

LESSON 8

CONDUCTING A SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM

PART I

This lesson and the following give a detailed outline which may be followed in organizing and conducting a school of evangelism in a church. The Bible teachings to be used in the school have been discussed in the first five lessons of this study guide.

The following plan presents the activities of a school of evangelism scheduled from Monday through Saturday. Other schemes of scheduling can be used, but the four two-hour sessions should be maintained, and the two field experiences in witnessing should be observed.

Objectives

This lesson deals with the first two sessions of the school of evangelism. The two major objectives to be accomplished during the two sessions are: (1) to guide the Christian to experience the power and control of the Holy Spirit in order that his witnessing will be in the power of God rather than in his own power; and (2) to teach the Christian to share his faith by using the salvation booklet in helping those who need Christ and to use the Christian growth booklets in his endeavours to help those needing to find a way of victory over sin.

The power and control of the Holy Spirit.—To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be equipped with God's power through the indwelling Spirit for the task which God assigns. In the work of witnessing, filling means that the witness depends on the Spirit to prepare the heart of the person being visited, to guide the words of the witness, to convict the lost person of sin, and to bring about the new birth. The witness who knows God's power through faith invites the person to whom he speaks to experience God's power through faith.

Since the filling with the Spirit means to be controlled and empowered, a person's life must first be cleansed of sin. Isaiah defines sin as going astray like sheep, each one turning to his own way (53:6). The person whose life is controlled by self rather than his Master goes astray into forbidden pastures. Transgression of the law is to break over the boundaries of righteousness established by God. Before a person can be controlled by the Spirit, he must renounce self-control and transgression by confessing himself as sinful. Since God can use only the life which is holy, the life of the Christian must be cleansed of sin and set apart unto God's service. The holy life brings joy and peace. The rebellious and disobedient life brings conviction and anxiety. The sinful life is powerless, but the cleansed and filled life is fruitful and victorious. A person cannot experience spiritual power until he has confessed all of his sins and has been cleansed by the shed blood of Christ. There is no point in presenting the lecture on the Spirit-filled life until Christians have genuinely confessed their sins and experienced cleansing which is a prerequisite to the filling with the Spirit.

Sharing faith by using booklets.—The practice sessions of sharing the salvation booklet with a partner will help both to understand more clearly their own salvation experience. Sometimes church members attending the school of evangelism discover that

The two major objectives to be accomplished during the first two sessions of a school of evangelism are:

1. To guide the Christian to experience the power and control of the _____
2. To teach the Christian to _____ his _____.

(Holy Spirit, share, faith)

The Christian witness must depend on the Holy Spirit to—

1. _____ the heart of the person being visited
2. _____ the words of the witness
3. _____ the lost person of sin
4. _____ about the new birth.

(Prepare, Guide, Convict, Bring)

What is a prerequisite for the filling of one's life with the Spirit? _____

(Confession of sin)

Practice in using the booklet on the Holy Spirit reinforces the Christian's understanding of the Bible study on the _____.

(Spirit-filled life)

they have never received Christ as Saviour when they read the booklet on salvation. Others who have genuinely been saved have not understood the experience; therefore, they are not able to share it with others.

During the second session, practice in using the booklet on the Holy Spirit reinforces the Christian's understanding of the Bible study on the Spirit-filled life. If Christians are to be most effective in their spiritual ministry, they need to know how to help defeated Christians who do not attend church. The mistake commonly made is to criticize defeated Christians without helping them to find a way to overcome their defeat. A much more constructive approach is to show them Scriptures which can guide them to victory over the carnal man and the power of Satan. Christians should help to strengthen one another. The booklet on the Holy Spirit is one of the most helpful and constructive tools available for use in helping others.

The first two sessions are vital to accomplish the two primary goals of the school. Although the leader of the school may be limited in human abilities, God's power is able to accomplish His purposes. God's purposes for His children are for them to experience joy in their life in Christ and victory in their service for Him. By faith, the leader of the school can depend on God's Spirit to be present and to fulfil God's purpose.

Preparation

1. Involve the church in scheduling the school of evangelism. The pastor and church leaders should see the need to give emphasis to the primary task of evangelism in the church. The gospel means "good news" and comes from the Greek word meaning to evangelize. The training of workers for this responsibility should be central in the church's programme. Leading the church to make and approve plans for a school involves the members in the support of it.
2. Plan a definite week in the church's activities for the school and urge every member of the church to make plans to participate.
3. Preach sermons on the condition of the lost and the Christian's responsibility to witness.
4. Have special prayer asking for God's presence and leadership in planning for and conducting the school.
5. Have the church leaders to speak personally with every Christian to encourage them to participate in the school.
6. Select someone to lead the school who has had training in a similar school.
7. Secure sufficient essential materials well in advance of the school.

Monday Evening Session (7:00-9:00)

Greeting and introduction to the school (7:00-7:15)

1. Give a welcome to those who are present and a prayer which invokes the presence of God.
2. Present Scriptures which state that every Christian is responsible to be a witness.
3. Explain why Christians have failed to be witnesses:
 - (1) Some have not been taught that they are responsible.
 - (2) Some are afraid to share their faith: they are afraid they will say the wrong thing.
 - (3) Some do not know how to share their faith and need to be taught.
 - (4) Most Christians are leading defeated lives; thus they do not have the interest or the power of the Holy Spirit for sharing their faith.

Underline the correct word

The (pastor, church) should make the final decision for having a school of evangelism.

(Underline *church*)

In order for the school of evangelism to be succesful, there must be thorough _____.

(preparation)

After reading in the outline four reasons why Christians have failed to witness, write the reasons:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

(Compare your answer with the text.)

DEFEATED CHRISTIANS¹

Introduction

1. Defeated Christians do not enjoy their new life in Christ nor are they fruitful servants.
2. Defeated Christians do not witness.
 - a. Sin controls their lives. This means that they fail to live in obedience to God.
 - b. They lack interest in doing God's work. They question whether or not their Christian experience makes any difference in life.
 - c. They do not have spiritual power for doing spiritual work.

I. *The Reason for Christian Defeat: The Carnal Nature*

1. There are two kinds of Christians (1 Cor. 2:15-3:5).
 - a. Spiritual Christians. Their lives are controlled by Christ. Christ lives in them to control and produce fruit. (See Gal. 2:20; 5:22).
 - b. Carnal Christians. Their lives are self-controlled.
 - a) They are characterized by envy, jealousy, and strife.
 - b) They may be active church members.
 - c) They seek their own interests instead of being concerned about others.
2. Carnal Christians live defeated and unfruitful lives.

II. *The Effects of Christian Defeat: Loss of Joy and Fruitfulness*

1. The carnal Christian loses the joy of his new life in Christ. (See Psalm 51.)
2. The carnal Christian is ineffective in serving God (Ps. 51:13). Because of his own sinfulness, he has no influence with sinners.

III. *The Scope of Christian Defeat: The Majority of Christians*

1. It has been estimated that more than 90 per cent of the Christians live defeated lives. Survey the number who have become member of churches but are no longer active in Christian service.
2. The average Christian is carnal and does not grow.
 - a. He does not know how to find victory over the flesh.
 - b. He depends on his own ability to accomplish spiritual work.
 - c. He may be diligent in his efforts, yet he does not have spiritual power.
 - d. He has failed to realize that victory comes through dependence on Christ rather than self.
3. Paul recognized that he was weak because of his carnal nature (Rom. 7:14-25).
 - a. He recognized that victory would not come through efforts of the flesh (vv. 18ff.).
 - b. He found the solution to his carnal nature in Christ (vv. 24f.).

IV. *The Solution to Christian Defeat: Confession, Cleansing, and Faith*

1. Confession: The Christian must recognize his sinful nature and agree with God that it is wrong (confess means "to say with").
 - a. To deny one's sinfulness makes one a liar (1 John 1:8).
 - b. When one confesses one's sin, God will forgive that sin (1 John 1:9).

¹ An alternate outline on a related subject appears in *Blueprint for Living*, a special edition of *The Living New Testament*, prepared by Campus Crusade for Christ international

Match the following by placing the correct letter in the blanks.

- _____ 1. Fruitful lives controlled by Christ
- _____ 2. Selfish, envious, defeated lives
- a. carnal Christians
- b. Spirit-filled Christians

(b-1; a-2)

Read Romans 7:14-25 concerning Paul's dilemma.

He stated that deliverance from the grip of sin is through _____.

(Jesus)

The solution to a carnal Christian's defeat is _____, _____, and _____.

(confession, cleansing, faith)

- c. Genuine confession must be specific. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, a person needs to state the specific sins which are defeating him.
 - d. The Christian knows that the sins he confesses are forgiven since he can depend on God's faithfulness (1 John 1:9).
2. Cleansing: A Christian who confesses his sin will be cleansed (1 John 1:9— "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"—RSV).
 3. Faith: A Christian must live daily with a dependence on God's power instead of his own ability and strength (Rom. 1:17— "He who through faith is righteous shall live"—RSV).

Suggested activity (8:00-8:20)

It is very important that those present be given opportunity to respond to the Bible teaching under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If they do not spend time immediately in meditation and confession, "then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart" (Matt. 13:19). You may say to the class:

A good way to focus on specific sins is to write them down. You will now be given sheets of paper, and you are encouraged to go aside to a place of quietness and to list the sins which the Spirit reveals to you. After the Holy Spirit has searched your heart, agree with God that the sins listed on your paper are wrong and are defeating you. Ask God to forgive you. On the basis of 1 John 1:9, you have been cleansed of those sins and do not have to worry about them any more. Tear up the sheet of paper as a symbol of what God has done with your sins: He remembers them no more (Jer. 31:34). Give thanks to God for cleansing you through the blood of His Son Jesus Christ. (You will be given about twenty minutes; take more time if you need it.)

Practical activity 8:20-9:00

HOW TO SHARE A SALVATION BOOKLET

1. Introduction

The use of the salvation booklet in sharing one's faith has several benefits. Many people have no difficulty discussing the weather or political and sports events, but they do have difficulty getting started in telling someone else about Christ. The use of a booklet in witnessing provides a means for opening the conversation. Also, the booklet is beneficial because it sets forth the plan of salvation concisely and clearly. If it is followed closely, it prevents the conversation from being diverted by non-relevant questions. In addition, the booklet is inexpensive and can be left in the hands of the person with whom the witness has been speaking. If that person has received Christ, the booklet will help him to express his faith. If he did not make a commitment to Christ, the booklet is valuable to guide him as he further considers the decision. You may say to the class:

You may have been afraid to share your faith in Christ or you may have had difficulty getting started. Perhaps you have not known how. During the next forty minutes, we are going to learn how to use a booklet in sharing our faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit is able to use you in bringing men to Christ as you use methods and materials in presenting the gospel to others.

A truth we must remember is that Christ has not demanded that we succeed in getting men to make decisions. Christ does require that we share our faith, but the results are the work of the Holy Spirit, who convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:7). We share our faith and invite the person to respond, but his response is not within our responsibility or power.

Writing down one's sins places the focus on _____ sins.

(specific)

Advantages in using a booklet on salvation are:

1. The booklet provides a means of _____
2. The booklet sets forth the _____ concisely and clearly.
3. The booklet can be _____ with the person.

(opening the conversation, plan of salvation, left)

We do not feel that we have failed if the person does not accept Christ. We fail only when we do not share Christ. We are successful witnesses when we share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Explanation of how to use the booklet

Using this booklet on salvation can help us to open the conversation. We can simply say to a person, "Have you heard of this booklet on (give the title of the booklet)?" You may continue by saying, "Many people have found new life and joy through the guidance given by this booklet. I would like to share it with you."

You may instruct the class to open the booklet, hold it in position where the person can follow as it is read, use a pencil or pen to point to the place being read, and continue reading to the prayer which invites the person to receive Christ. If the person's attention strays from the subject, perhaps ask him, "Does this make sense to you?" If he interrupts with questions other than those relevant to the subject of the booklet, respond by saying, "That is a good question. Let's discuss it after we have finished reading these verses of Scripture." Often the questions will be answered when the person prays to receive Christ.

When you have come to the prayer inviting Christ to become Lord and Saviour, read the prayer, and then ask the person if he has ever prayed a similar prayer. Then ask him if he would like to make it his prayer. If he says he is not quite ready, ask him if he has any questions about some part of the booklet. Go back to some of the Scriptures which were not clear to him and explain them more fully. If he is still not ready to make a decision, do not pressure him. You might say, "If you had received Christ as Saviour, this is what would have happened to you." Then read the latter part of the booklet which describes what happens when one receives Christ.

3. Memorization of the main topics in the booklet and practice in presenting it

- (1) After the above instructions have been given, go over the four or five main divisions of the booklet until the group can say them from memory.
- (2) Have the people present divide into pairs for a time of practice in using the booklet. After the first has had opportunity to read to his partner, have the partner take the role of the witness.

4. Homework

Encourage the participants to read the booklet a number of times before returning the next evening and to take advantage of any opportunity that may present itself for using the booklet with someone the next day. Practice may not result in perfection in the use of the booklet, but it will improve greatly the presentation of it.

Tuesday Evening Session (7:00-9:00)

Bible Study (7:00-7:55)

THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN

The Spirit-filled life means the Christ-controlled or Christ-directed life. Many blessings in the Christian life are missed because the majority of Christians do not understand the role of the Holy Spirit in their daily Christian lives. Emotional excesses on the part of some cause many Christians to neglect the study of biblical teachings concerning the Holy Spirit.

To understand the nature of the Spirit and His work in the life of a Christian, we need to examine His function in relation to the lives of Old Testament leaders. Also, we need to understand

A person using the booklet in witnessing might ask: " _____ ?" (Have you heard of this booklet?)
True or False If a person indicates he is not ready to receive Christ - 1. _____ The witness should leave. 2. _____ The witness should ask him if he has any questions. 3. _____ The witness should pressure him into saying he accepts Jesus. 4. _____ The witness should explain some of the Scripture more fully. (1-F; 2-T; 3-F; 4-T)

His role in the life and ministry of Jesus. John the Baptist introduced Christ (Messiah) as the One who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This promise came to fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus stated during a controversy with the Pharisees that His miraculous works by the power of the Spirit revealed that the Kingdom of God had come (Matt. 12:28).

The apostles on the Day of Pentecost became changed men when they experienced the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Paul admonished the Roman Christians to "walk in the Spirit," that is to live daily under the control of the Spirit. The normal Christian life is to be lived in the power or fullness of the Spirit. The Old and New Testament Scriptures reveal that God's work can be accomplished only by the power of His Spirit.

I. The Role of the Spirit in God's Work

1. The function of the Spirit in the Old Testament
 - (1) The Spirit was the medium of God's power in creation (Gen. 1 and 2).
 - (2) The Spirit was the source of wisdom and strength for Israel's leaders (1 Sam. 16:13-18).
 - (3) The Spirit was the source of divine inspiration in prophecy (Isa. 61:1f.).
2. The function of the Spirit in relation to Christ
 - (1) He was instrumental in the incarnation (Matt. 1:23).
 - (2) He equipped Jesus for His ministry (Matt. 3:16-4:1).
 - (3) He was the power for defeating the works of Satan (Matt. 12:28).

II. The Identity of the Spirit

1. He is identified as the Spirit of God and as the Spirit of Christ (Rom. 8:9).
2. He is the presence of the indwelling Father and Son (John 14:15-23).
3. He is the third person of the Trinity whose presence means that the Father and Son are present in spiritual power.

III. The Work of the Spirit in Relation to Man

1. He convicts the lost person of sin (John 16:7-11).
2. He brings about the birth from above (John 3:3-6; 6:63).
3. He is given to each believer (John 7:38; Acts 1:5; 2:38; etc.).
4. He reveals spiritual truth (John 14:17, 26; 16:13).
5. He guides in righteousness (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:1ff.).
6. He qualifies for witnessing (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:3, 5; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9, 52).

IV. The Meaning of Being Filled with the Spirit

1. A person must be born of the Spirit to enter the Kingdom (John 3:3, 5). This means that Christ comes to abide in the heart of the believer and to control his life (cf. John 14:17-20; 15:1-6).
2. The old fleshly nature may regain control of the Christian (Gal. 3:3; 5:16-17, 24-26).
3. To be filled means to permit the Spirit once again to have control of one's life (cf. Gal. 5:16ff.).
4. To be filled means to be empowered by the Spirit for witnessing (Acts. 4:8, 31, etc.).
5. To be filled is a repeated experience (Acts. 2:4; 4:8, 31; etc.).

V. How to be Filled with the Spirit

1. The experience of being filled with the Spirit is not through personal accomplishments or self-discipline. Many people think they must spend long hours in agonizing prayer or afflict their bodies to bring them under control before they can be filled with the Spirit.

Circle the correct words.

The Holy Spirit was active (only in the New Testament, only in the Old Testament, in both the Old and New Testaments).

(Circle in both the Old and New Testaments.)

In the Old Testament -

The Holy Spirit was active in c_____.

The Holy Spirit was the source of w_____ and s_____ for Israel's leaders.

The Holy Spirit was the s_____ of divine i_____ in prophecy.

(creation, wisdom, strength, source, inspiration)

To be filled with the Spirit means that the Spirit _____ one's life and _____ one for witnessing.

(controls, empowers)

2. This experience does not depend on performance or personal merit. Everyone is a sinner, and no one deserves the power of God's Spirit.
3. A Christian must be cleansed of sin (self-control) to be filled with the Spirit. If we are to be Spirit-filled, we cannot be self-controlled or carnal (Gal. 5:16).
 - (1) The carnal man permits ego to control him and depends on his own ability to do God's work.
 - (2) The carnal nature must be confessed as sinful.
4. The Christian receives the fullness of the Spirit through faith.
 - (1) The Spirit was first received in the new birth by faith (John 3:5ff.; Gal. 3:2).
 - (2) The Spirit is given to those who ask in faith (Luke 11:13).
 - (3) God commands us to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18b), and whatever God requires He provides and makes available through faith.
 - (4) God promises to do whatever we ask according to His will (1 John 5:14-15). Since He has commanded us to be filled, it is His will for us to be Spirit-filled.
5. This experience does not depend on feeling but on faith. Feelings may or may not result from the filling with the Holy Spirit.

VI. *The Results of Being Filled*

1. The Christian walks a new life (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:1ff.).
2. The Christian experiences the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).
3. The Christian is able to fulfil the Law (Rom. 8:4).
4. The Christian experiences power in witnessing (Acts. 4:31).
5. The Christian experiences the abundant and eternal life (John 10:10; Rom. 8:1).
6. Conclusion: Self does not control the life which has been cleansed by the blood of Christ. The Christian should invite the Spirit to fill him according to God's command (Eph. 5:18) and trust God to fill him (to have full control and to empower him for living and serving) with the same faith by which he was saved and born again.

The problem is that we begin by faith, but we conclude that we must continue by works (Gal. 3:3—depending on our own abilities); therefore, we fail to trust God to give us power to serve Him. What we accomplish with our own ability and strength, we take credit or want to receive credit for, giving rise to envy and strife (the carnal life). We thus cease depending on the power of the Spirit who can do much more through us than we are able to accomplish. He can give us victory over our selfishness.

Recess (7:55-8:05)

Practical activity (8:05-9:00)

HELPING DEFEATED CHRISTIANS

Introduction

Explain to the group that two purposes are to be accomplished in tonight's practical training session. First, the main points of the booklet on salvation need to be reviewed. Second, a way of helping defeated Christians needs to be learnt. Numerous Christians are living defeated lives and need to learn how to live in the power of God.

Testimonies and review of the salvation booklet

Inquire if any of the group had opportunity to share the salvation booklet with a lost friend during the day. Invite those who have done so to share what happened.

A Christian receives the Spirit through _____
after being cleansed of _____

(faith, sin)

Many Christians *begin* to live and serve by _____,
but try to *continue* by _____.

(faith, works)

After a brief period of sharing by those who witnessed, spend about ten minutes reviewing the major points in the salvation booklet.

Learning to help defeated Christians

The Bible truths previously studied give guidance to the abundant life Christ promised. These truths are concisely and clearly expressed in a booklet prepared by Bill Bright, "Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?" Instead of criticizing inactive Christians, more would be accomplished if we would help them deal with the problems which have caused them to become inactive. Inactive Christians are defeated by sin, and they do not know how to gain victory over their carnal natures. This booklet shows the defeated, carnal Christian how to confess his sins and appropriate the filling of the Spirit in order to experience the abundant and fruitful life in Christ.

The group should be led in learning the main divisions of the booklet, repeating them until they have been memorized. Afterwards, the participants may be divided into groups of two to practise sharing the booklet.

In making a visit with a stranger, it is better to begin with the salvation booklet. Even with acquaintances who are inactive church members, it is better to begin with the salvation booklet. Many church members have never been saved. After the person has indicated that he has previously received Christ, the witness may offer to him the booklet with the explanation that it will help him share his faith.

When a person is approached concerning his faith in Christ and it has been established that he has repented of his sins and received Christ as Saviour, the booklet on the Spirit-filled life may be shared with him. It might be introduced by saying, "Have you ever read this booklet on the Spirit-filled life? It presents some important teachings of the Bible in a clear way, and it has been very helpful to me. I would like to share it with you if you have a few minutes." The booklet then may be presented in very much the same way as the salvation booklet.

The salvation booklet should be used with an inactive church member as well as with a lost person, because it is possible that the inactive member has never been _____.
(saved)

Home Study Exercise

Basic activity (Levels 1, 2, and 3). After reading the study guide, answer the following questions.

1. What are the two major objectives in a school of evangelism? _____

2. List four works of the Holy Spirit in a witnessing encounter. _____

3. Why must a person be cleansed of sin before he can be filled with the Spirit? _____

4. Why do Christians need to know how to use the booklet on the Holy Spirit? _____

5. Why should the church rather than the pastor make the final decision for a school of evangelism? _____

6. Suggest two activities for spiritual preparation in preparing for a school. _____

7. List four reasons why Christians fail to witness. _____

8. What are two kinds of Christians mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:15-3:5? _____

9. What did Paul reveal about his own difficulties in living the Christian life? _____

10. What should the carnal Christian do? _____

11. What is the benefit in Christians writing down their sins? _____

12. List three benefits in using a booklet on salvation to share your faith. _____

13. What should the witness do to focus attention on the salvation booklet? _____

14. If a person is not ready to make the prayer to receive Christ as his own, what should the witness say?

15. Name three functions of the Spirit in the Old Testament. _____

16. What is the meaning of being filled with the Spirit? _____

17. Name two steps required for being filled. _____

18. For what purpose should the booklet on discovering the Spirit-filled life be used? _____

19. Why is it better to begin with the salvation booklet even with inactive church members? _____

Suggested supplementary activity (Levels 2 and 3). Do one of the following reading assignments, make a summary or brief outline of what you read, and be prepared to share the significant points with the seminar.

Taylor, *The Key to Triumphant Living*, pp. 136-144
 Paxson, *Life on the Highest Plane*, vol. 2, pp. 185-216

Seminar Discussion

1. A level 2 or 3 student may be asked to lead in a fifteen-minute Bible study on "Defeated Christians" or "The Cleansed Life." Another should lead in a study on "The Spirit-Filled Christian."
2. A level 1 student will be asked to lead a practical session in learning how to share faith by using a booklet.
3. Why should the study on "The Cleansed Life" or "The Defeated Christian" precede the study on the Holy Spirit and the invitation to Christians to be filled with the Spirit by faith?
4. What approach should be taken in getting inactive Christians involved again in church activities?
5. Invite students who have done the supplementary assignments to share the high points of their reading.