

Teach Them.
Part I
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

As a true believer (by that I mean one who has understood who Jesus is; who has understood their own sinful condition and has placed their trust in Jesus to save them from their sins;) sooner or later you will begin to be concerned about those around you who are still lost like you used to be.

You are going to want them to have what you now have; you are going to want them to go to heaven where you are now going; you will probably want them to come be a part of our Church family to learn with us and enjoy the fellowship we now enjoy.

Often as you begin to try and express these desires; as you try to tell them about the Lord...they just don't get it.

As a result you become discouraged, you become disheartened and some of you have all but given up trying to be a witness for the Lord at all.

If there is one area of ministry that I know something about, it is the area of personal witnessing. As of this month I have been telling people about Jesus for 38 years; sometimes with success; sometimes not.

I want to be an encouragement to you today. I want you to have what it takes to never quit; to never give up; even to never get discouraged. Knowing how to go about it the way the Bible teaches us to can really help.

I do understand that to see someone rejecting Christ is a heart breaking experience and I suppose there is really no medicine for that kind of sadness except the hope that someday God may use the seeds we plant to bring about a change in that person.

If you want God to use you as an effective witness for Christ; if you want to personally see souls come to Jesus; I believe you can; I believe that almost anyone who knows the Lord can see this happen...if you know how.

So today I will share with you some of that “know how;” at least enough to get you started:

First, and perhaps most important of all, you must:

I. Make yourself available to God.

A. It's not your ability that's going to make you a soul winner; it's availability!

1. Most people who know me; even fellow pastors; say that I have a gift for winning others to Christ.
2. That may be true; I suppose it is; but it wasn't always like that.
3. I'm the guy that dropped out of speech class.
4. I'm the guy with a hillbilly accent and not much vocabulary who avoided conversation at all costs.
5. I'm still pretty ordinary when it comes to the charisma you would expect to find in someone who consistently reaches sinners for Christ.

B. God's Word challenges us to go after the "gifts" we want.

1. When you read about spiritual gifts and you get to the end of the discourse, you see this challenge from God:

2. **1 Corinthians 12:31 But covet earnestly the best gifts:** and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

3. Why shouldn't God use you to win souls?

4. It is God who does all the saving; the less so-called "ability" you may have, the more apparent it becomes that God is the One doing it!

5. Thus He gets the glory and not you; which is the way it is supposed to be anyway!

6. All I had was a passionate desire to see people saved; God added all the rest as I made myself available to Him.

C. Don't try to be a "Lone Ranger."

1. Recognize that the "Great Commission" as we call it is given to the Church...NOT to individual Christians.

2. If you want to win souls for Christ; if you want to do it for His glory; then do it as a part of His team.

3. The only organization in this world where Jesus gets all the glory for all the good that is done is a real New Testament Church.

4. Become a member; a team player and work together.

5. By the way; make sure it is a real Church; any rebel seeking a name for himself can gather together some other rebels and call themselves a Church; but that certainly does not make them one.

D. There really does need to be an actual surrender to God for this.

1. Men don't just evolve into being preachers.
2. God burdens their heart, they desire to serve and please the Lord, God calls them and they answer; they surrender to that call.
3. It is really not that different with any area of service to the Lord.
4. God burdens our heart, we desire to please and serve our Lord who bought us with His own blood; He speaks to our heart like He is probably talking to you today...
5. Now you need to respond to that call.
Isaiah 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

Once you are in Church and on the team; you've made yourself available to the Lord; you've answered His call; now you must:

II. Stay in fellowship with God.

When the opportunities come; you need to be in fellowship with the Lord.

A. Sin makes us pretty much useless to the Lord.

1. **1John 1:5-6**

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

2. **Isaiah 59:1-2**

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

3. **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

4. When we sin, we interrupt our fellowship with God.

B. In this life, you will always be a sinner; you must learn to deal with it.

1. Even as a Christian you have thought, said and done some pretty stupid things; as well as failing to do what is right on numerous occasions.
2. The **reality is** that even as much as we grow in the Lord and with all the victories over sin we can and will experience; you will continue to sin.
3. You **MUST** learn to confess your sin to the Lord quickly; even immediately and get back into fellowship with Him.
4. You have His promise; use it!
1John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
5. **1Corinthians 3:9** For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.
6. You simply cannot labor together with God if you are not walking with Him; and thanks to His promise, you can!
7. We must stay ready at all times to give out the good news about Jesus.
1Peter 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:

Next:

III. You must understand the battle.

A. There are things you must understand about those you want to win.

1. Not everyone is going to trust Jesus and be saved. It is a reality we all must face.
2. Each and every individual must ultimately decide for him or her self.
3. Do your job; do it well and the rest is between that person and the Lord.

B. Sometimes, even those who will eventually trust Christ are simply not ready yet.

1. **John 6:44** No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
2. God's drawing of men to Himself is a process.
3. Your witness to someone may be just one part of that process and not necessarily the conclusion of that process.

C. You must learn to love those Jesus loves.

1. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. **Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

3. As servants and co-laborers with Christ, we don't get to just love our own family and our own friends; our duty is to share the love of Christ with everyone...equally like Jesus loves.

4. **Luke 6:32** For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

5. What this means in simple terms is that if the one you are burdened for and talking to about the Lord isn't responding; your job is to go on to someone else until you find someone who will.

In Conclusion:

We must learn how to properly go about the job; we must become students of evangelism.

In Part II of our series I am going to teach you everything there is to know about how to properly win souls. (Sure I am... don't you wish that was possible?)

No, all I can do is put you on the right track and give you the main points of what must be taught in order for a sinner to come to Christ.

You will need to be a student; an active diligent learner; one who goes out and practices what he or she learns; constantly refining and developing your skills.

The call and challenge from God today is for you to commit yourself to the task.

You must make yourself available for the Lord to use. He is not going to do this against your will.

You have the place, you have the resources, the training is available and the Lord has the power. Jesus will do all the saving.

There is certainly no shortage of sinners; the only thing lacking is your desire and availability.

I could give you sad stories and grim bleak pictures of eternity in a devil's hell; I could stir you emotionally and guilt you into committing yourself to this.

But then, when your emotions calm down the commitment would change or disappear.

You need to do this just because you love the Lord and you know He wants it done.

There are plenty of places to serve in support of those who will win the lost.

And the Bible teaches that we all will share in the rewards.

The real question today is this: Is God calling you to become a soul winner?

If He is, your job is to surrender. The Lord, your Church and I will take you through the rest.

Jesus died for our sins and rose again to save us; we are surrounded by thousands who simply do not understand this. They need YOU!