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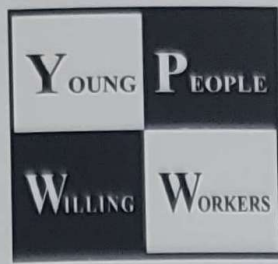
CHRISTIAN CONCEPTS FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING



"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." - 2 Timothy 2:15

MARCH-MAY
2024

ADULT
QUARTERLY



Young people yield yourselves to God in your youth. *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Prayers secures pardon, peace, purity, and paradise. *Matthew 7:7*

Willing workers wanted to win souls for Christ. *Matthew 9:37-38*

We must work while it is day. *John 9:4*

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER
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Lesson Text: Matthew 4:16-25

BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN

THE CALL TO EVANGELISM

MEMORY VERSE

“And he saith unto them, follow me,
and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19, KJV

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and
I will send you out to fish for people.”
Matthew 4:19, NIV

INTRODUCTION

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers; Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. He said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” This was only the beginning of the Master’s call to make fishers of men. It began with these three, but soon there were more and more and more. What did Jesus really mean when he spoke to those three fishermen more than 2000 years ago? Should that phrase, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men” be applied to us today? Is today’s church really expected to become fishers of men? If so, who is the church? Is it me or is it you? Am I expected to venture out into the “sea of souls,” bait my hook, cast out my line, and attempt to catch a lost soul and bring him into the fold, or should this be left to a few “Master fishermen” such as the pastor, the elders, and missionaries of the church?

I must inform you my friends, that if we profess the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we too, are responsible for becoming soul-winners. The Lord Jesus commands us to follow him, and promises that when we do, he will make us “fishers of men.” To this work, every Christian is called. Each member of Christ’s body, which is the church, must be a witness for his Master. Our Presiding Bishop, Bishop J. Drew Sheard is making a similar call. He has articulated our denominational focus for 2024 as “We’ve Got Work To Do. One verse Bishop Sheard has chosen for our consideration is John 9:4. This verse states, “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.” We submit to you that we consider ‘Whole Church Evangelism’ as a great part of the work we have to do.

DISCUSSION

This leads us back to the question of what Jesus was referring to when he said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." In our church today, we refer to this phrase on a wide scale basis as "Evangelism." Evangelism, then, means to share the good news of the Savior with those who do not know him. It is presenting the gospel of Christ to sinful men so that they may come to know Him as their Savior, and to serve him as their Lord and King. This is the greatest work God permits us to do. The very thing for which the churches primarily exist is to give Christ to a desperately needy world. Is the church doing it? Amid all the demands on the church to contribute to the moral needs of the time, is the church loyal and devoted in making her own supreme and peculiar contribution, the contribution of providing more and more Christians to live in, and alter, the world of today? Who can answer such questions without with and unhesitating affirmative? If Christ mattered most to us all, we would break clean away from all our petty religious distractions to campaigning with Him and for Him. And humans want Him! There are millions of men and women today who are hungry for spiritual things, and are wistfully, many of them, groping after Christ. Again I ask, "Is the church so busy with its own affairs that it cannot pay heed to their beckoning call; and so, all the while; the greatest spiritual opportunity in history is passing us by unregarded and unseized."

We have got to see afresh for ourselves and to make other men see that God is like Jesus Christ and that, therefore, He is love! We shall never evangelize effectively unless people see that we are making adventurous experiments in living by the law of Christ. Since the ministry of evangelism is a charge laid up on the shoulders of the church, can the church rise to the occasion and proclaim that we are truly witnesses and that the proof of his resurrection can be seen in our character and transformed lives? If not, it is now time to dedicate ourselves to the ministry of Jesus Christ and to make it a priority of going into the world to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, both by precept and example. Or in the words of Presiding Bishop Sheard, "We've Got Work To Do!!"

APPLICATION

We may not be like Peter, who preached one day and 3000 souls were added to the church, but we can be like Andrew, who after he had been brought to Christ, found his brother and brought him to the Lord Jesus, also. What a joyous privilege this can be! We, like Andrew, might by our testimony lead one soul to Christ, and he in turn may lead hundreds. This, my brothers and sisters, is the true call to Evangelism.

Lesson Text: John 15:18-27

CHRIST'S WITNESS

MEMORY VERSE

"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

John 15:26, 27, KJV

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

John 15:26, 27, NIV

INTRODUCTION

My disciples, my friends, my witnesses- that is the graduation of honor to which our Lord calls His children: first that they shall learn in His school; then that they would be so sure, through their learning, of His love and mercy that they may be able to share His secrets and become His friends: and then, when they are friends, they can be outspoken witnesses.

Witness bearing is the one weapon that our Lord has appointed for the conquest of the world. It was the only weapon the apostles used, and which achieved success in the earliest, purest, strongest, most aggressive and most expansive period of the Church's history. It was not logical argument, neither was it impassioned or persuasive oratory, which turned the world upside down.

DISCUSSION

Our Lord knew the difficulty of witness bearing. And he had prepared for it by selecting men who would not be great preachers, who would not be great orators, who would not be great thinkers, but who would be men of such a character that they would be able to give us a clean unvarnished simple record. These eleven men who were going to go through the world with a record of the life of Jesus Christ were not men of wealth or position, they therefore were removed from all temptation of self interest; they were not students or scholars, and therefore they were removed from the temptation that beset the scholar, which is through his own bias or prejudice to put something into the record which is not there. These men were, above all things, plain, simple, matter-of-fact. As it has been truly said, the chosen witnesses of Christ have

just those qualities, which a judge would point out to a jury as grounds for giving particular weight to their witness on questions of fact coming within their view. Further than that, these eleven men were men of independent lives and varied temperaments. There was not one overmastering mind among them.

They were men who would differ widely amongst themselves, and therefore, if their testimony was united about any one single fact, you might be sure that that fact was absolutely true. That dayshift always agree in an account of what they had seen and heard when by doing so they gained none of the objects of human desire, and when they were men so varied in their temperament—that gave the fact its own particular value. More than that, these eleven men were so convinced of the fact which they proclaimed in the world that they were ready, not merely to sacrifice their positions—they had long done that—but to lay down their lives for the truth of that to which they bore their faithful testimony. But it may be said that, even if that he granted, testimony is so fallible, so uncertain, that we should hardly like to risk everything upon testimony which has no better ground or basis than the fact that the witnesses were ready to lay down their lives for it. It is perfectly true that these men were fallible. Our Lord rebuked them for their forgetfulness. They were men so prosaic, as it were, so unable to understand the teaching at times that He was often obliged to explain it to them. But our Lord promised that just where they were defective He would supply the help that they needed. He tells them to wait at Jerusalem till they receive the power of the Holy Spirit. It is He who will quicken their memories and bring everything to their remembrance. It is He who will lead them in all truth. And so we have this remarkable phenomenon: here are these 11 men who have to recollect out of a bewildering number of facts those which would tell, not for the satisfaction of the curiosity of their hearers, but for the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan. And anyone who tries to put himself into their position anyone who, as, in reading a biography, wondered why the biographer has put this in, and why he has left this out, is that once face-to-face with this extraordinary fact, that these men were able to do that which no biographer has ever done with anything like the same success.

APPLICATION

The simple testimony of the apostles can be read of all—theirs was of faithful witness. But what of ourselves? If we are disciples, if we have been taught anything in the school of Christ, why should we not witness to it?

Ruskin once said, "The greatest thing a human soul ever does in the world is to see something, and tell what it saw in a plain way". Is it competent to believe that the one reason why God gave us the power of speech is never more nobly exercised than when, in one way or another, we are bearing witness to or claiming our relationship with God? The hushed voice of prayer, the raising

of a hymn, and the fearless announcement of a moral principle are examples of speech at its highest; when it fulfills, we may believe its supreme office.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. What was the one weapon the Lord appointed for the conquest of the world?
2. Describe some of the characteristics of the eleven disciples?
3. Why do you think Christ chose simple men to bear witness for Him?
4. Who did the Lord Jesus say would testify of Him?

Lesson Text: John 14:6-29; 1 Timothy 1:15

JESUS THE MASTER SOUL WINNER

MEMORY VERSE

“Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:6, KJV

“Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6, NIV

INTRODUCTION

Has it ever occurred to you that the Lord Jesus, though he taught large groups, is also our example in personal witnessing? The greater part of his earthly ministry was spent in evangelism. He could have chosen any method he wanted to in winning souls, but on many occasions he chose personal witnessing. These are several recordings in the Gospels of him teaching just one person. Take his encounter with the woman at the well, with Nicodemus, Zacchaeus, the impotent man plus many others. This is sufficient enough evidence to support the fact that the master esteemed personal soul-winning highly. In this, as in everything else he is our prime example. He was the master soul winner, thus his methods in evangelism should be of prime importance to his followers. Let us learn some lessons concerning his techniques. We will examine some of his method of logical methodical attributes as he witness and will close with an illustrative example.

DISCUSSION

He made a tactful approach. It was His methods to deal with some point of common interest then lead into the spiritual aspects. He told Peter, if he followed Him, He would make him a fisher of men. His question to the leper was “Wilt thou be made whole?”

He constantly used illustrations of simple parables that were in the right audience in which they could grasp easily. One evangelist was quoted as saying, “Without a parable spake He not unto them.”

He refused to be sidetracked from the main issue or be drawn into fruitless arguments. When confronted by the argumentative lawyer who demanded an answer to this frivolous question, who is thy neighbor? Jesus answered

him so circumspectly with the parable of the good Samaritan until the lawyer had no further case to present. Never failed to make a personal application of His teachings. To Nicodemus, He said, "You must be born again."

He prayed and wept for the souls of men, believing that unless he sowed in two years, he would not reap in joy. He showed no prejudices to the various classes. He witnessed two men of a ruling class, such as the rich young ruler and Nicodemus; those of the middle class, such as Zacchaeus, and those who were considered outcasts, such as the woman of Samaria. It is this woman that will be used as our illustrative example.

APPLICATION

Attention Getter. He began where women would meet. When she came to draw water, he said to her, "Give me to drink." This certainly got her attention because she knew that Jews normally had no dealings with Samaritans.

Aroused A Common Interest. If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asked you to drink, you would ask me and I would give you living water. Now she was really interested.

Created A Burning Desire. Whosoever drinks of this water from Jacob's well shall thirst again, but whosoever drinketh of the water I give will never thirst. What a reply.

Produced A Sense Of Conviction. "Go call your husband." The woman did not necessarily have to have her husband present to be saved, but Jesus used this strategy to pinpoint her sin. He made the evidence of her sinfulness obvious.

Revealed Himself As The Messiah. The woman said, "I know that a Messiah will come which is called Christ and when he is come, he will tell us all things." Jesus gave a simple but convincing reply by saying, "I that speak unto you am the Messiah." Now, she was confronted with the living Christ. It was a time of decision. She must either accept or reject Him. She went away proclaiming to others, "Come see a man who did told me everything I did. He is the Christ." As a result many of the Samaritans believed on Him because of her testimony.

What a beautiful illustration of the Master soul winner? He made a smooth transition of where the woman was to where he wanted her to be. Then he used his words to arouse a positive response to himself and his message of truth. By him simply talking to her, he did away with any religious, social, racial or political barriers. No wonder He is called the Master Teacher.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Outline the five steps Jesus used in ministering to the woman at the well.
2. In your own opinion, why do you think Jesus can be referred to as the "Master Soul Winner?"
3. Name some other people in the Bible to whom He personally witnessed.

Lesson Text: 2 Timothy 1:12; 2 John 5:13; Acts 6:4;
1 Corinthians 15:58, 6:15; Luke 18:15; John 15:13

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR EVANGELISM

MEMORY VERSE

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15, NIV

INTRODUCTION

The fact has been stress that all Christians are commissioned to undertake this great task of evangelism; however, this does not indicate that personal evangelism is to be classified as unskilled labor, and that no qualifications are needed-this is quite the contrary. Our aim should be first about to please Him who has called us, and then to prepare ourselves in every way possible for the work we have been called to do. Those who are trained in Christ's school will have an divine wisdom and a Christ -like character which will enable them to be used in the service of others. Therefore, this lesson is designed to examine some of the most important qualifications for personal evangelism.

DISCUSSION

Assurance of Your Own Salvation (2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 5:13). Whoever undertakes this work must have assurance himself of the gospel that he proclaims. If you were witnessing to someone about the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ and that person asked you, “Do you know that you are really saved?” What would be your answer? Could you answer with a resounding affirmative, “Yes,” like the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to Timothy? “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him....”

If you do not have this Blessed assurance, you need to search God's Word and meditate and on it until you know that you have life eternal. There are many souls longing to find someone who can speak with deep conviction and authority about the unshakable assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Remember, our doubting faith produces weak evangelism, but an unshakable hold on your faith produces powerful evangelism.

A Good Working Knowledge of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15). Any person who desires to be a successful witness for Christ must learn to be skillful in the use of the Bible. He must not only believe the Word of God, but he must study and know it. Other knowledge is no doubt valuable, but a working knowledge of the Bible is of utmost importance. For it is the book through personal application of the Scriptures that spiritual life is developed.

Just as medical doctors do not give the same prescription for each case, the same verse of the Bible will not cause conviction on every soul; therefore, it is necessary for the soul-winner to be familiar with all Scriptures that are relevant to leading souls to Christ. The Bible, and the Bible only, shows the way of salvation, exposes heresies, and dispels objections and excuses. Consequently, the soul-winner must be a student of the Word if he is to have success.

A Life of Prayer (Acts 6:4). There are many possibilities of error in the work of evangelism. With this in mind, the worker certainly cannot lean on his own wisdom to be an effective witness. He must be led as to which direction to take, to whom he should speak, and what the appropriate time is. How else could he do this unless he is constantly acknowledging God through prayer? God prepare certain hearts to receive the gospel, and He does it as we pray.

Prayer should be without formality, unhurried, and related to need. Hence, we must give ourselves continuously to prayer so that we will be able to minister the Word effectively. Therefore, the successful worker must pray before, during, and after his work.

Prayer opens the door for witnessing. We should ask God to prepare the soil of men's hearts so that they will be able to receive the seed of His Word. We must also pray that the person to whom we are witnessing will be liberated from the power of Satan and that blindness will be removed from his spiritual eyes. We must pray that God will give us the boldness and courage to speak for Him. Prayer, then, is definitely a must if we want to be a successful soul-winner.

Exercise Tact in Your Approach (Acts 26:29). Webster defines tact as "a sense of the right thing to say or do without overspending; skill in dealing with people." We need to know how to approach people with the gospel. If the worker does not have a lovingly tactful approach, he often spoils the work for which he is concerned.

Our approach to the unsaved should never be a "sanctified conceit." We never point to ourselves but to someone who is above Jesus Christ. We ask others to be like us only in our faith. Paul, as a prisoner, said to the king, "I wish that

you were as I am." But he added, "Except for my limitations," in essence, he was saying that even though I have many limitations, I am a personal witness to the wonderful things God has done in my life. An attitude of this kind takes away offensiveness from our witness and allows us to give answers to every man for the reason of the hope we have with meekness and fear.

Patience (1 Corinthians 15:58; 6:15; Luke 8:15). results from the work of evangelism may sometimes be discouraging when one does not see immediate results. Therefore, the personal worker must possess the virtue of patience. Just as the gardener who plants the seeds must wait for them to take root and grow before he sees any evidence, it will often be the same with the personal evangelist. We may see an immediate response with some, but with others, the words we have given may be hidden for months or even years before we see any positive results. We can always remember that good work for God is never in vain.

Love for People (John 15:13). When one genuinely likes people, there is no limit to the progress he can make in the divine art of soul winning. The virtue of love is two-fold; it influences both the personal worker and the person he is seeking to win. It promotes a genuine concern for the spiritual well-being of others regardless of the place, time, or circumstances. One cannot afford to limit his witness of the gospel to only those he finds attractive and easy to reach. God's love for us was so great and universal that while we were sinners, He died for us.

With this principle in mind, the soul-winner must pursue his task. Really caring about the whole of an individual and what happens to him is essential. The people we approach will sense it if our main aim is to increase the number of members in our church rather than a genuine concern for their souls. While a warm-hearted friendliness of love is not the only aspect of evangelism, it paves the way for others. Love is one of the most powerful ways to dispel resentment and opposition. It is the credential people look for in those who wish to witness to them the good news of Jesus Christ. Therefore, make love your aim.

APPLICATION

Just as one prepares himself for his natural job and duties in life, how much more should he prepare for the greatest and most rewarding task in the world, the art of soul-winning? The qualities discussed above are not strenuous. They can and must be a part of every one of us who is about our Father's business. We must all remember that we owe all men the communication of whatever truth we live by. In more hearts than we are aware of there is a pathetic watching and waiting for the arrival of one who seems, from the very tone of his voice, to have come upon truth—one who has something

Lesson Text: Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; 1 Corinthians 9:19-20

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE APPROACH

MEMORY VERSE

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”
Matthew 10:16, KJV

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”
Matthew 10:16, NIV

INTRODUCTION

The next three lessons will examine a continuous sequence on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The lessons will be in this order: The Approach, Presenting the Five Basic Truths of the Gospel, and The Commitment.

It is obvious that before you can present the gospel there must be some recipients to receive it; consequently, as Christians we need to discover how we can initiate and develop friendships with non-Christians and then lovingly explain to them the Good News of Jesus Christ. A suggestive way to start is by contacting people who sent their children to your church's Sunday School, Youth group activities, Vacation Bible School, or just people in your own or your church's neighborhood. In essence we cannot afford to always shut ourselves up between the four walls of our church and comfortable homes, if we are going to help bring the unbelievers to Jesus Christ, we must have social contact with them.

Thus, this first lesson is intended to deal with some methods for presenting the gospel as you approach the home of a stranger; however, much of it can be applied to personal witnessing on your job, any organization you are a member of, etc.

DISCUSSION

As stated previously, *prayer* is a very important ingredient in witnessing. So the first thing you will want to do before you leave home or as you approach the home of your destination is offer prayer that the Lord will give you what to say, cast out fears, and open up the heart of the unbeliever to receive the gospel.

The next step is your *introduction*. One needs to be aware that many people may be reluctant when you approach them due to the fact that many cults are in the doorbell ringing business. That's why you need to immediately establish who you are and what church you represent. Keep in mind that your first minute of conversation is very important. If you fail here, you may never get a second chance. You must have a plan and know exactly what you're going to say when someone comes to the door. If you have access to the person's name, a good way to begin is by saying for example "Mr. or Mrs. Doe, Hello my name is Sam Jones and this is my partner, Bill White. We are from First Street Church of God in Christ. We are happy that you have sent your children to Sunday school. May we come in for a moment and explain some of the things your child has been learning and share some other information about our church?" With this introduction, you have met the requirements of establishing who you are and your purpose for calling upon the individual. This could possibly open doors that otherwise might have been closed.

Establish Rapport

After you have introduced yourself through casual conversation, you should seek to establish rapport or common interest between you and the person to whom you're witnessing. Most people detest being trapped by someone who comes in and immediately monopolizes the whole conversation. You should look for points of interest such as unusual paintings, furnishings, trophies, etc. You're looking for topics that you feel occupy a special place in the person's life. You're really saying, "I care about what is of value to you, tell me something about yourself." Once you get the person to relax, moving into the next step is easier.

Assessing The Person's Religious Life

Now that you have established rapport through common interest, the person's secular life, it is time to find out where the person is spiritually. You can become aware of his spiritual condition through a discussion of his church background or lack thereof. Much comes to light about how and what a person believes when he shares his views and/or perceptions of the church. Usually, you can find out if he has some peculiar doctrinal hang-up or some bias of the church in general. This is a time for you to listen attentively. You must be sincere and show interest in his assessment of his own church background. If he or she goes into criticism of the church, do not encourage, but rather sympathize with what he or she feels are deficiencies and try to help them overcome problems and objections.

Sharing Your Own Church's Ministry

It would be logical to speak about your church's ministry since you've just listened to what the other person said about his church background. It is very

important that you show genuine excitement and enthusiasm as you share the different aspects of your church's ministry.

If the person you're witnessing has never attended your church, now maybe it would be gratifying to invite him. You may want to choose one of the more appealing aspects of your church for his first visit such as the Sunday Morning Worship Service or a well-planned seminar or social event. Remember, sometimes the first impression is a lasting one. The best preparation for an evangelist call is a lively worship service and a friendly helpful congregation.

Creating A Desire To Hear The Gospel

It is fruitless to try to witness to someone who has no desire or interest in what you're saying. So at this point you want to create a desire for him to hear the gospel. This can be done by pinpointing some particular need and showing the person how Christ can fulfill that need, or through your own personal testimony. Remember, the outline of your testimony should have three essential elements: What your life was like before you trusted Christ as Savior, how you received eternal life, and how Christ has changed your life since then. As you give your testimony, speak with quiet convicting confidence. It is not necessary to shout, but let the inner joy that flows from a regenerated heart become apparent. Your testimony can make the Word of God come alive. It's living reality!

Presenting Two Diagnostic Questions

After you've completed the above steps, the most exciting aspect of your evangelistic visit is about to take place. It is now time to present the gospel. How do you go from your personal testimony to the systematic plan of presenting the gospel? How do you ascertain if the person even needs the gospel and on what he is basing his hope of eternal life? It is with these two powerful questions that you can find out. 1) "Have you come to the place in your spiritual life that you could say for sure if you were to die today you know you would go to heaven?" This question forces the listener to examine his own life. Usually a person does not give a simple "yes or no" answer. The answer more than likely will be either; I would like to think so, I don't know, I don't think anyone can know that for sure, etc. No matter what the answer is, you then ask the second question prefacing it, for example, with "That's very interesting, but I think there is another question which will probably bring this whole subject into focus. 2) Suppose you were to die today and stand before God and He were to ask you, "Why should I let you into heaven?" What would your answer be?

This question enables you to discern upon what foundation one is basing eternal life. It cannot be answered with a simple 'yes or no.' Some of the more common answers for this question are: I believe in God, I'm a good family person, I think I'm better than a lot of other people, I go to church often, I help humanity, etc.

Lesson Text: Romans 10:3, 23; 6:23; John 3:16;
Romans 5:8; John 1:12

PRESENTING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE BASIC TRUTHS

MEMORY VERSE

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."

2 Corinthians 4:3, KJV

"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing."

2 Corinthians 4:3, NIV

INTRODUCTION

In Lesson One of this three part series on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, The technical approach was considered. The workers dealt with such topics as: Introducing yourself, establishing rapport, assessing the person spiritual life, sharing the ministry of your church, creating a desire to hear the Word, and the two diagnostic questions. This lesson will deal with the actual presentation of the Gospel of Jesus as a plan of Salvation. Five basic truths will be examined that will hopefully serve as a framework of the pertinent facts that should be communicated when witnessing about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

All men are sinners. The fact of sin becomes evident by such Scriptures as Romans 3:10, 23. "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Having read or quoted these verses to whom you're witnessing, ask "does this mean everyone has sin but you and me?" The answer is explicit. The statement includes all-that means you and me, too.

From here, you will need to explain what sin is, otherwise your prospect may think since all have sinned, maybe sin is not so bad. You must show him/her that sin is a basic disease which defiles us and cuts us off from God. It is rebellion against God. It is going our way rather than His. As a result, God is not in control of our lives. We are separated from Him like a branch that is cut off from the tree and is left to wither and die. Likewise, there is a terrible consequence for those who sin. Do you know what it is? It is death!

The penalty for man's sin is death. Paul declares in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death." God hates sin because it is like a thief. It robs us of so much. Every moral weakness, every heartache, every sorrow, every difficulty that befalls us are ultimately traceable to sin. God's original plan was for man to be filled with peace, joy and happiness. Sin destroyed this plan. No wonder God hates it. He hated sin so much until He has declared that its penalty is death.

Have you ever wondered what death means? It means separation. When men sin, a Holy and Just God must separate Himself from them. When men sin against each other, whether it's a spouse who has been unfaithful to the other or a friend who has sinned against a friend, walls are erected between them and a part of the relationship dies. Therefore, it is universal—when death takes place, separation also takes place.

If at this point, your prospect does not yet fully understand what's so bad about being separated from God, you may want to go into a simple concise explanation of the three kinds of death mentioned in the Bible: physical, spiritual, and the second death.

The person to whom you're witnessing, more than likely, already understands physical death; however, you may want to share with him Hebrews 9:27. From your previous discussion of what death means he will also have some concept of spiritual death, but you will want to reemphasize the fact that we were created to be joined to the life of God, and that when we are separated from Him, we cannot live a life filled with complete happiness and satisfaction (Isaiah 59:2).

As you deal with the third aspect of death, the second death, you will want to make sure that you are familiar with 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 and Revelation 20:14. A good way to begin is by saying, "This Second Death is a frightening reality to those who do not know the Lord. For when a person experiences physical death without having accepted Jesus Christ as Lord, his separation from God becomes eternal. He will be separated for ever in Hell from the life of God." The point here is not to frighten, but to present some hard-core Bible facts. Your prospect needs to know that the penalty for sin is real.

Now that you have given the bad news, you need to again give hope. You can let your prospect know that God did not create hell for humans, but he was created for the Devil and his angels; therefore, God does not want humans to go there, and the good news is, humanity doesn't have to.

God does not want anyone to perish. Someone once asked, "If God is so good and so full of love, how could He send people to hell?" The truth of the matter is, God does not send people to hell; if someone goes there, it will be their choice, not God's. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only

begotten son; that whosoever believe it in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Our God is a God of love and patience. As a matter of fact, his love and patience for us is almost limitless. “He is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us ward not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” This means God wants what is good for us. He wanted it so badly that He was willing to give His only Son as a ransom for our sins.

Christ dies on Calvary’s cross to pay the full penalty for our sins. The good news of the Bible is that God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for the sins of all of us. Romans 5:8 states, “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” This means He was our substitute. He took our place and assumed our guilt.

Almost everyone we meet has heard of Jesus’ death on the cross, but very few are aware of the significance of that death and how it applies to us according to the Scriptures. Therefore, as a personal evangelist, it is very important that your prospect understands this significance. The death of Christ has no real meaning to a man until the concept of imputation is implanted in his heart. He must know that your sins and his sins were laid to the cross. The Bible tells us that “God made Him to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” So Christ exchanged his righteousness for our sins. If a man can visualize his sin laid on Christ on the cross, then the cross has meaning for him.

Exercise saving faith. One must do more than acknowledge the fact that Jesus paid the penalty for his sins. He must receive this fact. It becomes beneficial to him only when he appropriates it (receives it unto himself and makes use of it). The Bible tells us that “As many as received him, He gave them power (the right) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” So, to exercise saving faith, one’s own will and trust must be involved, as he claims about personal choice to rely exclusively upon Christ’s work on the cross as his only means of salvation. Human performance cannot be a part of this work. A man is saved by faith alone or he is not saved at all.

SUMMARY

Five basic truths have been presented to share the core of the gospel of Jesus Christ with each succeeding truth building up on the former. Even though the writer shared some examples on presenting these basic truths, this outline should be further enhanced by your own examples and illustrations where applicable and in keeping with the person you are witnessing. Remember, presenting the gospel is a delightful but sometimes awesome task. They take

Lesson Text: 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

SUBJECT: PRESENTING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

THE COMMITMENT

MEMORY VERSE

“While it is said, today if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”

Hebrews 3:15, KJV

“As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as you did in the rebellion.”

Hebrews 3:15, NIV

INTRODUCTION

Leading someone to the point of actually making the decision to accept and claim the provisions of Jesus Christ for himself sometimes causes anxiety within the personal worker. However, this need not be if you adequately bridge the gap between your gospel presentation and the actual decision. It is a good idea first to summarize the three main issues of the gospel:

- 1) *Man's problem*
- 2) *God's remedy*
- 3) *Our responsibility*

After summarizing these three main issues, the following steps should take place.

DISCUSSION

Ask the qualifying question, “Does what I presented to you about the Gospel make sense?” If the answer is yes, with confidence, you're ready for the next question. If the answer is no or not sure you must try to find out exactly what is confusing him or her. It is very important to show patience. You have time. Let her ask questions or share her thoughts on anything you have said. When you understand her source of confusion, clear it up as precisely as possible. Second question: It is important to know exactly how you will ask the commitment question and what words you will use. Do not ask a vague question. Be specific and to the point, such as, “Mr. Dole, would you like to receive the gift of eternal life that Jesus is offering to you today?” Again, if

your prospect gives a hesitating answer you will need to pinpoint his or her uncertainty. If it is a logical problem, you will be able to settle it immediately; however, if it is not logical and you see no hope of any immediate settlement of the problem, suggest that you get together again. Give the Holy Spirit time to do His work. In the meantime, you can give the prospect some helpful but simple literature to read.

It is now time for him to be confronted directly to put his trust in the work of Christ willfully. Three sequential steps are involved: one. He must first recognize that he is a sinner. Your question can be, "Do you stand before God as a lone sinner with no power of your own to save yourself?" Two. He must recognize that Jesus Christ died for his sins. "Do you believe that Jesus, God's son, shed his blood on Calvary to pay the full penalty for your sins?" Three. Lastly, he must claim salvation. "Will you right now claim by faith alone the free offer of faith that God promises to anyone who will place his hope in the finished work of his Son, Jesus Christ?"

Now that your prospect has made the decision to accept Jesus as his personal Savior, you will want to guide him in the prayer of commitment. This prayer can be used to help clarify the decision just made; therefore, it is all right to suggest to him the things that should be included in his prayer. You can tell him, "Mr. Doe, now that you have made the wonderful decision to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ, we will go to the Lord in prayer right now." At this point, it is important to direct your convert to some of the promises of God to help him have assurance of his salvation. Doubt is one of the greatest tools that Satan uses. One of the most direct promises you might point the convert to is John 6:47. The best way to ensure he understands your explanation is to ask him questions.

- Mr. Doe who made that statement? "Jesus Christ."
- What did He promise us in this verse? Eternal life.
- What is the one condition in this verse? Believing on Him. –
- Did you believe on the Lord Jesus just now? Yes I did. –
- Then if you were to die tonight where would you spend eternity? Heaven.
- Praise God.
- Mr. Doe, God has now adopted you into His family. Let me personally welcome you to the family of God.

SUMMARY

This concludes the three-part series on presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that these three outlines will be of some assistance to you as you go about our Father's business. He that winneth souls is wise!

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-2

CARING FOR THE NEW CHRISTIANS

MEMORY VERSE

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

1 Peter 2:2, KJV

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.”

1 Peter 2:2, NIV

INTRODUCTION

The personal worker must develop a real sense of responsibility towards those whom he has been instrumental in bringing to Christ because when a person comes to know the Lord Jesus as Savior, he is born into God's family as a spiritual baby. The work in their souls is not finished; it has only just begun. The life of the spiritual baby is very similar to that of a natural baby. The parents, no doubt, have waited with much excitement for the little one's birth; however, after that great event, they have much work to do in caring for that child. So it is when you have just seen a soul trust Christ as Savior, it is one of the most exciting events that could ever happen. You have just become a “spiritual parent”; you have the responsibility of caring for this new Christian until he has obtained a certain level of maturity. Therefore, you need to develop a systematic plan with specific goals in mind as you help nourish spiritual babes in the way of the Lord. Below, the writer will consider some duties of the personal worker and the church in caring for new converts. As the study progresses, it will become apparent that some of the duties will overlap.

As a personal worker, when you have lead someone to Christ, you must begin follow-up immediately, for there are many things that new Christians need help with. If your convert was led to Christ on Monday, you should not wait until Sunday before you're in contact with him again. He needs to be contacted every day of the week until you acquaint him with your church and pastor. If your church offers online services make sure that he has the online credentials and the times that the services are offered. If he is in a position where he cannot attend your local church, you need him to attend a good gospel-preaching church where you feel his spiritual needs will be met. In a

case like this, it would also be very helpful for you to make a personal call to the pastor, get involved, and share with him the new convert's name and the fact that you will be bringing him to his church on a designated date. Perhaps an even more exciting element in caring for the new Christian is when he becomes a member of the same church you attend. There, you can watch him grow into maturity week after week. Is it the duty of the personal worker to help the new Christian he has won grow into maturity? Or after the personal worker has introduced him to the pastor and church, does it become the sole responsibility of the pastor to nurture this new Christian? The answer to both questions is, of course not! Even though the pastor's role is highly significant, he cannot possibly be expected to personally assume the total responsibility and the complete nurturing of every new soul that comes to Christ. Therefore, the body of Christ (members of the church), under the pastor's direction, must assume some responsibility also.

From the onset, it is important to give the new Christian a positive feeling about the total operation of his newfound church family. We will discuss some of the more formal things we can do to accomplish this. First, as touched on earlier, a preliminary interview with the pastor is very important. In this interview, many questions can be answered, and much information is gained both on the part of the pastor and the new Christian. It is also a good idea to have a written application for membership to be filled out by the new Christian. Information about former church affiliations, personal data, likes and dislikes, etc., that would otherwise be very troublesome to obtain, can be obtained here. Also, attractive written forms conveyed to the new Christian the importance of joining the church. Next, when a newborn baby is born into a natural family, there is usually a celebration of some kind, whether passing out candy, having a shower, or simply calling family and friends to share the good news. Why not do the same for the spiritual baby? Some type of reception would certainly encourage and delight the new Christian. The kind of reception would be left up to the church. Some have it monthly for all who have become a part of the Christian family within that particular month. At this reception, the officers of the church can be introduced, and various activities of the church can be further elaborated upon along with presenting the new Christian with the church handbook that includes the statement of faith, the purpose of various auxiliaries, departments, etc. The ideas are limitless, but the main purpose is to give the new member a sense that his coming to Christ is a cause for earthly and heavenly celebration. Some of his basic spiritual needs will be as follows: reinforcing the new convert's understanding of the basic principles for assurance of salvation (see part three lesson Presenting the Gospel; seeing to it that he participates in small group Bible study; encouraging accountability; helping him to develop good personal Bible study habits; helping him to understand the basic principles of the life of a Christian; and giving him some

Lesson Text: Acts 1:8; John 16:8-11

POWER FOR SERVICE

THE HOLY SPIRIT

MEMORY VERSE

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send to my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 14:26, KJV

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 14:26, NIV

INTRODUCTION

It is interesting to note that in the last moment of His visible life up on earth our Lord's thoughts circled round the idea of power. He has had a great deal to say about faith, and He has often talked about hope and love, but in the last moment, He does not mention faith or hope or love. His mind dwells upon the idea of power. He is thinking of the way in which His principles are going to be made effective in human life by the men who are to carry on His work. We all know what power is in relation to the things of this world, and the eagerness with which men are everywhere seeking it. If we ask why it is that so much is made of wealth or position or education, the answer is found in the word 'power'. Power is a great word even in its lower uses and APPLICATIONS. Painter, musician, orator, and politician—every man wants power. It is considered something worth striving after. But beyond all this there is the kind of power that we call spiritual, referred to by our Lord, and for which he told his disciples to tarry in Jerusalem. This lesson will consider the need and ministry of this power in witnessing.

DISCUSSION

Significant for all time with our Lord's command to tarry in Jerusalem. Failure at the outset would have buried the infant church beyond all hope of a resurrection. He saw how necessary it was that the disciples should succeed. So he simply kept him waiting—waiting for power, waiting for an inflow of the Spirit. Well did He know that when the power came the methods would take care of themselves? They would preach with burning tongues to the multitudes. We need only to look at the vast difference in the life of Peter, before and after he

was endowed with power from on high, in order to recognize the need for the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Do you recall how changeable and fearful he was at times? So fearful at one point in his life that he denied the Lord three times. However after being filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter was able to exhibit a power of which he had been previously incapable. He fearlessly preached the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he had previously denied, with such convicting power declaring emphatically that there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. His words were so filled with power until they left a saving impression upon the hearts and minds of his hearers. In response as recorded in Acts 2, three thousand souls were added to the church. What a difference the Holy Spirit made in Peter's life. What about us today? Do we need that same power for the service of witnessing? Certainly we do. We must realize that evangelism is a spiritual ministry—a spiritual warfare and battle. "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). Thus, we of ourselves are not capable of committing these "powers that be", but the Holy Spirit is. Man by wisdom cannot find God. Nor can we by our wisdom lead him to God. A person outside of Christ is spiritually dead, blinded by Satan and needs to be born again.

This can only be accomplished by the power of the Spirit of God; therefore, as workers for Christ we are dependent upon this source of power to work a miracle in our prospect's life if our witnessing is to be successful and fruitful. It can be seen, then that we are called to work jointly and cooperatively with the Holy Spirit as we minister the Gospel. God could spread the gospel through angels if He so chooses. But He has chosen you and me. We are His ambassadors for people whom He puts within our path to share the gospel. Therefore, in order to work jointly and cooperatively with the Holy Spirit, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The fact has been established that we definitely need the power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing. Now we will consider the work of the Holy Spirit (how he helps us in witnessing). By faith we depend upon what the Bible says about the gift of the Holy Spirit. We step out in obedience trusting him to do for us what he has promised—that is to **GUIDE US TO THE RIGHT PERSON WHO NEEDS OUR HELP**. This He will surely do if we have yielded ourselves to Him. The story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch is a good example of this. When Philip was conducting an evangelistic campaign in Samaria, he was told by God to go to another place to witness, a very unlikely spot, the desert. Out of obedience, he arose and journeyed there. Upon his arrival, he saw the eunuch sitting in a chariot reading Esaias the prophet. Because Philip

was in tune with the Holy Spirit's guidance he was used of God to lead this Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. The Holy Spirit will also lead us to the right souls if we trust Him and obey. The Holy Spirit will not only direct us to the right persons to witness to, but he will also GUIDE US IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCRIPTURE in each situation. As stated in a previous lesson, just as a medical doctor prescribes different medicines and remedies for different diseases, we also need the knowledge of how to apply the appropriate Scripture in each situation when witnessing. Can we do this of our own strength? Of course not. But isn't it both wonderful and amazing to have the Holy Spirit bring to our remembrance the right Scripture to meet each particular need (St. John 14:26). Paul lets us know in 1 Thessalonians 1:5 that only through the work of the Holy Spirit that the gospel message we share will be proclaimed in real power. "For our gospel came to not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance." Our reliance is upon the Holy Spirit to do this. Lastly, we trust the ministry of the Holy Spirit to GLORIFY CHRIST as we seek to point needy souls to Him when witnessing. You and I can only go so far as we hear witness with the spirit, then we must stay back and let the Holy Ghost do His complete work in one's heart.

APPLICATION

The sooner we realize the fact that the presence of the Holy Spirit in us is to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, the sooner we will grasp the fact that He is utterly important in the effectiveness of our personal evangelism. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we have the assurance that we do not have to stand alone when bearing His good news. It will also become evident that we need not be afraid of the most difficult cases, for the Spirit who is dwelling in us and with us is able to tear down strongholds which to us seems impossible.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Why do you think the Lord placed such value on power during his last moments on earth?
 2. Where were the disciples told to wait for this power?
 3. Is it important for us to have the power of the Holy Spirit in witnessing? If so, what would your comments be to a Christian who has opportunities to witness, but have not yet received the Holy Ghost?
 4. List some ways in which the Holy Spirit helps us to witness.
 5. What two biblical characters were used in today's lesson as examples of being used by the Holy Spirit?
 6. Can the term Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost be used synonymously?
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Lesson Text: 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 3:16

ANSWERING BASIC QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

“So then every one of us shall give
account of himself to God.”

Romans 14:12, KJV

“So then, each of us will give an ac-
count of ourselves to God.”

Romans 14:12, NIV

INTRODUCTION

Little mention has been made thus far on how to answer or cope with various questions when witnessing. One of things one is usually told in training for evangelism is not to let your answer to questions get you too far off track from the main presentation of the gospel and the issue at hand. This is sound teaching, but unfortunately, many times you will be confronted with a multiplicity of questions, some serious, while others are meant only as a game to deter you from the main focus of the gospel. In either case, you must be capable of having ready a reasonable answer. I am not suggesting that we as Christians have the answers to all the questions of the world or even Christianity; therefore, if you do not know the answer to a particular question, it is better to say to the person to whom your witnessing, “I do not have the answer to that question right now, but I will be glad to do some research and get back to you with the answer.” However, this should be an exception rather than the rule. As personal evangelists, we need to have prior knowledge of some of the most frequently asked questions so that at the proper time the Holy Spirit can bring the answers to our remembrance. Then we will be able to speak with confidence and be able to help those who are asking these questions.

DISCUSSION

Most objections and questions raised can be classified under three main headings namely, those relating to the Bible or its Doctrines, Objections Raised About the Church and Other Christians, and Personal Obstacles.

A. Objections Relating to The Bible and Its Doctrine under this heading some of the most frequent questions and objections raised are: 1) *The Bible*

is Full of Errors and Contradictions. In order to deal with this objection, hand him a Bible and ask him to show you what particular era or contradiction he has in mind. Most of the time he will not be able to do it, however, if he does have a specific legitimate question or objection, try to answer it as directly as possible, but in the final analysis, do not fail to have him read Corinthians 2:14. He needs to know that the reason he can't understand the Bible is that he needs to be born again. 2) *What About The Heathen?* This question simply means, can God condemn anyone who has never heard the gospel? As Christians, we may not have answers to the whole story of how God would deal with the heathen, but we do know that God is, and we can trust that whatever he does with the heathen will be fair. According to the Scriptures, we have the assurance that God does not hold a person responsible for breaking the laws that he doesn't know. Rather, He holds him responsible for breaking the laws he does know. Lastly, you can say to the person who raised the question that he will never stand before God as a heathen because you have just told him about the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ; therefore, when he faces God he will have to account for what he personally has done for Christ. 3) *Why Do The Innocent Suffer?* The question here is, "If God is all-good and all-powerful, why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?" It must be pointed out that when God made the world, He made everything good and perfect. However, man, through his own free will, made wrong choices that resulted in evil and suffering. So, God isn't responsible for the world's present condition of suffering and pain. Instead, sinful men are. 4) *Can you prove that God really exists?* One must not get bogged down in trying to prove the existence of God to an unbeliever. When this question is asked, it is best to consider what the person is really asking for. If he is referring to scientific methods of proof, the existence of God cannot be scientifically proven. Scientists use measurable results as a means of verification. God cannot be measured. His existence is prevalent everywhere in the universe. You can give your personal testimony of how God has changed your life and how He lives in you. You can also point to the many Scriptures that refer to God's existence, such as Genesis 1:1, Psalm 19:1, John 1:1, etc. When someone refuses to accept the order of the creation of the universe, the creation of man, your personal testimony, and the many Holy Scriptures that refer to God's existence, then there's no other evidence to convince him. 5) *Isn't Living A Good Moral Life Enough To Get Me Into Heaven?* Here, it needs to be pointed out that no matter how good we are, we still aren't good enough to go to heaven—salvation is not obtained through works but through faith. Have the person to whom you're witnessing read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Romans 3:9. Furthermore, if we had to earn our way to heaven by living perfectly moral lives, we never would get there.

B. Objections Raised About the Church and Other Christians. The most common objections raised under this heading are: 1) *I Had A Bad Experience*

With The Church, And I'm Not Going Back Again. In dealing with an objection of this nature, you may want to sympathize with the objector by saying for example, "We have to admit that sometimes there are situations that do cause hurt and we know how you must feel, but do not let one experience be the deciding factor for the rest of your life and rob you of the good things God intended for you to have in His Church." You may also want to share with him how we must forgive others as Christ has forgiven us no matter what the experience has been. 2) *There Are Too Many Hypocrites In The Church Again* this objection, to a certain degree, cannot be denied, but it must be pointed out that this is always an alibi rather than a reason for not accepting Christ. Point out to the objector that just as there hypocrites there are many real Christians. Encourage him to use them as his examples. Also using an applicable illustration could help bring his thinking back in line. For example ask him if someone gave you \$5000 in real money and \$5000 in counterfeit money, would you throw it all out or would you keep the real money and throw out the counterfeit? Lastly, turn to Romans 14:12 and have him read it.

C. Questions And Objections Based On Personal Obstacles. Under this last heading falls such questions and objections as 1) *I Go To Church Every Sunday.* Many think that merely attending church fulfills their duty to God, but you must point out that while going to church to fellowship with other believers is an integral part of God's plan, it is not a substitute for salvation. Close by sharing with him that the only way to God is through the new birth, not by church attendance alone. Have him read John 3:3,7) *I Have Tried Before But Failed* The key here is in "I've tried before." The objector must know that salvation is not an effort of trusting in self but in the power of God. You may want to briefly review the plan of salvation and its end by having him read Proverbs 3:5-6) *I'm Trying To Wait Until I Can Get Myself Together.* Many people think they can't come to Christ just as they are. So they tried to improve themselves by getting rid of some of their bad habits thereby making them worthy of God's salvation. Assure anyone with these feelings that they are to come to Jesus just as they are, "for the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." The parable of the Prodigal Son may be a good example to use as an illustration of someone who came to Christ just as they were. 4) *I'm Not Ready Yet* one of Satan's most successful devices in blocking people from coming to Christ is PROCRASTINATION. The average person has in his mind, "I will come to Christ when I'm older or after I achieve this goal," etc. As personal ambassadors for Christ, we must impress upon the minds of unbelievers that "Now is the time for Salvation." There are several scriptures that are applicable, but the following have been chosen for you to have the person to whom you are witnessing read: James 4:13-17; Luke 12:19, 20 and Proverbs 27:1) *It's Too Hard to Live a Christian Life.* Point out that this is a deceptive device that Satan uses. The word of God says just

the opposite. The truth is, "The way of the transgressor is hard" (Proverbs 13:15), but "Christ's yoke is easy and his burden light" (Matthew 11:30). Also, point out that the Christian life, just like any other worthwhile profession does involve discipline and endurance, but the reward of eternal life is worth it all. (Romans 6:23) *If I Come To Christ, I'll Lose All My Friends*. This is a popular excuse used by both the young and old; however, it needs to be pointed out that friends will not be able to help you when you stand before God in the day of judgment. Also, share with him the following two thoughts: if his friends deserted him simply because he has chosen Christ as Savior, he would be better off without them (Psalm 1:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 6:17). Secondly, in place of worldly friends, God will give his own friendship (1 John 1:3) and that of other fellow Christians (Psalm 119:63; Mark 10:29, 30).

APPLICATION

This concludes the study on Answering Basic Questions and Objections. The list is not exhaustive, but hopefully, it will serve as an incentive for you to explore and dig deeper into the Word of God as you prepare to be an even more effective witness for Him while sharing the Good News of the gospel. Remember, we ourselves must first be convinced about the truths we claim. Otherwise, those to whom we are witnessing will not be convinced either.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW/ DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Can you give Scriptures to prove that there are no errors in the Bible?
2. Why is it important not to get too far off the track when answering questions?
3. Why won't living a good moral life get you into heaven?
4. What Scriptures would you give someone who says he's not ready to be saved?
5. Can the existence of God be proven or is it simply a matter of acceptance by faith? Can you think of any scriptures that, on the surface, seem to be contradictory?
6. Is there any way you can tell when a person's question is sincere?

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 14:40; 2 Corinthians 6:3,4

DO'S AND DON'T'S OF EVANGELISM

MEMORY VERSE

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

1 Corinthians 14:40, KJV

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.”

1 Corinthians 14:40, NIV

INTRODUCTION

Has a salesman ever canvassed the neighborhood in which you live? Did he choose your home as a prime target to market his goods? If so, what was his attitude and approach like when you answered his knock at your door? Was it irritating or pleasant? Your assessment of him probably depended not so much on what he said but on how he said it. Believe it or not, the same principles hold true in “selling” the gospel. How you present your message is very important; therefore, as a concluding lesson in this lesson series on Evangelism, I have chosen to categorically review some of the things you should and shouldn’t do when presenting the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ. These principles were initially presented as training for door-to-door evangelism. Even post-COVID, we may need to return to the timeless principles that have shown rapid growth in Christendom. We know that COVID-19 is still alive. However, some people have maintained their door-to-door evangelism ministry. If you are not doing evangelism door-to-door many of the principles still speak to how to approach, engage and respect potential prospects. There are things that should and should not be done.

Your Initial Contact with A Stranger. You are probably aware through professional contact of the adage that the approach may be fatal. Your initial contact with a person is often a great predictor of the success you encounter will have. **DO BE SAFE** Practice all COVID safety protocols Wear a Mask. Wash your Hands. Maintain a safe distance. **DO BE WELL GROOMED.** Your appearance does make a difference. **DON'T CARRY A LARGE BIBLE.** It may be a turnoff and cause your prospect to wonder what you intend to do. The imagery may be too much to overcome. In most cases, a small pocket-sized Bible will be sufficient. **DO BE COURTEOUS AND PLEASANT.** People have

grown very intolerant, so your initial attitude will set the tone for the rest of the visit. You must earn the right to stay connected in every interaction. **DO CLAIM DELIVERANCE FROM FEAR.** Some interactions may feel intimidating but remember that God has not given you a spirit of fear. In seeking Him constantly, you can say as the Psalmist said, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears." **DO BE AWARE OF THE SITUATION YOU'VE JUST DISRUPTED.** Since the person was probably possibly engaged in something else before your encounter (before you rang the doorbell), a word of apology may be in order, which will demonstrate courtesy and concern.

DO AS A RULE, DEAL WITH ONE PERSON AT A TIME. A prospect will often not completely open up to you when others are around. However, if you've entered a home or a place where there is a husband and wife, or several friends, they may want you to share with the two of them. Feel free to share generally with all of them. Often one will show more interest than the others. Be sensitive to finding the most appropriate way to engage that one, apart from any potential negative influence of the others. **DON'T AS A RULE DEAL WITH A PERSON OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.** If possible, turn them over to a qualified worker of the same gender. **DON'T ATTRACT ATTENTION TO YOURSELF.** Strive to attract souls to your Lord. **WHEN PRESENTING THE GOSPEL DON'T RELY ON YOUR OWN ABILITY.** Pray and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

DO STRESS THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF THE GOSPEL. Don't present a martyr complex, indicating by your manner of presentation that the process of salvation is one of the most difficult to achieve. **DO KEEP THE MESSAGE SIMPLE.** Remember, our Savior used language that was easily understood. **MAKE THE GOSPEL LOGICAL. USE ONLY THE APPLICABLE PORTION OF THE VERSE OR SCRIPTURE. DON'T QUOTE SPECIFIC REFERENCES OF SCRIPTURE UNLESS ASKED. DON'T MOVE TO THE NEXT POINT UNTIL THE OTHER IS CLEAR.** If your prospect is having difficulty understanding, it is better to present the gospel over an extended period rather than trying to cram it all in at once. Give a person only as much of the gospel as he's ready for.

DO STICK TO THE MAIN ISSUE AND DON'T BE DRAWN INTO AN ARGUMENT. Don't allow secondary questions to sidetrack you. It takes away from your main objective. **WHEN ASKING FOR THE COMMITMENT, DON'T USE LEADING QUESTIONS.** The object of accepting the gospel should be a free choice rather than manipulation. **DO STRESS WHAT SAVING FAITH MEANS.** Your prospect must know that just having knowledge of salvation does not save him or her, but choosing to act on that knowledge is the key to salvation.

DON'T TRY TO FORCE THE COMMITMENT. This is the Holy Spirit's work. Premature decisions usually don't last. **DO SHOW EXCITEMENT WHEN THE COMMITMENT IS MADE.** The new birth is a miracle. **DON'T** let it be ordinary.

DO POINT THE NEW CONVERT TO A GOOD CHURCH. The new convert must know that in order to grow spiritually, fellowship with other believers is necessary. **WHEN CONVEYING ASSURANCE, DO SHARE VERSES OF ASSURANCE WITH THE NEW CONVERT.** The new convert should become familiar with several verses of assurance as a whole combating the force for the many uncertainties the devil will try to attack him or her with.

DON'T ALLOW HIM TO CONFUSE FAITH WITH FEELINGS. Your prospect must know that because feelings are emotions that come and go, but Calvary's Cross remains the same. **MAKING MISTAKES DOESN'T MEAN SALVATION IS LOST.** Be careful not to give a new prospect the impression that he/she can deliberately sin, but do point out that salvation does not mean absolute perfection, i.e. just as a fully grown man sometimes slips and falls in the natural. The same will happen in the spiritual. Challenge them to continue to hold themselves to a reasonably high standard of striving for perfection.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Why is a personal appearance important when witnessing?
2. Why is it good to deal with one person at a time?
3. What does it mean to express the positive benefits of the gospel?
4. Why is it important to use only applicable portions of Scripture?
5. Is there ever a time when one should try to force a commitment?
6. Why is it important to claim deliverance from fear?
7. Name other important Do's and Don'ts not listed here.

Lesson Text: Acts 8:14-25

CHRISTIANITY CROSSING RACIAL LINES

MEMORY VERSE

"Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35, KJV

"Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

John 4:35, NIV

INTRODUCTION

There are many who feel that the Philip in Acts 8 was not the apostle Philip, but was one of the seven men chosen to "serve tables" while the Christians were together before Saul's persecution (Acts 6:5) years later he was referred to as "the evangelist" (Acts 21:8) like Stephen, this "deacon" was fervent in spirit and went forth preaching the word, or proclaiming the glad tidings as many of the layman who left Jerusalem did (Acts 8:4) Philip's preaching was notable in three respects: he disregarded racial prejudices and carried the gospel to Samaritans; his preaching was attended with numerous and wonderful miracles; it was highly successful. The success which attended his labors makes one wonder whether the ministry of Jesus there, following his conversation with the woman at the well (John 4:39—42) made the people more receptive to the truth. However, according to Luke's account, the miracles wrought seem to have been the chief factor in challenging the attention of the people. Naturally they felt that God must be with anyone who could perform such miracles, and hence that his preaching must be true. This was the conclusion of even Simon the sorcerer, who "continued with Philip, and beholding signs and great miracles wrought, he was amazed" (Acts 8:13, ASV).

An expert magician, such as Simon, ought to be a good judge as to whether or not a supposed miracle was real. He was so fully convinced, that he, too, accepted Philip's teaching as true, and was baptized. However, his religious life was very superficial is indicated by the subsequent account. Our printed lesson tells of the follow-up of Peter and John in Samaria. Follow-up work is always needed after a revival if the spiritual results are to be conserved. No doubt the apostles in Jerusalem were especially impressed with the report that

the gospel had successfully crossed this racial line and had been received by Samaritans. Hence they sent their two leaders to Samaria to investigate this matter and to act as seemed wise. It seems evident, however, in the light of the later developments that no one regarded this movement as a reception of the gospel by Gentiles. This was because the Samaritans were circumcised and professed to keep the Mosaic Law. They regarded Jacob as their father (John 4:12), and they were looking for the Messiah. Peter and John saw that the work was genuine but that it had not gone deep enough. With apostolic intuition and special guidance by the Spirit, they laid hands on those who were spiritually prepared to receive the Holy Spirit, and in every case, there was a supernatural response, and the Holy Spirit was bestowed. Simon the magician was impressed with the ability, as he regarded it, of Peter and John to bestow the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and greatly desired to secure this power for himself. He does not seem to have been a hypocrite but was spiritually blind. He did not appreciate the sacredness of spiritual things and the impossibility of setting a money valuation upon them. He did not realize that Peter and John were simply agents through whom God worked but thought of them as super-magicians who could bestow supernatural gifts at their pleasure. He was attracted by the outward phenomena in connection with the reception of the Holy Spirit, but he did not understand its true meaning nor the spiritual conditions that were necessary hereto.

There are people today who are so accustomed to putting money valuation on everything that they seem to think they can purchase an interest in the kingdom of God by their liberality. The range of money value is narrow. The most important things, truth, honor, integrity, and spirituality are not subject to life's accidents, nor are they on the market.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. Why did Philip and other Christians leave Jerusalem?
2. What do we know about this Philip?
3. What was the outstanding feature of the work of Peter and John in Samaria?
4. Do you think there are any elements of magic in the practices of Christians today?

Lesson Text: Mark 9:14-29

THE CAUSE OF INEFFECTIVENESS

MEMORY VERSE

“And he said unto them. This kind can come forth by nothing, but prayer and fasting.”
Mark 9:29, KJV

He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”
Mark 9:29, NIV

INTRODUCTION

The explanation given by Jesus to the distressed disciples who inquired about the cause of their failure to heal the epileptic points not so much to the need for coming down from the Mount as to the need for first having gone up. Jesus traces His success in contrast to their failure to the power of prayer. This is certainly the lesson we need to remember at the present time. Only transfigured souls are going to reform life, and it is precisely this that we appear to have forgotten.

DISCUSSION

We feel how ineffectual we are. When we read mystical works or the biographies of the saints, and most of all, when we read the New Testament, we are depressed beyond measure. We feel not only that there is a secret that we have not found, but somehow it is a secret we have lost. For many, the glory and the grandeur seem to have departed from our faith. It is not that we are taking the side of some gifts and graces that can be granted only to a few, nor that we are misled by the idealism and the idealization of the past into thinking that our age is poor. It is not that we have entered an age of awful need and that we feel we have little to contribute. The remedy for our impotence, recommended by the Holy Spirit, is prayer. This is accompanied by an illustration of what should be meant by prayer. It is prayer that ends in Transfiguration. Jesus had climbed the mountain to pray! He had deliberately sought the solitude of the hilltop, and this shows a determined preparation for prayer, a purpose realized, and a willingness to enter upon an exercise. This was not simply to experience some spiritual exaltation, nor even for the quite legitimate end of soul refreshment. Jesus was compelled to seek illumination on the crisis that was now facing Him. He sought to find strength for the impending

trial. He climbed Hermon to see Calvary in its true perspective. He could not endure unless He saw the invisible and was armored with spiritual power. If we are going to help our world, we must seek a trench-figuring experience.

We are called to explore this great secret of transforming prayer. There is a stage of preparation in which the soul knows to ask for the benefit it seeks with complete surrender to the will of God. This should be sought with an accompanying understanding of the cost involved. It would also be helpful to understand meditation, to engage a deeper reality of God, or the ability to concentrate until all of one's physical life reaches the depths and is made ready to fuse the whole of nature into one. Another important experience is known as contemplation, in which the facets of religion take hold of the soul and completely change it, endowing the mind with illumination and a heart with a feeling so strong as to blot out all fears. One's will holds such power that the highest aspirations are now made possible.

The intensity that will drive the spirit towards these high experiential reaches of spiritual experience is a vivid realization of the evils and the needs of the world, but in order that one may see how to aid it. Nothing is to be accomplished without radiance and power, radiance to win and power to release; considering the power of God cannot shine through until there has taken place a great forgetfulness of self. Such a forgetfulness can only be accomplished as the soul is taken up into its creator and made the channel of His revelation and the agent of His will. While climbing the steep mountain of prayer is only one thing to do, it is the only worthy ambition; it is the only way to answer the appalling needs of the world. We should never underestimate the power of prayer.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. What is the true cause of the Christians's ineffectiveness today?
2. What do the following words have to do with the secret of transforming prayer?

- Surrender
 - Concentration
 - Imagination
 - Contemplation
 - Illumination
-
-
-

TRAINING UNION

Christ is the answer

Acts 4:12

Occupy till I come

Luke 19:13

Grow in grace

2 Peter 3:18

In all thy ways acknowledge Him

Proverbs 3:6

Cleave to that which is good

Romans 12:9

OUR PLEDGE

We pledge our unselfish devotion and loyalty to the principles and doctrine of our COGIC faith; to be representative of holiness in our everyday life; and to let our lives be the mirror that reflects the image of Christ.

BENEDICTION

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 24 & 25

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