

# Strengthening the Spiritually Weak

**Lu 22:32** But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

- Do we believe that it's our calling to do just this?

**Spiritually weak? ? ? How do we measure this? ?**

- Not age related
- Not background or upbringing
- Absence of a close relationship with Jesus Christ
- Lack of a good conscience & commitment to stand
- Allowing personal liberties that honor the flesh & dishonor God
- Persistent on having my own way

## 4. Preaching is to aim at this every time

**2Ti 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**Col 1:28** Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

- Bible preaching that calls men and woman to faith and holiness
- Practical applications to Truth that challenge our everyday walk of life

## 3. We must seek to understand the cause for the spiritual weakness

- Is it simply immaturity and lack of knowledge? Young in the faith?
- Is it the cares of life choking out the Word?
- Is it carnality and choice to serve self?
- Questions that open the heart, revealing questions
- We need Holy Spirit discernment

In some ways it doesn't matter what the cause is -but in other ways it does!

- The Word will minister to each of these types of need.
- Perhaps our approach will vary.

## 6. We must help them be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit within

**John 16:7-14** Holy Spirit direction and teaching

- Yielding to the Spirit of God
- Development of a good conscience
- 1John -speaks often about this being the proof of being sons of God

It shows we believe they can, it gives them a challenge

#### **4. We must speak the Truth in love**

**Eph 4:15** But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

- Takes time to raise questions, understand the heart
- Honest evaluation of the need
- Press the high claims of the Gospel upon them
- We must call sin what it is

**Hebrews 12** -chastening of the Lord because He loves us

- Reproof, rebuke, and discipline are not nice
- VS 11 “afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness. . . .”

#### **7. We must help them take personal responsibility**

**Lu 15:18** I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

- Honest confession of need
- No making excuses, pushing blame,
- Preparing to answer for themselves before God

There's not a magic pill somewhere!

Resist the urge that some other highly respected speaker somewhere has a special formula for me!

#### **4. Give them some appropriate work to do.**

- Relief work, street meeting
- Teach a Sunday School class, have devotions