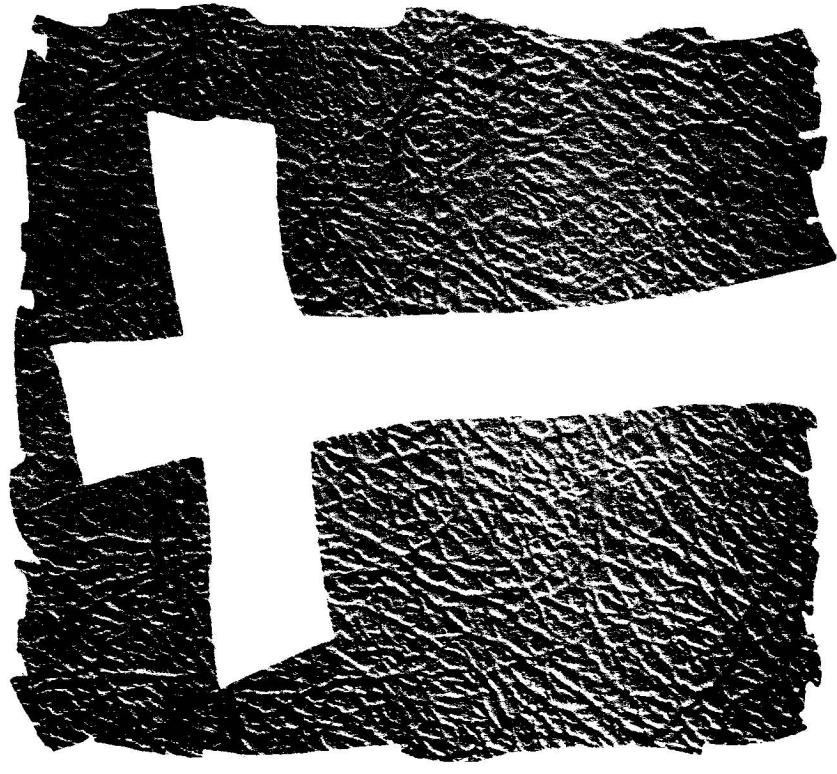
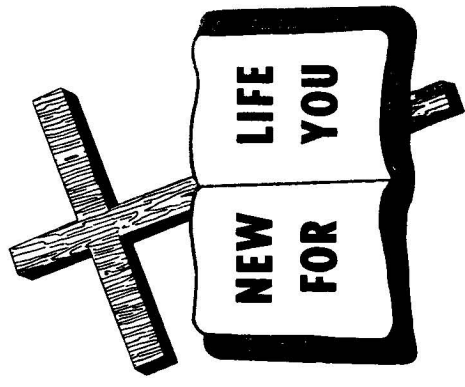




*Believe on the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved.*

Acts 16:31

Studies on soul winning



studies on soul winning

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INTRODUCTION

Soul winning is the privilege of every true believer in Christ. This important truth is seen throughout the Bible.

The writer of Psalms pointed to the fact that we are saved so that we can help others to trust in the Lord (Psalms 40: 2, 3).

King David wanted to be forgiven of his sins and have the joy of salvation restored so that he could help sinners to be converted unto God (Psalms 51: 12, 13).

In the Book of Proverbs we read, "He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11: 30). Therefore one who does not win souls is unwise.

Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1: 8). If a Christian is not a soul-winner, it is evident that he is not fully controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "Follow Me, and I shall make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4: 19). If a Christian is following Jesus, he will be a soul-winner.

These are a few heart-searching statements from the Bible regarding soul-winning. May the Lord use these Scriptures, and others, to cause many Christians to want to be soul-winners, who please the Lord.

Many Christians are not soul-winners, because no one has helped them, or encouraged them, to win souls to Christ. This encouragement is needed today. Our prayer and hope is that these soul-winning studies will be used of God to help in meeting this great need. May the Lord bless you richly as you study these lessons and share them with others.

Remember, if we faithfully follow Jesus, He will keep His promise: "I shall make you fishers of men" (soul-winners).

(5) Be neatly dressed.

(6) Be at ease and spiritually confident.

(7) Study the best approach and phrases to use in distributing tracts. Some suggested ones:

(i) "May I share a short message which has been a blessing to me? Thank you."

(ii) "Here is something important. Please read it. Thank you."
(Others to be added in class.)

(8) "Introduce" the tract. Hold the tract out with the title upward and facing the one to whom it is offered.

(9) If possible, follow up the opening which the giving of the tract has made, with a talk on the way of salvation.

(10) Continue to pray for the individual after you have left the tract with him.

(11) Practise using tracts regularly.

4. You need to think of ways and places to distribute tracts to people.

(1) House to house.

(2) Far-away places through the mail.

(3) Railway and bus stations, airports.

(4) Business centres and market places.

(5) Hospitals, prisons and other institutions.

(6) On trains, buses, airplanes.

(7) Where one works, or attends school.

5. You need to trust the Lord to work in the heart of the one who has received a tract.

Memorize Psalm 126: 5, 6.

LESSON 1

WHAT IS A SOUL-WINNER? WHO CAN BE A SOUL-WINNER?

Before we study about how to be a soul-winner we must be sure that we know what a soul-winner is. First, we shall see what a soul-winner is not. Then we shall try to get a good definition of a soul-winner.

1.—What a soul-winner is not.

(a) A soul-winner is not one who just tries to get someone to believe that there is one God. The sinner must do more than this, because the devils believe that there is one God and tremble, but they are far from being saved (James 2: 19). Discuss this.

(b) A soul-winner is not one who just tries to get someone to join the church. The sinner should first have his name written in heaven before it is written on a church roll (Luke 10: 20). His name is written in heaven the very moment he accepts Jesus as his Saviour and Lord. Discuss this.

(c) The soul-winner is not one who just tries to get someone to get rid of some bad habits. When the sinner repents of his sins and trusts Jesus as his Saviour and Lord, God gives him a new nature which causes him to want to do good things (II Corinthians 5: 17; II Peter 1: 4). Discuss this.

(d) A soul-winner is not one who just tries to get someone to do good works. The sinner cannot be saved by works. When someone does good works "in order to be saved", the Lord considers these good deeds to be "works of iniquity" (Matthew 7: 21-23). This is true, because they are trying to substitute good works for Christ's death on the cross. Discuss this.

2.—What a soul-winner is.

A soul-winner is one who helps a sinner to repent of his sins and trust Jesus as his Saviour and Lord. Discuss this thoroughly and give your own definitions.

3.—Who can be a soul-winner?

Before anyone can be a soul-winner he must know that he has trusted Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord. It is impossible for one to teach what he has not experienced. II Corinthians 13: 5.

Be sure that you have received Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Use the following verses for heart searching in the class. Then encourage each one to search his own heart when he is alone.

Use John 1: 12; I John 5: 11, 12, together with II Corinthians 13: 5. Use Acts 10: 43 together with II Timothy 1: 12. First use John 1: 12 and I John 5: 11, 12 to show that one must receive Christ in his heart to become a child of God. Then use II Corinthians to encourage a personal examination. Use Acts 10: 43 to show that forgiveness of sins is through believing in Christ. Then ask if each person can really say II Timothy 1: 12 from the heart. Discuss this.

Emphasize the fact that all Christians are expected to be soul-winners. This includes preachers (John 1: 35), lay preachers and deacons (Acts 8: 26-39), women (John 4: 28-30), husband and wife working together (Acts 18: 24-26).

Use the following Scripture to show that God expects all of us to be soul-winners: Proverbs 11: 30; Ezekiel 33: 8; Psalms 126: 5, 6.

Memory verses: Proverbs 11: 30 and Matthew 4: 19.

LESSON 6

THE USE OF TRACTS IN SOUL-WINNING

The distribution of a good Gospel tract is a great ministry. More Christians need to learn how to give out tracts carefully and prayerfully. The purpose of this lesson is to help you to use tracts in winning others to Christ.

1. You must have the right attitude towards good tracts.
 - (a) You should pray for the person who receives a tract in the way you pray for the person you have witnessed to for a long time. Discuss this.
 - (b) You should believe in the power of the printed message. One will often forget a sermon, or the words of a soul-winner, but he can re-read a tract many times. Discuss this.
2. You must make a careful choice of the tract to be used.
 - (a) The tract should be clean and attractive.
 - (1) The tract should be attractively printed.
 - (2) The tract should be kept clean.
 - (b) The tract should be clear and appropriate.
 - (1) The message should be clear and true.
 - (2) The message, language, etc., should be suited for the one who receives the tract. Examples: Do not distribute tracts which contain R.C. or S.D.A. doctrines. Do not give a tract on stewardship to a sinner.
3. You need to study helpful rules to remember when giving tracts to people. Discuss this.
 - (1) Pray much before distributing tracts.
 - (2) Never force tracts on people.
 - (3) Be friendly, kind and happy.
 - (4) Be courteous and tactful.

(c) Note some things about the salvation experience:

(1) Faith came by hearing God's Word (Acts 8: 32-35; Romans 10: 17).

(2) Faith came through the work of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8: 29; John 16: 8-11).

(3) Faith was expressed through baptism (Acts 8: 36-38). Discuss this.

3.—Jesus the master soul-winner:

(a) Note some things about the Master Soul-winner:

(1) He had love for sinners, but He hated their sins (John 8: 11).

(2) He was moved with compassion when He saw sinners (Luke 19: 41).

(3) He talked about things with which they were familiar (John 4: 10).

(4) He would not be led away from the message of salvation (John 4: 20).

(b) Note how the Master Soul-winner won a sinful woman. Read John 4: 4-42.

(1) He spoke to her. He told her about living water. By doing this He showed His concern and love for the sinner.

(2) He helped her to want the living water (salvation). (John 4: 15.)

(3) He helped her to face her sins, which kept her from being saved or having living water. He did this very kindly (John 4: 16).

(4) He proved to her that He is the Christ, and Saviour of the world (John 4: 25, 26, 42).

(5) He helped her to trust Him as her personal Saviour and become a soul-winner (John 4: 39-42).

(c) Note how the Master Soul-winner won a sinful man. Read Luke 19: 1-10.

(1) Jesus called Zachaeus by his name (verse 5).

(2) Jesus talked to him privately in his home (verse 5).

(3) Jesus became his Lord and Saviour (verses 8, 9). His life was changed. Discuss these.

Memory verses: Luke 19: 10; John 3: 16.

LESSON 2

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A SOUL-WINNER

1. To be a soul-winner a person must be saved and know that he is saved. Study the following Scriptures: I John 5: 13; II Corinthians 13: 5; II Timothy 1: 12.

To bring others to be saved, you must **know** that Christ has saved you. If you are not sure about this, you will not speak to lost people. Do you **know** that Christ lives in your life? Do you **know** that He has saved you from your sins? If the answer is "I don't know", then go back to Lesson One. Search your heart. If you are not saved, repent of sins and receive Christ **now**.

You can know you are saved. Why? Because His Word tells you. Your new life in Christ shows you. The Holy Spirit lives within you, testifying of Christ's salvation.

There was a church worker helping in a mission hospital. She was kind. She helped those who were sick. But she never brought anyone to be saved by Jesus. She wondered about this. She remembered joining a church. She remembered when she was baptized. She remembered doing good works. But she could never remember being saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. So she humbled herself in repentance. She truly received the Lord. Then she was saved and knew it. Now she was ready to bring the lost to be saved.

Do you **know** that you have been saved? **Discuss this.**

2. To be a soul-winner you must be surrendered to the Lord to win souls.

Study the following Scriptures: Matthew 4: 19, 20; John 15: 16; Acts 1: 8.

If you have been saved, there should be full surrender to win the lost. The Lord wants to use you. He is able to use you if you will say to Him, "Lord, now—this day—I surrender to You, my Lord. Use my feet to walk your way. Use my eyes to see the lost. Use my mouth to speak to lost people. I choose not to live for myself, but for my Lord Jesus. I give up my life in full surrender for the service of Christ."

Christ commands all those saved to be His witnesses. That means telling another how the Lord saved you.

There were some young people saved at a Bible club at a secondary school. They told their friends what happened to them. At first these friends just laughed. But these young people kept showing this new life. They urged their friends to repent and receive Christ as their Saviour. Finally they persuaded the lost friends to attend the Bible club. There they realised that God's Word is true for them. By repentance and receiving Christ they too were saved. It happened because some young people were surrendered to win souls to Christ.

3. The main qualification for the soul-winner is to be filled by the Holy Spirit.

Read and study the following Scriptures: John 15: 26; Acts 2: 4; Acts 4: 31; Acts 6: 5, 7; Acts 9: 17, 20.

The saved person who is filled by the Holy Spirit makes God's will his choice daily. This means that if you want to be filled with God's Spirit you choose to obey the Lord completely.

If there is anything in your life displeasing to the Lord, the Holy Spirit cannot fill you. Any disobedience, any attitude or actions not of Christ, God cannot fill you.

But if you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you can win souls, begin by searching your heart. Use God's Word. Whatever sins God shows you, confess and make right that sin. If evil has been said to another or about another, go and make this right. Then, with sins cleansed, the Holy Spirit can fill you. There will be power to win souls. Discuss this.

Memory verses: Acts 1: 8; Ephesians 5: 18.

LESSON 5

EXAMPLES OF SOUL-WINNERS

1. Andrew brought his brother Peter to Christ.

(a) Note how this is stated in the Bible: "He first findeth his own brother Simon and saith unto him, we have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus . . . (John 1: 41, 42).

Discuss the following phrases and apply them to yourself as a soul-winner:

- (1) He first **findeth** his own brother, Simon.
- (2) He **saith unto him**, we have found the Messias.
- (3) He **brought him** to Jesus.

(b) Note the nature of Andrew's approach:

(1) He was prompt. As soon as he trusted Jesus, he went to tell Peter of his experience. Discuss this.

(2) He was personal. He told of **his experience**. He invited Peter to see for himself. Discuss this.

(3) He was positive. He didn't say, "I think I have found the Christ". He said, "We have found the Messias". Discuss this.

(4) He was purposeful. He had a clear purpose. That purpose was for Peter to trust Jesus. Peter did. Discuss this.

2. Philip points a man of Ethiopia to Christ. Read Acts 8: 26-40.

(a) Note some things about the soul-winner:

(1) He was useable. God was using him (Acts 8: 4, 5). Discuss this.

(2) He was yielded. God was leading him (Acts 8: 26, 29, 30). Discuss this.

(3) He was informed. God had taught him His Word (Acts 8: 32-37). Discuss this.

(b) Note some things about the sinner:

(1) God had prepared his heart (Acts 8: 28).

(2) God sent His servant to help him (Acts 8: 26). Discuss this.

(1) Faith in a church, creed or ceremony does not save a person.

Discuss this by using John 14: 6 and Acts 4: 12.

(2) Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved. Discuss this by using the following verses: Luke 7: 50; Acts 16: 30, 31; Ephesians 2: 8, 9; Acts 10: 43.

(b) What is faith?

(1) Faith is closely related to hearing God's Word (Romans 10: 17). Discuss this by using Acts 16: 31, 32.

(2) Faith includes belief and trust (Acts 10: 43). Illustrate this. Examples: A child trusts his father to catch him when he jumps into his arms. A patient trusts the surgeon to take something out of his body which is harmful.

(3) Faith is taking or receiving (John 1: 12). Illustrate this. Examples: A person who is very hungry receives food and lives. A person who is very sick receives medicine and lives.

(c) What are some of the results of receiving Christ as personal Saviour? Discuss this.

(1) Forgiveness of sins (Acts 10: 43).

(2) Becoming a child of God (John 1: 12).

(3) Having eternal life through Christ who lives in your heart through the Holy Spirit (1 John 5: 11, 12; John 3: 16; 11 Corinthians 13: 15).

Memory verses: Luke 13: 3 and John 1: 12.

LESSON 3

WHAT ONE MUST KNOW TO BE SAVED

1. Before a person can be saved, he must know he is lost.

Scripture study: Romans 3: 23. Unless a person has been saved by Jesus, he is lost. He is lost because he has sinned against God. Everyone has sinned. Everyone has within him a sinful nature, or heart. So all even practice sin. Some people compare themselves with some others and say, "Well, I am better than that person". But anything short of God's glory is sin. So all have sinned. Discuss this.

2. All the lost must know that their sins cause death.

Scripture to study: Romans 6: 23; Revelation 20: 15; Revelation 21: 8.

God's Word shows that those not converted to Christ are spiritually dead. Some day their body will die. After that will be a second death in the lake of fire (Revelation 20: 15; 21: 8).

No one knows when he will die; it may be any time. After death there is no more opportunity to be saved. Read John 8: 21, 24.

It is the sin of rejecting Christ that keeps a person out of heaven. When a person dies who was not saved, his soul goes to hell. He must pay for his sins.

In another country a young man had a job. But he was lost. A Christian man came to talk to him about being saved. "I am sorry, I'm too busy now," said the young man. "I don't have time to talk to you right now. See me later." But that evening, after he left work, something happened to the young man. He was killed. Now it was too late. His sin of not receiving Christ kept him out of heaven.

All the lost will be separated from God for ever. How terrible! Discuss this.

3. All the lost must know that Jesus is the Saviour they need.

Scripture to study: Luke 19: 10: "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost". I John 4: 14: "The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world". I Peter 3: 18: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God." Romans 5: 8: "But God commends His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Even though everyone has sinned, God still loves all people. He wants to save everyone. He is seeking to save the lost. God uses His Word. He uses those who are saved. He uses the Holy Spirit to convict of sin. But most of all He sent Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus could do that, and He only, for He had never sinned. Yet He was willing to take the punishment for the sins of people. So, because of Christ's death, sins can be forgiven if a person will receive God's forgiveness. It means receiving God's Son as personal Saviour. Christ took the place of the punishment for every sinner. God has provided salvation for all who will accept it.

A certain man was called to go to war. But he had a family. His friend told him to stay at home and he would go and take his place in fighting. The man agreed. His friend went to fight. But he was killed. They sent his body home. The man buried it and put these words above the grave: "He took my place". Yes, if this man had gone to fight, he would have been killed. But his friend died in his place.

That is what Jesus did so that anyone can be saved. Discuss this.

Memory verses: Romans 3: 23; 6: 23.

LESSON 4

WHAT ONE MUST DO TO BE SAVED

Show the one to whom you are witnessing that in order to be saved he must meet God's requirements to **repentance** and **faith**.

Aim: That he may be convinced that Christ will save him when the two conditions are met.

1.—The sinner must repent.

The question has been asked, Is it possible for one to believe in Jesus without repentance? In answer to this question, study the following, which show that one must turn from his sin before he can trust Christ as his Saviour and Lord:

(a) Jesus warned: "Expect ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13: 3, 5).

(b) Jesus' message was, "Repent ye, and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1: 15). Read I Corinthians 15: 4, 5 and Romans 1: 16. Discuss this.

(c) The Apostle Paul always preached "repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20: 20, 21). Discuss this.

Use several illustrations of repentance. Illustrations: A small child going towards a poisonous snake. Then he turns and runs to his father's arms.

Remember, a sinner does not have to repent in his own strength. He repents through the convincing power of the Holy Spirit and the drawing power of the crucified and risen Lord. Read John 16: 8-11; 12: 32. Discuss this.

2.—The sinner must receive Jesus as his personal Saviour.

Note: Believing in Christ and receiving Christ mean exactly the same thing (John 1: 12; 3: 16).

Study the following questions carefully:

(a) In whom must one have faith in order to be saved?