

The Counselor Cultivates: God Opens the Heart

This workshop is designed to **encourage the counselor in her call to provide gospel cultivation towards** transformative insight in the heart of the counselee.

- I. Intro: The primary purpose = encouragement for the counselor to have God's growth paradigm in mind, thus protecting from discouragement or "burn out." Goal = embracing and reminding of these truths will bolster us daily as we pray, prepare, counsel, and persevere.

- II. Gospel ministry is not a formula it is more akin to a slow-motion miracle.
 - A. Our desire for formula
 - B. Problematic concerns and results stemming from the formula view

- III. God's gospel growth paradigm provides a model for gospel cultivation toward transformative insight leading to progressive growth
 - A. Dig into 1 Cor.3:5-11 (Dynamics of us the "servants" and God's provision of "growth" through gospel power of God -1 Cor. 1:18.)
 - B. Dig into Acts 16:12-15 (The example of Lydia: The gospel spoken, the "counselee listening," God opening the heart to respond.)
 - C. Examples from my counseling journey

- IV. The content of our cultivation
 - A. Brief reminders for creatively bringing out the multi-faceted treasure of the gospel: Matt. 13:51; 2 Cor.4:5-18
 - B. Sample tools for ongoing cultivation: Mercies of God for Renewal (An Exercise which creates a tool for rehearsing and applying targeted gospel truth); Gospel centered assignments

- V. The counselor's (cultivator's) need for patience, perseverance, and prayer
 - A. Holy Spirit directed patience is essential: 1 Thess. 5:14
 - B. Perseverance in bringing forth the "treasure" of the gospel
 - C. The powerful role of continual gospel-centric prayer (a brief touch on God's design for persistent prayer and Paul's example)
 - D. Examples from my counseling journey.

- VI. Conclusion and final encouragements