

Pam 1072



# The ART of SOUL WINNING



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# *The Art of Soul-Winning*

**W**HEN a person is regenerated a desire to see other souls saved is given along with this new spiritual life. As soon as Andrew recognized Jesus as the Messiah he went after his brother Simon. John must have gone after his brother James, and Philip went for Nathaniel. Thus the first three disciples of Jesus went immediately to bring another person to him. This should be the response in your heart and mine as those who have received the blessing of salvation from Jesus' hands.

One of two things can be done with this desire to see others saved. It can be left alone and it will wane away and soon die, and no interest will be manifest in lost people. Alas, this seems to have happened in the hearts of too many professing Christians. On the other hand this desire can be cultivated, fanned into a flame, and so become a passion to win lost people to Christ.

Winning lost souls to Christ is an art of the highest order. Jesus is our supreme example in the art of winning individuals.

This was his method, and it has proven to be effective and successful through all the ages by pastors, teachers, parents and other Christian workers. Every Christian should strive to develop this art and use it for the blessing of souls and the glory of God.

An absolute essential for the soul-winner is *compassion for the lost*. Jesus loved people, and you and I must love lost people for his sake. There is no substitute for this compassion. Not enthusiasm, culture, Bible knowledge, judgment, consecration, or any other good characteristic will take the place of genuine love for lost souls. The Holy Spirit will create this love in our hearts as we consider the wonder of our own salvation and our indebtedness to others to share our blessing with them.

Then, *spiritual knowledge* is necessary if we are to be soul-winners. Without the keen sense that a soul without Christ is lost, and a consciousness of what that lost condition means, and a certainty that there is a way to be saved from the consequences of sin, no one will ever seek a lost person for salvation. The Scriptures contain this knowledge (Rom. 3:23, 6:23; John 3:36). As soul-winners we must know how to present the plan of salvation to a lost person so he will understand it, believe it, accept it, profess it, and live the Christian life.

To gain *the confidence of the lost person*

is also necessary for soul-winning. We must have the respect of those whom we seek to win. Our Christian character is a major part of our witness. This places the emphasis upon the importance of a disciplined and consistent life. No Christian can expect to influence others for Christ unless he is walking in newness of life. A good testimony, however, will open the way for a successful effort in winning a soul to accept Christ for salvation.

Again, a *point of contact* with the soul must be found. In every life there is some natural, easy way into the inner soul. There is some simple key that will unlock the door to the secrets of the life and open the heart for the gospel message. Success in soul-winning depends on finding this natural approach. A study of the desires, attitudes, and characteristics of the individual is necessary to find this point of contact.

As soul-winners we must *depend on the Holy Spirit*. After Jesus went back to be with the Father the Holy Spirit was sent into the world to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, to teach the eternal things of God, to testify of Christ, to guide the seeker for truth, to comfort the believer, and to glorify Christ. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to lead us to the individual at the right time, to help us speak the right message in the

right way, to convict of sin, to convince concerning the sufficiency of Christ, and to regenerate the soul and give new life.

*The Scriptures are our indispensable aid* in leading souls to Christ. The gospel of Christ is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Rom. 1:16). The Scriptures must be used to make clear the fact of sin (Rom. 3:23); the condition and consequence of the lost soul (Rom. 5:12); the necessity for being born of the Spirit (John 3:7); the assurance of the love of God for lost souls (John 3:16); that Christ came into the world to seek and to save lost sinners (Luke 19:10); and that he gave himself in death on the cross that they might have salvation (1 Tim. 1:15). The Scriptures must also be used for inducing growth in grace and in knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ for the development of the Christian life.

The soul-winner will respect the freedom of the individual soul. We must know that every person is a free moral agent and is directly responsible to God for his own actions. Acceptance of the Saviour must be voluntary and personal. It must be definite and with a consciousness of the importance and significance of the step taken.

All our testimony for Christ must be clear in showing how one becomes a Christian. It is essential to point out carefully

what it means to turn from sin by repentance, to turn to the Lord Jesus by faith, to accept Christ as personal Saviour, to make a public profession of faith in Christ, to follow him in baptism and church membership, and then how to grow in Christian character and to become an affective and efficient servant for him.

*"They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).*

JEROME O. WILLIAMS

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