

We are going to continue our series on Concert Ministry... I want to emphasize the need to create a salvation atmosphere. A man by the name of Jerome Osentowski, he is able to grow bananas at 7200' in the Colorado Rockies. In addition to bananas, he grows figs, berries, olives, stone fruit, and more. He accomplishes this through a series of Greenhouses on his property. He uses the greenhouses to create an atmosphere for fruit that wouldn't otherwise grow in the Rocky Mountain climate. This illustrates our need; to create a salvation atmosphere in our concerts.

Mark 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

I THE GOSPEL FOCUS:

A- Our concerts need to be gospel focused-

1. V20 they went out and preached everywhere...
 - a. What did they preach? The Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - b. What does the word preach mean? To proclaim/to herald... The good news of Jesus... SALVATION
2. That is what the atmosphere needs to be at One80
 - a. Remember lesson 1; the Primary Purpose of concert ministry is EVANGELISM...
 - b. By keeping the Gospel the focus of the night this prepares sinners hearts to respond to Jesus for salvation.
 - i. What you preach during the night is what you will get-
 1. If you preach; *happy vibes=happy vibes... love fest=love something... self help=people will try that*
 - ii But if you preach the Gospel and Salvation... you will see sinners getting saved.

B- This is what PWM saw when he went to California in 1970- Coffeehouses that were evangelistic-

1. Created by Don Madison, these coffeehouses showcased "Jesus Music" where they sang the Gospel, and testified about conversion, and made an appeal for the unsaved to be saved.
 - a. PWM said; This will work in Prescott... He didn't bring home the idea of live music... he brought back the idea of creating an atmosphere of salvation through music.
2. So, this means for us involved; Everything we do is for the end result of Salvation-
 - a. Prayer Room: We are contending for a salvation atmosphere-
 - b. Lyrical content: We need the Gospel coming through
 - c. Drama content: We need the Gospel coming through
 - d. Testimonies/Videos: We need the Gospel coming through
 - i. Each of these creating an atmosphere for people to get saved!
3. So the focus is specific, yet accomplished through broad means.

II CONCERT DISTRACTIONS:

A- There is from time to time a number of distractions that come through every fellowship concert ministry-

- a. Things I have experienced/heard from other pastors/personally wrestled through-
 1. Distractions happen for a number of reasons: There is a shift from the Gospel Focus because of:
 - a. Misunderstanding: People pull away from the Gospel focus because they misunderstand the primary purpose of Evangelism, and soul winning in the concert ministry-
 - i. They misunderstand the outflow of the ministry: Involvement/Development/Discipleship
 - ii **Hosea 4:6a** My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... Things get lost/muddy/forgotten/dismissed
 - b. Pride: For them its an opportunity to shine/perform/be a rock star...
 - i. Or they ignore the principles as outdated, and I have a new idea that will be better... **you have a tried and true idea?** ... No you have blinding pride-
 - c. Barrenness: This causes people to pull from their memorial stones as a way to explain away their lack of fruitfulness
 - i. This doesn't work anymore/this doesn't work here/this isn't fruitful because people are different now-
 - ii In barrenness we look for explanation-

B- Whatever avenue it comes... lets identify what do these distractions look like?

1. Professionalism: People begin to lean entirely on the natural; Professional/Most Talented/Charismatic
 - a. There is an imbalance to where you begin to neglect the spiritual battle & reality-
2. Content: People begin to want to hide the Gospel... Music is strictly vibes/Dramas are entertainment focused/Videos are clean but have nothing to do with the Gospel...
 - a. Really its about getting people in the concert, but not reaching them for salvation-
3. Stigma: People become ashamed of the Gospel, and want to remove spiritual dynamics from the concert-
 - a. Lets not have a Prayer meeting/lets not have tongues of Praise/lets not pull an Altar call/lets not take an Offering
 - b. Those aren't things sinners care about... those are things religious people care about-
4. These are distractions to the Salvation Atmosphere- These will hinder that evangelistic focus

III THE GOSPEL DECLARATION:

A- Now; This isn't to say that you should ONLY lean on the spiritual

1. It doesn't have to be listenable because God will help us, It doesn't have to be tight and quality because God will help us, it should be hyper-spiritual so that God will help us... (*video of guy screaming create in me a clean heart*)
 - a. That's an imbalance the other way-
 - i. Martin Luther: "Human nature is like a drunk peasant. Lift him into the saddle on one side, over he topples on the other side."
 2. There should be both at work in harmony (*Pray like it all depends on God, Work like it all depends on You*)
 - a. Keep the vision and goal in mind... We are cultivating and creating a salvation atmosphere
 - i. So how do I contribute to that? How will I contribute to that? What needs to change or happen to see that?
- B-** Lets consider 3 steps to accomplish the Gospel Declaration effectively:
1. Deliver on the Promise: It should be good... Appealing... Catchy... Trendy... That's not evil or carnal-
 - a. Let the promise of a concert be just that- Good on the bands/Sound/Lights...
 - b. Find your strengths! I was never a lead singer, but I am a hype man- so I lean on that.
 2. Introduce the Subject Matter: The subject matter needs to come in a clever way-
 - a. Music; Lyrics... Drama; Application... Testimony; Transformation... Video; Relatable... Bringing in the Gospel
 3. Aim for the Heart: There needs to be a climax point at the altar call- Where the Gospel shines on salvation
 - a. This is that anointing moment that needs to be contended for... (The Cost- at times nearly weeping)