

Fear or Faith  
*It's the Give that will Get You*

People are disillusioned with the church, because the church has become disillusioned with people.

Have we forgotten our mission; we've forgotten Jesus' mission.

- But the same world we despise, is the same world God **loves**—world Jesus gave His life for.

Fear leads us to isolate ourselves from what is different—fear thrives in the unknown.

- If we are going to shine our light, we must be willing to stand in the presence of darkness.
- Fear is afraid of the dark but faith seeks it out; it knows light does its best work in the dark.

**Galatians 5:6 (KJV)** ...*faith which worketh by love.*

**Worketh**—energéo: *To energize, like an electrical current energizing a wire to light a bulb.*

**Faith is energized because of love—love brings our faith to life.**

- We have faith in God, because we've had an encounter with the love of God.

**When someone has an encounter with the love of God, their faith comes to life.**

- The Love of God brings faith to life—The Love of God leads people to believe.

**Romans 2:4 (NKJV)** *the goodness of God leads men to repentance.*

**Goodness:** *to furnish what is suitable, useful, beneficial, benevolent*

**Repentance:** *a change of mind—the light comes on*

When **you** provide something useful and beneficial to someone, it leads **them** to change their mind.

**2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)**—*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.—How?*

**Matthew 4:23-24 (NKJV)**—*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

**The loudest and most effective voice is the voice of action.**

**Matthew 5:14-16**—*“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.<sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

We've turned the great commission into the great debate.

- Instead of winning hearts, we've prided ourselves in winning debates.

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**Mark 2:15-17** *Now it happened, as He was dining in Levi's house, that many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."*

Jesus fights for the lives of sinners like a **doctor** fights for the lives of his patients

- His weapon is love—because love never fails.

The **presence** of light says all that needs to be said about the value of light.

It's love that leads people to faith in Jesus—and love is spelled g-i-v-e.

- The "reach" in outreach is in the give.