

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT in EVANGELISM

by Weldon E. Viertel

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RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY READING

This study guide does not specify definite supplementary textbooks for Levels 2 and 3. It is suggested that each student have one of the books recommended for Units I and II. Kennedy's book, *Evangelism Explosion*, is valuable for Unit III supplementary reading. It should be available to the students through the library for those who cannot purchase it. The books are listed in order of preference.

Units I and II

Bright, Bill. *Revolution Now*. Campus Crusade for Christ, Inc., Arrowhead Springs, San Bernardino, California 92404.

(Recommended for Level 1 students if they have not read it.)

Taylor, Jack R. *The Key to Triumphant Living*. Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman Press, 1971.

(An outstanding book but more difficult to read than Bright's.)

Paxson, Ruth. *Life on the Highest Plane*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1928.

Culpepper, C. L. *The Shantung Revival*. Crescendo Book Publications, 114 Graham Street, Dallas, Texas 75223.

Huegel, F. J. *Forever Triumphant*. Bethany Fellowship, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55431.

Unit III

Moore, Waylon B. *New Testament Follow-Up*. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wm. B. Eerdmans Co., 1963.

Kennedy, D. James. *Evangelism Explosion*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971.

PREFACE

This study guide was prepared for two uses: (1) to guide students preparing for the ministry in their study of personal witnessing, and (2) to guide pastors in training their parishioners to be faithful witnesses. The two-fold responsibility of the pastor in the area of evangelism is to share his faith, not only from a pulpit, but also in personal witnessing, and to train his members to share their faith. A pastor who does not do personal witnessing has either a deficient relationship to his Lord or an inadequate concept of his calling.

The Church is being challenged today by powerful enemies. Communism, materialism, nationalism, racism, rationalism, hedonism, demonism, atheism, and the new morality and drug addiction threaten the survival of the Church, as well as society. Church leaders are usually in one of two categories: They are satisfied with the Church in the world and are willing to permit it to be of the world; or they are desperately seeking effective solutions and programmes to salvage the Church and the world. Happily, there is a third group—those who have discovered that the gospel of Christ “is the power of God unto salvation . . .” (Rom. 1:16.) A bewildered and disheartened Church must be revived through a discovery of the power of God if the enemies of Christianity are to be defeated.

Church renewal depends on Christians understanding how to “walk in the Spirit”, how to be fully controlled by the indwelling Christ, and how to witness in the power of the Spirit. The purpose of this study guide is to show how a church can be revived, not because of the ability or uniqueness of its leaders, nor through additional organization, but by simply accepting the promises of God.

Unit I examines the spiritual foundations for renewal. Every Christian needs to understand and experience the power of God in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Through appropriating the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Christians are equipped to live victorious spiritual lives and to serve effectively. Without solid spiritual foundations, they will continue to fail in sharing the gospel with a lost and condemned world.

Unit II discusses the need for all Christians to be involved in witnessing to their faith. Since many Christians have problems in witnessing, this unit deals with how to share one’s faith, and gives simple methods for training every Christian to share the gospel. Preparation for witnessing has been presented as an extensive and complex task in the past. Suggestions for simplified ways of sharing one’s faith should enable each church to train its members to be effective witnesses.

Unit III suggests some follow-up procedures and plans for continuing spiritual renewal in the churches. New Christians must be enlisted and trained to be effective witnesses. Christian growth and development come through study, training, and service.

All three units are essential for successful witnessing in carrying out the Great Commission and seeing God’s Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. This book is not so much a guide on “how to achieve victory for Christ” as it is on “where to find and claim the victory God has already achieved in Christ.”

“Church” is used basically in this study guide to refer to “the people of God who are guided and controlled by the Spirit of God”. Only in a secondary sense does the word refer to the institutionalized organization. In some places, the term refers to the total body of Christ, and in other places it refers to the people of God who assemble in a particular location. The distinction is made by capitalizing “Church” only when it refers to the total body of Christ.

WELDON E. VIERTTEL

El Paso, Texas
July 1975

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Though this textbook was originally prepared nearly a quarter of a century ago, the need it addressed has not diminished. Many Christians are still either unaware of their responsibility to witness to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, or feel that they are unable to be an effective witness. The problems which Christians face in their world have not changed—the same “isms” continue to flourish, though geopolitical realities may have changed somewhat.

The very real problem is that Christians appear progressively disinterested in both the lostness of those around them and the spiritual condemnation which the vast majority of the world's population faces. The Church seems to have turned inward rather than reaching out toward those who are dying in their trespasses and sin. Nevertheless, though the first two groups mentioned by Dr. Viertel (those who are willing to permit the Church to be of the world, and those who are seeking to salvage the Church and the world) are very much with us, the third group (those who seek to share salvation through the gospel of Christ) are also still very much in evidence.

This text continues to be a good tool for developing Christians who understand and experience the power of God in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, who can become effective witnesses by sharing their faith, and who continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and to serve Him.

The problem of renewal and revitalization of Christians has been a concern for many in these years. Materials have been developed to aid Christians in their spiritual growth. Many of these materials emphasize the need for Christians to witness to others about their faith. To mention a few: *Survival Kit*, *MasterLife*, *Experiencing God*, and *Bible Guide to Doctrine and Discipleship*. These materials are being used extensively through-out the world in the effort to develop Christians who know and live the meaning of: “For God so loved the world . . .” (John 3:16); “Go ye therefore . . .” (Matt. 28:18-20); “. . . there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12); and “. . . I have made you a watchman . . .” (Eze. 3:17-21).

It is the fervent desire of this editor that this text may continue to assist Christians in their spiritual growth and their development as Christians who are “not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . .” (Rom. 1:16).

DONNA ENGE

El Paso, Texas
1997

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Recommended Books for Supplementary Reading are listed on page 4.

- Oswald Chambers. *He Shall Glorify Me*, London: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1965.
- Robert E. Coleman. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1963
- The Continuing Activities Manual for the Lay Evangelism School in the Local Church*, A manual in the TELL series of the Lay Evangelism Training Materials. Evangelism, 1350 Spring Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30309.
- James D. G. Dunn. *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, London: SCM Press, Ltd., 1970.
- V. Raymond Edman. *They Found the Secret*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, n. d.
- H. L. Ellison. *The Household Church*, Exeter, Devon, England: Paternoster, 1964.
- C. G. Finney. *Memoirs of Rev. Charles G. Finney*, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1876.
- _____. *Revivals of Religion*, London: Morgan and Scott Ltd., 1910.
- Adoniram Judson Gordon. *Ministry of the Spirit*, Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1894.
- _____. *The Two-fold Life*, New York: Fleming H. Revel company, 1883.
- Norman Grubb. *Continuous Revival*, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1961.
- _____. *The Liberating Secret*, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1962.
- F. J. Huegel. *Bone of His Bone*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1949.
- John Hunter. *Knowing God's Secrets*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, n. d.
- _____. *Let Us Go on to Maturity*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1968.
- _____. *Limiting God*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, n. d.
- James H. McConkey. *Prayer*, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania: Silver Publishing Co., 1918.
- _____. *Three-fold Secret of the Holy Spirit*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1897.
- _____. *The Way of Victory*, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania: Silver Publishing Society, 1940.
- John McNeil. *The Spirit-Filled Life*, New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1896.
- F. B. Meyer. *The Christ-Life for the Self-Life*, Chicago: Moody Press, n.d.
- Waylon B. Moore. *New Testament Follow-Up*, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Co., 1963
- Andrew Murray. *Abide in Christ*, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1968.
- _____. *Absolute Surrender*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1897.
- _____. *The Full Blessing of Pentecost*, New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1965.
- Watchman Nee. *The Normal Christian Life*, Moore, Box 18505, Indianapolis, Indiana 46218, 1963.
- Ruth Paxson. *Rivers of Living Water*, Chicago: Moody Press, n. d.
- Walter K. Price. *Channels for Power*, Nashville: Broadman Press, 1966.
- Hannah W. Smith. *Christian's Secret of a Happy Life*, New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1968.
- Charles G. Trumbull. *The Life That Wins*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: The Sunday School Times Company, n. d.
- _____. *Taking Men Alive*, Young Men's Christian Association Press, 1907.
- _____. *Victory in Christ*, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania: Christian Literature Crusade, Inc., 1959.

The books mentioned in the Editor's Comments are as follows:

- Henry T. Blackaby & Claude V. King. *Experiencing God*, Nashville: LifeWay Press, 1990
- Ralph W. Neighbour, Jr. *SURVIVAL KIT for New Christians*, Nashville: Convention Press, 1979.
- _____. *The Journey Continues: SURVIVAL KIT 2*, Nashville: Convention Press, 1985.
- Avery T. Willis, Jr. *Bible Guide to Discipleship & Doctrine*, Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991.
- _____. *MasterLife*, Nashville: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1982.

MINISTERIAL TRAINING BY GUIDED STUDY

Ministerial Training by Guided Study is designed to introduce students on various levels of academic preparation to the Bible and related areas. This is not a correspondence course, nor the traditional lecture system, but a new approach in education. The goal of the programme is to make quality theological training available to all students. Family and church responsibilities and lack of academic prerequisites and finances prevent many men and women who have been called of God from improving their ministry through training. These obstacles can be overcome by an approach which emphasizes self-study and weekly small group discussions. The study guides are designed for students on three levels of preparations:

1. Students with some primary education
2. Students with some secondary education
3. Students with some university qualifications

Although this course is designed primarily for pastors and ministerial candidates with no seminary training, laymen and lay preachers can also benefit from some of the courses. Pastors with divinity degrees might use some of the study guides as refresher courses while serving as leaders of study groups and conveners of the weekly seminars.

Study guides are used to direct private and group activities in the mastery of the content of a subject. They contain the basic content for each subject and recommend supplementary sources for a more advanced study. Questions are included to direct the attention of the student to the important facts in the lessons and to provide an immediate response to the material read. Weekly seminars of approximately an hour for each subject provide opportunities for the discussion of issues related to the subjects and their practical application in contemporary life. A teacher or tutor guides the seminar discussions, but the students from all three levels present and discuss their ideas. When students come to the seminar with a basic understanding of the lesson, the seminar can be dedicated to enrichment of the subject and to discussion of the practical use of the material in the life of the Church.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE STUDY GUIDE

Text and Learning Activities

The Study Guide is designed primarily for home study. When the Guide is opened, the text appears on the left side of the page, and questions requiring an immediate response to the material read are on the right. The student should read a paragraph before reading and answering the question or questions for that paragraph. If there are no questions for a paragraph, he may wish to make a few notes on that paragraph and move on to the next. The questions and answers should be covered with a strip of paper (see following page) until the paragraph has been read and the student is ready to answer each question. Then the cover sheet should be moved down the page far enough to enable the reading of the question and the writing of the answer. The answer according to the text appears immediately under the question. After the student has written his own answer, he may then compare it with the given answer. If the two are not the same, the paragraph in the text should be read again.

Home Study Exercises

A **Home Study Exercise** appears at the end of each lesson. The Study Guide contains the basic content for each lesson, and the questions of the **Basic activity** are to be answered by all three levels. After reading the text and doing the learning activity on each page, the student should be able to answer most of the home study questions without further reference to the text. These questions are self-testing exercises. If a student is unsure of the correct answer, he has not adequately learned the material in that particular section, and he should review until he is sure that he understands the content. Some questions call for more extensive answers and require concentrated effort for mastery. The completed questions serve as a summary of the lesson and should be helpful as a review.

Students on *Levels 2 and 3* are required to do **Supplementary activities** in addition to the basic exercises. The supplementary activities sometimes include a reading assignment in another book with questions to be answered.

Level 3 is required to do **Advanced activities** in addition to the basic and supplementary work. This work will vary according to the availability of library resources. Sometimes there will be questions over a parallel reading assignment in a recommended resource book. At other times, the questions will require independent or individual research. Bible dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and books on the subjects of the study guide are sources which should be consulted. A **Bibliography** indicates where additional material may be found.

Seminar

It is suggested that the students of all three levels in a geographical area meet for an hour each week with a teacher or tutor to discuss the lesson with reference to:

1. problems encountered in home study in answering questions or in understanding the textual material;
2. the application of the lesson to the practical work of Christian ministry and conduct;
3. the significance of the lesson as a whole and its place in the total programme of ministerial training.

The fragmentary questions of the lesson may sometimes be answered without getting a picture of the lesson as a whole. It is also possible to learn the facts about Christianity without seeing their application in the life of the Church. The student is responsible for getting the detailed information of the lesson in his home study. Understanding the over-all meaning of the lesson and its practical application should be the goal of the seminar.

Some seminar questions have been included with each lesson. Their purposes are:

1. to stimulate interest (some are controversial questions which have not been resolved by scholars);
2. to guide in the beginning of the seminar discussions;
3. to direct attention to problems related to the materials studied;
4. to require original thinking which will lead to suggestions for the practical application of the material.

Teacher or Tutor

The teacher or tutor may offer other seminar questions which are more relevant in a given situation. He should feel free to use any approach he chooses as long as the discussion remains related to the material of the lesson. It is his responsibility to prevent the seminar discussion from departing from relevant issues.

The teacher may find that a brief test at the beginning of the seminar will be helpful. The test will encourage students to more adequately prepare their home study assignments and enable the teacher to evaluate the progress of each student. Two or three questions from the basic studies should be sufficient. Students who are not making satisfactory progress may need personal help and encouragement in preparing their lesson. They should not be overlooked!

LEARNING ACTIVITY

Use this sheet of paper to cover the learning activity on each page.

When you have finished reading each paragraph, slide the sheet down just far enough to expose the learning activity for that paragraph. If there is no activity, continue to the next paragraph.

Write your answers.

Then slide the sheet down farther to expose the suggested answers.

Compare your answers with the suggested ones. If they do not agree, reread the paragraph.

Continue to the next paragraph.

Cut to separate