our love and devotion to Jesus Christ, we are to exhibit to a lost and dying world that we serve the only true and living God. Are you truly honoring God? Can you cite three things that you have done in the last year that you believe has clearly brought glory to God? Name some of the ways you may have honored Him at work, in your home, and possibly in your community. Let me say it this way, do people see Jesus in your life on a

daily basis or do they even know you are a Christian? Jesus said in **Matthew 5:13-14**, "**Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden underfoot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.**" It is a proven fact if salt is stored on the bare earth, or is exposed to the air or sun, it does lose its savor and becomes fit for nothing. As children of God, we are lights by His divine nature in this world, and the fact Jesus symbolizes the believer as a city speaks of a city of refuge. In other words people should see us as a place of refuge where they can find comfort, rest, and hear our testimony concerning the things of Christ. What about avoiding evil? What is the one thing that you have said "no" to in the past year in order to remove your foot from anything evil? What did it cost you? What did you gain by removing your foot from evil? Sometimes just being silent and refusing to speak or say something enables us to remove ourselves from an act of evil. We are admonished by the apostle in **James 1:19**, "**Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.**" Even a kind word can stop a heated confrontation. We read in **Proverbs 15:1**, "**A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.**" How many times could we have kept ourselves from evil or a catastrophic schism had we simply given a soft answer or said nothing at all? We are told in **Proverbs 13:10**, "**Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised it is wisdom.**" Sometimes remaining silent is the best advice and wisdom of all! Wisdom is the ability to execute the knowledge that you have gained throughout the years. Wisdom

is empirical knowledge. We are told in **Proverbs 4:7**, "**Wisdom is the principal (or chief-est) thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all by getting get understanding.**" If there is one thing I pray for on a continued basis, it is for wisdom. We are told in **James 1:5**, "**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth (or reproves) not; and it shall be given him.**" One of the great problems I witness in this present generation is a lack of wisdom and a lack of patience. Never underestimate the power of wisdom! Wisdom is a refuge in the day of trouble. As a matter-of-fact, one of the nine gifts of the Spirit is wisdom and we should seek that gift for our personal lives. In closing, let us look at our testimony. With all honesty what one characteristic would you say clearly diminishes your lifestyle from non-Christians in your workplace or neighborhood? I hear repeatedly all the time, "**we are all sinners saved by the grace of God.**" That is one of the most egregious and erroneous statements ever made. Once an individual becomes born again they are no longer a sinner. Paul the apostle said to the church at Corinth in **1st Corinthians 1:2**, "**Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord both theirs and ours.**" The Bible is emphatic if any man is in Christ he is a new creature, **2nd Corinthians 5:17**. Once we are born again we become members of Christ body: how dare we continue to confess we are sinners if we are washed in His precious blood? The apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 5:30**, "**For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.**" Once a person becomes born again they are spiritually joined to the body of Christ. Do people know you are a Christian in

the workplace or in public? Are you afraid to bow your head in a restaurant and ask God to bless your food not fearing the repercussions, persecution, or embarrassment because you prayed? No, you do not have to go around flying a flag trying to demonstrate your Christianity, but does your lifestyle or your conversation authenticate your Christianity? The apostle Peter admonished us in **1st Peter 1:15**, "**But as he which hath called you is holy, so be holy in all manner of conversation.**" In the Greek the word conversation does not necessarily speak of one's verbiage but rather one's lifestyle. That is why the apostle Paul declared in **Hebrews 13:6**, "**Let your conversation (or life style) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**" In this particular passage of scripture, when making our impact in life, Paul is admonishing the believer to be without the love of money and to be content with such things as we have because the Lord has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. I want to remind you that the Lord is your portion and He is more than enough! I pray this newsletter has spoken to your heart and made you more conscious about the impact you're making on this generation while you faithfully serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Until next month, continue to walk in His love and may your faith grow exponentially in the coming days.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford