

Roping Speed & Practice

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Suggested Props to Use:

- † We used the Cowboy Church Arena; the Church's Roping Team
- † For illustration, if you do not have the former; use a Roping Dummy & Rope
- † If you are not familiar with either of the above, a picture will suffice.

Additional information:

We began with the Team Ropers in the Arena. They roped a few steers, and then came over to the bleachers area still on horseback for introductions and conversation. After the message we enjoyed more team roping by the Team.

The Team Ropers explained their positions and jobs in the process:

- The Header: Ropes the Calf; Turns and controls the calf so the heeler can do his job.
- The Heeler: Timing is everything; Watches the back legs of the calf; lays the trap and ropes the back legs.
- The People who partner with them to put the steers in the chute; the people that retrieve the ropes for a few examples.

Now to the Message:

Living for the Lord is, in some ways, like ropin'.

There are just a few key things to remember, but you spend a lifetime practicing and working at it trying to get it right.

Then, after you think you've got it all figured out, you put your rope down for a while and you find out that you have let a few things slip.

I will point out two key things in roping that applies to our Christian life.

(Read [Ps. 119:60](#) "I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.")

Respond Instantly

When the gate bangs you better spur your horse and get out after that calf or you will miss your opportunity. We all are a little slow to respond on occasion, but **if you are consistently slow coming out of the box, then you will never accomplish what you want to do.**

II Tim. 4:2 says “*be instant in season, out of season*”. If you expect to be good at roping and be a champion, then you have to be able to launch **instantly** when you feel great or when you feel bad: When you are in your best physical shape or when you are sick and wish you were in bed.

The same is true if you are going to be successful at serving the Lord. You must consistently be ready to do what God expects in an “INSTANT”!

The Bible says in *Rom.12:12* that you need to be “*instant in prayer*” and you can only do that if you live by *Rom.12: 1*.

(Read *Phil. 3:14* “*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*”)

Aim Carefully

Getting out of the box fast is only the first part of roping.

Once you are in hot pursuit of that calf, you better know how to throw your rope.

If you haven't practiced and developed your roping skills, then you are going to miss the mark. Many want to be a champion roper, but are not willing to spend time practicing.

Many want to have power with God, but won't take the time to practice. What do you mean “**practice**”? ***You must spend time reading your Bible, praying, and learning what God expects of a Christian.***

It may take a little time to learn what God wants your life to be like, but it is not really that hard. Once you have practiced up on your roping you make it look pretty easy.

Once you are practiced up (time in Bible reading and prayer) in your walk with the Lord you can make the Christian life look almost effortless and easy.

Practice is what distinguishes you. With proper practice, it is obvious that you are serious!

All that I have said so far is aimed at people that already are born again. You can't live a practiced up, power filled Christian life if you haven't even picked up the rope.

Jesus is offering you eternal life if you want it, but He won't make you take it.

You must accept Him as your personal Savior in order to have that eternal life.