

## Twice as Much

Have you ever wanted more faith. Did you ever wish that there were more members in your church? When you look at what God has done in your life, have you ever wanted something more?

Well, after almost forty years of ministry, I have found a solution for all of this. It is called “twice as much.”

If we use the Old Moslem proverb, which goes something like this, “Trust God, but tie your camel,” then you may have an inkling of what I am going to say. In other words, trust that it all depends on God, and work as if it all depends on You.

When we do more anything in the faith, it always yields more results. Much like the seed that is planted for a bountiful harvest, or the thousands and ten thousands of David and Saul, God honors all of his people who invest more in the kingdom.

We can take conscious steps to grow or progress in any matter of the kingdom, and God immediately. Fruitful Christians are those who seek the power of presence of God in a life which is destined to be extraordinary, not dull and stuck in a rut.

Twice as much begins with having a faith which is contagious, a heart which wants something more for ourselves and for others.

“When your heart is ablaze with the love of God, when you love other people - especially the ripsnorting sinners - so much that you dare to tell them about Jesus with no apologies, then never fear, there will be results.” ~ Catherine Marshall

Twice as much continues with doubling what we do to accomplish twice as much or more. For instance, if we pray twenty minutes a day, double it to forty. Forgive twice as many people twice as often as you did before. If you read the bible one hour a day, double it to two hours. Every time you double, God will bless that effort at least twice as much. Guaranteed.

This year I will be challenging the people in our church to come to church twice as much as they do now. And if they come to church every Sunday, they will be challenged to double that time and come to Sunday school.

What if we wanted twice as many people in worship? Rather than bemoaning the fact that there are empty pews or chairs, we simply ask the congregation to double their size in a year. What that takes is each person inviting twice as many people as they did the year before. If that figure is zero, there is a step up to begin.

I'm pretty certain that we would have to invite ten people each to be sure that one of them has a faith moment or becomes a part of our congregation. But if every member concentrates on the ministry of doubling worship attendance, it will happen.

There will always be those who depend on others to do their part, or are satisfied with the status quo. Any organization which plans for this is going backwards.

Then comes the doubling of the budget. It may happen in a year, or in a few years. But it begins with each member giving twice as much as they gave the year before. Or at least going from the average three to five percent to the ten percent tithe God uses to measure when we begin to give.

What this doubling ministry does is to change the focus from the world to heaven. Moving mountains takes faith the size of a mustard seed, which in many cases is a long way from where it is at present for many.

"I might have felt unimportant pitted against the awesome might of the mountains. I did not. Rather, on that mountain top I found something important that I had never known before: an awareness of a vital connection between me and the Authority behind all this beauty." ~ Catherine Marshall

This awareness involves going to the mountain, going to the moment when transcendence can happen. It takes risking, seeking, turning baby steps to giant strides. And it always at least doubles what was happening before.

When God calls our name once, it's just a hello. When he called it twice, something big is about to happen. When Moses, Samuel, Martha, Saul, and others in the scripture heard their names called twice, God was

ready do great things. When he calls our names twice, he is ready to do no less. If you don't believe me, look it up.

When Jesus sent his disciples out two by two, they were doubling what one could do. In the Christian arena, one plus one is always three where God is concerned.

If you are looking for new and wonderful things in your faith walk, dare to try this twice as much ministry. Risk twice as much. Follow through twice as much. Say I love you to people twice as much. Smile twice as much. You will be surprised as what God does with that first halting step beyond our comfort zones.