**Soul Winning**

**INTRODUCTION:** “The best attraction to soul winning is the gospel “God’s Word” in its purity. The weapon with which the Lord conquers men is the truth “God’s Word” as it is in Jesus Christ. The gospel will be found equal to every emergency; an arrow which can pierce the hardest heart, a balm “fragrant ointment” which will heal the deadliest wound." Author: Charles Spurgeon

**EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOUL-WINNING:**

**All throughout the Gospels and in the Book of Acts there are examples of evangelism**.

**In Luke 5:17-26** we find the story of men lowering a friend through the roof to get him to Jesus. Jesus forgave the man’s sins and healed him. **This is an example of friendship evangelism**.

**In Acts 2:14-41** there is the account of Peter preaching on the Day of Pentecost. After his sermon in verse 41, we read that 3,000 souls were added to the church. **This is an example of mass evangelism.**

**In Acts 8:26-39** we learn about the Holy Spirit calling Phillip to go on the road to Gaza where he met an Ethiopian, led him to Jesus, and baptized him. **This is an example of personal evangelism.**

**GOD’S WILL:**

God is not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance” **(2 Peter 3:9).** Therefore as “soul winners” we must be alert and diligent in our efforts to reach others with the Good News “God’s Word” about Jesus Christ.

**MISSION:**

“We must work diligently telling all of the “Good News Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Therefore we are sent out to be “soul winners” as long as it is day and there is time to work; for night is coming, when no one will be able to work**” (paraphrasing John 9:4).**

**PREPARATION:**

So as we are called into this “soul winning” ministry we need to prepare ourselves to be fruitful and as an effective soul winner as possible…because the time is short, the harvest is white, and the need is great…

**Becoming An Effective “Soul Winner”**

* **Ask for an 'Evangelistic Burden'** ...In Psalms 126:6 the divine way to work in wining souls is clearly set forth: **Psalm 126:6** **“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him:** This isGod’**s** outline for success in reaping a harvest of souls. We are to pray with our whole heart for God to place this type of burden for souls on us only when we are truly compassionate about winning souls. We are making God’s Great Commission as the single source of our mission to win souls. Keep God in the very center of the call to be a soul-winner, with no deviations…. When we ask God for this burden for Soul Winning, we are to understand fully that we will be responding to the great commission, great command, great mandate, great instruction, great order given to His disciples, and also us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 20. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen**
* **Live a Consistent Christian life**. ...Jesus tells us we are the **“light on the hill”** and the **“salt of the earth”** in the “Sermon on the Mount” **Matthew 5:13-14 Ye are the salt of the earth; but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for** **nothing. Ye are the light of the world. a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** With this spiritual example of what the world sees and keeping in mind that the world is watching, we are to be consistent in our Christian behavior and integrity each and every day. To be an effective soul-winner your life must set the example the unsaved is looking for. It must attract the unbeliever in the way you respond to life’s challenges, unfortunate events, even catastrophic events like a death or contracting an uncurable disease.
* **Have a Plan**…The plan will give you confidence…confidence produces boldness. A plan will eliminate the to desperately wonder what to say next. Your mind will be free to concentrate on your prospect and the Spirit. You won’t become confused. You won’t be led off the subject.
* **Learn/stay with the Gospel salvation message.** ...don’t flaunt your Bible knowledge. Instead use the basic salvation plan knowledge you have gained through the study of the Word of God to help you witness to your listener. Try and stay with the Gospel message….as there is a vast difference between salvation and religion. Religion is accepting doctrines, believing something (that is an opinion). Salvation is receiving someone – Jesus Christ (this is an experience). Remember that Satan doesn’t’ care how much you discuss or debate religion, he just doesn’t want you to discuss salvation. Don’t allow your listener to trap you into discussing faults of church members or other common statements that will cause you to deviate from the witness message. Pray for the wisdom to use the knowledge you have gained from the study of the Word of God. You can have knowledge without having wisdom. God tells us that if we lack wisdom, we are to ask of Him and he will grant us wisdom.
* **Watch for Openings & Build Bridges**. ...there are two distinct differences in witnessing to someone you know and to a complete stranger. With someone you know, you could simply ask them casually “Have you ever thought about getting saved?” That will usually tell you whether they have thought about it or not and begin to discuss with you. With a stranger you may ask casually, “Where do you go to church?” Be polite and listen. Then immediately if either of them responded they do go to church, compliment them for going. You may even respond by saying “That’s good that you go to church, everyone should. But really, where you go to church is not the important thing. What is important is whether we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.” You may continue witnessing by telling them that it isn’t how much we attend church, as going to church doesn’t save us. Finally, end the conversation with **“Have you ever had a real experience with Jesus, where you ask Him to come into your heart?”** If they don’t attend church somewhere, tell them that actually going to church is not the most important thing. What is important is knowing Jesus Christ. Then continue t witness. Tell them what God has done in your life. If they don’t attend church invite them to your church. You could use a special event like a Christmas or Easter Play event or church supported outreach event to open the door for the potential for follow-on witnessing.
* **Create Opportunities!** ...The Bible tells us in **James 5:16** **“the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man** **availeth much**. Pray for God to direct you to someone he wants you to witness to. It is not wise to try and witness to a person in the presence of other lost people. He/she won’t respond favorably. You will probably embarrass them, and perhaps cause them to embarrass you in self-defense. Instead choose a quiet place where you are not likely to be disturbed. If he or she is of the opposite sex, then use wisdom and don’t let the place be secluded lest you leave yourself open to gossip. Pray that God will soften their heart and make them receptive to your witnessing to them. We are reminded that everything that humans do involves their emotions so we must be careful not to offend a lost person by being too pushy. Instead build on the opportunity you have started…as it may take several times of witnessing to the lost person to convince them they need to change.
* **Leave the results to God**. The Bible tells us that “He that winneth souls is wise.” **Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise”.** We are the mouthpiece, so let’s use that
* Godly wisdom and spread the seed/message of the Gospel. The Bible also tells us that “One may plant, one may water, but it is God that giveth the increase. **1 Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase**. We must acknowledge without the **“Saving Grace and Mercy”** of God …all would be lost. It is nothing we do to save someone… God does the saving through the precious shed blood of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ**. That’s the soul-winning message…**