

Chris Sealey pioneering in Dublin. N/C attending for awhile – saw how Chris functioned. Had a hall booked for a concert – the caretaker never showed up to unlock the building, so Chris said, “grab the generator and we’ll set up in the park across the street.” The N/C said, “Don’t you guys ever accept defeat?” Shows a necessary attitude in ministry: Resilience.

I. THE REALITY OF OPPOSITION

A. The reality of ministry is opposition: Enemy called the adversary – one who stands against

1. The language of ministry is warfare/battles

a. Kingdom: Authority/dominion b. Bind the strong man armed... c. Luke: LSatan/lightning fall from heaven

2. Jesus was honest about this

a. **There will be people who oppose you:**

1. W’stow impact team report: That city has devils! Woman following – don’t go to this event/this church

2. 2 Timothy 4:14-15 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works.

You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.

b. There will be circumstances that will not go well:

1. V8-9 Hard pressed/perplexed/persecuted/struck down 2. Paul experienced shipwrecks 3. Why couldn’t we cast it out?

4. SA: Torrential downpour right when our huge concert was to start

II. RESPONDING INCORRECTLY

A. Obviously some people don’t respond well to the reality of opposition: V8 gives possible reactions

1. **Distressed:** *Cramped/squeezed...allow this circumstance to be your entire reality*

a. Adjust your expectation to the situation: That’s just the way it is here...that doesn’t work here...these people/no one ever

2. **Despairing:** *Utterly at a loss...some workers freeze in depression – don’t do anything*

a. Missionary: Hadn’t done any outreach in 3 months!

3. **Forsaken:** *To be deserted/alone*

a. We feel separated from God: Lose faith totally that God can do anything

b. We isolate ourselves from relationships: Pastor/other brothers

4. **Destroyed:** *To lose/destroy fully...Describing those who quit altogether – or allow it to affect salvation*

a. Couple closed the church/left sign on the door – and went skiing!

III. RESILIENCE

A. Paul is describing a necessary quality of ministry: Resilience

1. *Def: Able to recover quickly from difficult conditions...from Latin “Leaping back”*

a. **What we refuse:** Paul says there are things I do not allow to take hold of me

1. V8 4 ‘noted’; Not distressed/despairing/forsaken/destroyed...

b. **What we hold on to – faith:**

1. 2 Corinthians 4:13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,

2. 1 Samuel 30:6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

c. What we do – the correct actions we take:

1. **Persistence:** There are times when we hit it again

2. **Maneuverability:** Find a way to make it happen

1. Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

a. In the face of opposition – maneuver/go around/find another way

b. We are given the overall mandate – but there may be many ways to achieve that!

2. Actually this is a spirit: I will not allow the devil to win!

a. TP: Church flooded – arranged a movie outreach

b. SA: No one would come; We can’t let the devil win – let’s go do an outreach!

B. This is a spirit that God blesses

1. 2 Corinthians 4:14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

a. Acts 27: Storm – angel appears. Shipwreck – God does a miracle to help