

Success in Benevolence: Finding a Need and Filling It

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INTRODUCTION

Missions and Evangelism are powerful when combined with benevolence . . . and successful when you carry hope in your words and help in your hands.

I. TARGET AREAS FOR SUCCESS IN BENEVOLENCE

- A. Where *sin* doth abound . . . *grace* (unmerited favor) does so much more abound.
- B. Where *mercy* is missing . . . *blessings* are reserved for the merciful.
- C. Where *you* are . . . *God* will bless because He has already ordered your footsteps.

II. The Greek word for *benevolence* is *eumoia*, which means “good will or kindness.”

- ⊆ To go out and serve a meal to the homeless one day a year is not successful benevolence; nor will it generate success!
- ⊆ Paul uses this word *eumoia* when discussing a marriage relationship. “Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband” (1 Corinthians 7:3). You must develop the ability to relate to those for which the benevolence (good will and kindness) is intended. Successful benevolence is long-term, consistent, persistent, kindness, and good will to the ones that the Spirit of the Lord is upon you to reach and that God has anointed you to impact. Successful benevolence is full-time and not part-time, although you can do event-evangelism that includes an act of benevolence, your contribution to the overall change, and to the well-being of the individuals or people groups will not likely be altered significantly.

III. POINTS TO CONSIDER

- ⊆ No amount of material or supplies will qualify you to be successfully benevolent. It is an act of your heart in response to the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- ⊆ Benevolence is not a give-away program; it is a spiritual response to a Godly call.
- ⊆ Successful benevolence projects will be centered on things that are of *concern* and *value* to those you are ministering to.
- ⊆ Success is not marked by how much you give away but by how much value you leave behind.

- ⊃ Success in benevolence sometimes means searching out the need and the means to fill it.
- ⊃ When the person you are ministering to needs to make a specific change or response, then you must design your benevolence in such a way as to make sense to your target group.
- ⊃ Change is a vital part of a growing ministry. List five ways you are different this year from last year. Don't allow your ministry to remain without change and improvement.
- ⊃ Get input from your target audience and be willing to accept their assessment. Then pray for wisdom to make the adjustments needed to implement successful missions' ministry.
- ⊃ Treating your focus of benevolence ministry with unconditional love is like putting money in the bank and having God pay wonderful dividends to your account.
- ⊃ Be loyal and willing to defend the people to whom God has sent you.
- ⊃ List the experiences that have been effective and make them 10 times better.
- ⊃ Be willing to evaluate the positive changes you have made with the measuring stick of those you have ministered to. Ask them how your mission has helped. Don't argue with their answers.
- ⊃ Benevolence is not an act; it is a way of life!
- ⊃ Make it your business to know at least five of the needs of those you are ministering to and how to meet those needs in a way that they desire. Stay focused on those needs until you see visible changes.
- ⊃ It is not your job to reform those you are ministering to; but to encourage them, praise them, and never take them for granted. You can request change; then you must leave the transformation up to the Holy Spirit.
- ⊃ Pray together often. That's when true victory begins to unveil and trust will be initiated both in God and in your sincerity. (That is the key to success.)
- ⊃ In the midst of ministry crisis, don't waste your energy trying to figure out what is wrong and why . . . trust God . . . use your energy creatively and know that solutions will follow when you pray and that the Spirit of God is leading you.
- ⊃ Talk with the ones you want to minister to about how they see God—who He is and what He is like. Ask their viewpoint. It may surprise you!
- ⊃ Things that break down ministry are not problems and conflicts, but apathy or indifference for those you labor for. Never allow your benevolence to become mundane.