

Evangelism Class #23 Outline - Pleasant, Patient Persistence

Never give up on people, on yourself, or on the power of the gospel. How can we be persistent without being annoying? **Look to God.**

- **Nehemiah 9:17**
- **2 Peter 3:9**

7 Ways to be Pleasantly and Patiently Persistent

1. Keep your Interest in Relationship Going

- Don't drop people like a bag of rocks if they're not interested in the Lord. Keep showing interest in them.
- **Nehemiah 9:17c** - "And you did not forsake them."

2. Let them Know you're still Available

- **Isaiah 1:18-20**
- **Isaiah 55:1-3** - God continued to invite! He reminds us, "I'm still here!"
- **Key:** People change over time. They may not be interested today, but they may be later.

3. Take Time Between Touches

- Touch = contact regarding spiritual things.
- **Hebrews 1:1** - God didn't bug people every day. He sent prophets at various times.

4. Try Different Approaches

- **Hebrews 1:1** - God spoke in many ways. Directly, through prophets, through a donkey, through miracles, in a storm on Sinai, prose, poetry, in the flesh.
- Some respond to certain approaches better than they do to others. Mix it up.

5. Live like a Christian Every Day

- **James 1:17** - God never changes. He never changed character even when we rejected Him.
- Don't be filled with bitterness toward those who aren't interested and start mistreating them. Keep a righteous character, and it can have a big impact.

6. Set a time to Talk

- **Galatians 4:4** - God was patient, but He didn't act like we had forever to respond. He acted at certain times because He knew He needed to make contact with us.
- Help move people from vague plans to specific action.

7. Ask what Holds them Back

- God sent prophets to test people's hearts.
- If someone has been uninterested for a long time, it might help to ask them why.

Question: What if they've made it clear, "I don't want to ever talk about religion?"

- 1) Respect their wishes.
- 2) Remember people can change. Pray for them, and once in a while remind them you're still there.

- **Matthew 7:6** - Jesus isn't talking about the uninterested. He's talking about the antagonistic, hostile, people who make a mockery of holy things every time you try to talk to them about it. Don't keep setting yourself up for that.

- But remember, sometimes even swine can change with time!

Romans 1:16 - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*