

Construction in Progress: Building Enthusiasm

I. Where We Start

1. Enthusiasm: intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.
2. The first time for anything is exciting! (riding a bike, new job, new house)
3. For most people, the first time they turn to Christ is exciting!
4. After some time, however, some people become _____ with religion.
5. Boredom: the feeling of being wearied by dullness and tedious repetition.
6. Christianity sometimes consists of _____ (attending services, reading scripture, singing songs, etc.)

Discussion:

- How can we keep our initial enthusiasm alive?
- How do we stay focused when our enthusiasm is weak?

II. How We Grow

1. The Bible warns us not to take things too fast.
2. "Others, like seed sown on _____ places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no _____, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly
F __ L __ A __ A __."
3. Without rooting ourselves in Christ, we are prone to giving up when times get tough.
4. _____ expose how strong we truly are.
5. We should develop a "long distance mindset."

Discussion:

- What other times might a “long distance mindset” be helpful?
- How do we preserve our enthusiasm when we endure trials?

III. The “Finished” Product

1. We must try to balance the importance we place on various acts of service (giving a devo, visiting others, feeding the sick, etc.)
2. We should demonstrate our _____ through our interactions with others.
3. Enthusiasm can be _____ from person to person.
4. Getting to _____ is every Christian’s ultimate goal.

Discussion:

- How do you get others excited?
- How does our demeanor influence non-believers?