

## Doctrine of Soul Winning

### Let's Go Soul Winning

#### Proverbs 11:30

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;  
and he that winneth souls is wise.”*

### Soul Winning Suggestions

#### Introduction

One of the great responsibilities in the life of the believer is to be an effective witness for Christ. It is imperative that every Christian takes serious this responsibility and seeks to win souls for the Saviour.

#### I. Why Should We Want to Win Souls to Christ?

- Without Christ people will never reach heaven and will perish in their sins no matter how religious an individual may be
  - *2 Peter 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;*
  - *Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
- It is the will of the Lord
  - *Matthew 28:19 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- The winning of souls manifested wisdom
  - *Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

## II. Excuses for Lack of Soul winning Effort

- Lack of knowledge
- Fear of rejection
- Pride in the form of not wanting to appear foolish
- Acceptance of the philosophy of the world
  - Religion is a private matter and is no one else's concern
  - The law of the land prohibits witnessing
  - One religion is as good as the next as long as a person is sincere

## III. Soul Winning Suggestions

- Be soul conscious. Witness to the barber, the beautician, the newspaper boy, the waitress, the person sitting next to you on an airplane, and your friends and family members.
- Be plain and neat as you go soul winning. Dress well, smell well, and be clean (with certain exceptions).
- Use a New Testament when possible. It is visually less intimidating.
- Go with a friend if possible.
  - For encouragement
  - For prayer support
  - In order to prevent distractions
- Claim the fullness of the Spirit prior to going. *“Lord, I claim by faith the fullness of the Spirit. Help me to help others find the Savior.”*
  - *Hebrews 13:5 “for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*
  - *John 15:26 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: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*
- Expect to win souls. Believe that God will use you. When the heart of Paul was discouraged by the rejection of the gospel in Corinth the Lord reminded him to be faithful and believe. *Acts 18:9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.*
- Be nice and polite. Do not argue. Do not threaten. Do not be combative. Remember the story of Aesop's Fable of the Wind and the Sun.

- Be sincerely complimentary. Friendship evangelism is the most effective.
- Be a careful listener. The world is hungry for someone to listen.
- Stay focused on the subject. The subject is Jesus and the way to heaven. If asked about other topics ask in return, “*What do you think?*” and then return to the gospel.
- Before you leave the person find a way to present the gospel.
  - ❑ Read the gospel from the Bible—and if that is not allowed
  - ❑ Quote the gospel from the Bible— and if that is not allowed
  - ❑ Pray the gospel from the Bible— and if that is not allowed
  - ❑ Leave a gospel tract
- Stay in one book of the Bible while presenting the gospel
  - ❑ Isaiah
  - ❑ John
  - ❑ Romans
- Record a chain reference in your Bible from one passage to the next
  - ❑ *Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:*
  - ❑ *Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
  - ❑ *Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
  - ❑ *Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
  - ❑ *Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- Ask this question: “*Do you know if you died today you will go to heaven?*” or Ask this question: “*If you were to die today and God asked you, ‘Why should I let you into my heaven?’ what would you answer?*”

- Anticipate a response
  - “Yes, I do know that I will go to heaven if I were to die today.”
  - “No, I do not know that I will go to heaven if I were to die today.”
  - “I am not sure that I would go to heaven if I were to die today.”
  - “I think I would go to heaven if I were to die today.”
- Ask if they would like to know for sure how to go to heaven.
- If there is a desire to know the way to heaven then make the following points.
  - Every person needs a Saviour because of the problem of sin. Romans 3:10-13
  - Every person has sinned. Romans 3:23
  - The wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23
  - God wants to save individuals and has demonstrated His willingness to save souls by the death of His Son at Calvary. Romans 5:8
  - The way to be saved from the power and penalty of sin is to repent, ask for forgiveness, and believe on Jesus Christ by calling upon the name of the Lord. Romans 10:9-10
- Review the main points and ask if there is a clear understanding of the gospel presentation.
- Ask to pray and then thank the Lord for opportunity to share the gospel.
- Interrupt your prayer to ask if there is a willingness to call upon the name of the Lord, to express sorrow for sin, and to believe in saving grace?
- If the prayer of faith is offered, then encourage the person to tell someone about Christ as soon as possible and to make a public confession.
- Then, stress the importance of gospel obedience in the act of baptism.
- Encourage attendance at church.
- Be a friend and begin to disciple the new convert.

IV. **Conclusion.** These practical suggestions coupled with gospel motives for soul winning will change your life and the lives of those whom you meet as the Lord gives success in this community.

## Let's Go Soul Winning

### Part II

#### Understanding the Culture in Which We Live

##### Introduction

We are living in a generation in which many people have consciously rejected the Church. The challenge is to reach them for Christ. Lee Strobel in his book *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Marry* shares some observation about what the Unchurched might be thinking.

- **Observation. A rejection of the church does not necessarily mean a rejection of God.** Many people are convinced that church is unnecessary, irrelevant, and unable to help them find meaning in life. The modern motto is “*I believe in God; I just don’t believe in church.*”
- **Observation. Those who are morally adrift secretly want an anchor.** Moral relativism, where every day the individual makes fresh ethical choices on self-interest and expediency is exhilarating—for a while.

I will steal from those who won’t really miss it	74 %
I will lie when it suits me	64 %
I will waste the equivalent of a full day of work each week	50 %
I will cheat on my spouse	53 %
I will lie on my tax return	30%
I am willing to put my lover at risk of disease	31 %
I still believe in all of the Ten Commandments	13 %

*The Day America Told the Truth*  
by  
James Patterson and Peter Kim

- **Observation. Individuals resist rules but respond to reason.**

The Bible commands Christians to be able to respond to this mentality. *1 Peter 3:15* “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* “

Foundational to our answer to those we want to reach for Christ is faith in the resurrection following the substitutionary death of Christ on the Cross. The Christian religion is not true “*because it works*”; rather Christianity “*works*” because it is true. Jesus really did rise again from the dead the third day. There is too much evidence to state otherwise.

Beyond a rational understanding of our faith we must try to convince people that God wants to protect them from harm—salvation, Christ, the church is in their own best interest.

- **Observation. The Unchurched do not understand Christianity, nor is the Unchurched well informed about what it claims to be believed.**

There is an assumption that the Unchurched has considered the claims of Christ and rejected them. This is not true. Most people do not even know the basics of the Christian faith. When asked if they knew why Christians celebrate Easter, 46 % in one survey of the Unchurched could not give an accurate answer. Therefore, *assume nothing* and begin simply to share the story of Jesus Christ.

- **Observation. The Unchurched often have legitimate questions but they do not expect a rational answer, or any answer, from Christians.** The Church must share with others that their questions are welcomed.
- **Observation. The Unchurched want to know something and to feel it.** The sterility of the Church is felt. If Christianity is true, if Christ is alive, then the church should not be dead! Our church services must be tuned to God. There must be a prayerful encouragement of the Holy Spirit to be active and endeavor to come to God in creative ways.
- **Observation. The Unchurched do not want to be a case study or someone's project, but there is a desire to be somebody's friend.**

True friendships are rare and difficult. David W. Smith in his book *Men Without Friends* says plainly, "Women make friends more easily than men do." There are some reasons for why men do not have friends.

- As youngsters most boys are encouraged to suppress their emotions,
- to be competitive,
- to keep their personal needs and longings deep inside, and
- to look up to role models who are independent and impersonal.

As a result a lot of men might have a secret craving for community with others. The Church has an opportunity to

- demonstrate unconditional love and
- to let other men know there can be a rich, deep relationship that exists with God and with one another.

- ❖ Jesus had Peter, James and John
- ❖ David had Jonathan
- ❖ Paul was so close to Timothy he called him "my true son"

The Bible defines a friend as someone who sticks closer than a brother.

The opportunity comes to reach people by letting the Church develop an authentic community with honest accountability, freely offered forgiveness, and mutual care.