

Improving Strategic Focus

The need to improve strategic focus is a glaring void and hole in many Christian groups today. Leadership must be gifted to operate more strategically and in a Spirit inspired way that is Biblical and practical for today.

To illustrate what we are up against I tell the story of how I recognized this practically. Dust particles in the air are much easier to see when the sun is directly upon the dusty couch. I noticed this when my daughter got so excited one day when she noticed that if she hit the couch hard enough the couch would cough out dust particles in the air. As the sun filtered through the window these particles were evident. Later in the day, when the sun had gone farther down from its apex she tried the same thing. To her surprise the effect was different. She no longer could see the dust particles in the air. As I thought what this relationship meant it dawned on me the dust particles are found floating in the air most of the time. It is with the advent of the bright sun that the dust particles become evident.

The four headings below will assist in developing groups to improve strategic focus.

Prayer

Prayer is the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit:

- Discern the heart of the Father
- Recognize that prayer is the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- Prayer prepares us and aligns our wills toward Him
- Prayer propels us toward a target

Preparation

Preparation is half of the contest ahead of us. To the degree we prepare in unity, humility and submission to others in the grace of the Spirit, we will be made faithful:

- Engage in prayer research or mapping
- Cultivate an atmosphere of the Spirit in planning
- On site discovery, prayer journeys and investigation
- Assessment of general spiritual climate of city or area targeted

Research

The remaining space in frontier missions is rapidly closing. The most hostile places on the face of the earth are left for the body of Christ. Martyrs are necessary yet the degree of casualty can be minimized with more careful prayer, preparation and research in the planning and operational stages:

- Discern Christian groups already engaged in a geographical area
- Investigate people groups
- Study cultural geography, mindsets and spiritual obstacles
- Identify and isolate components of the veil and hindrances to the gospel
- Investigate the significant patterns of relating to one another
- Investigate the “high things” exalted in community life and culture

Discernment

The Bible says the Spirit gives gifts to whom He wills for the good of the whole. These gifts are known as spiritual gifts and are necessary for the Kingdom of God to break out in hostile areas. Discernment is best left to experience, gifting, cultural knowledge and the indigenous people groups. Leadership walks alongside and grows the body of Christ for the edification of all:

- What type of person to go to the field?
- What does the captive mind struggle with?
- How to move in the opposite spirit biblically?
- What to teach and preach to tear down strongholds and the flesh?
- How to pray and where to focus first?
- What is the big picture?