

DEAD OR ALIVE?



Are we called to activity or to fruit? If we are called to activity, then a dead leaf is a great example. It is the most active thing in your yard. It gets blown and tossed around and is very active, while other plants are rooted and stationary. If it is producing fruit that we are called to, then a leaf connected to a vine is our example. We get nourished by the vine and see fruit produced. Many of us get caught up in "church" activity, while fruit is not present. We are called to know Christ and make Him known. The first thing is to know Christ. God wants us to be intimate with Him and make disciples. Here are some keys to walking with Christ and ministering.

Being:

Pray – Remember, we are in a spiritual battle!

Jude 20 - But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Abide – We are to dwell with the Lord moment by moment.

John 15:4 - Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Model – We should live the Christian life in a manner worth imitating

Ephesians 5:1 - Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children

We are also called to make Christ Known. Our role as a shepherd is to know our students, protect them, and point them to Christ through anything they are going on in their life. Here are some keys to ministering and shepherding your guys.

Doing:

Truth – A role of a *teacher* is communicate truth

John 8:32 - Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Accountability – A role of a police officer is to make sure people stay within established boundaries.

Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

Relationships - A friend shares common interests and spends time with others.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 - We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

Lord, we are not what we should be, but with your help we are becoming more and more the person you want us to be. Please show us how to dwell in you and walk in the Spirit. Fill in our gaps where we are weak. Give me courage to hold students accountable, to teach the truth, and to pursue at least one student in my cell group. Teach me Lord.

