

HOW TO DO PERSONAL WORK EFFECTIVELY

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17.

In Christian services there are many of God's children who have never known the joy of leading a lost soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is with a sincere desire to help such persons into this most blessed of all partnerships--"laboring together with Him for the ingathering of the lost"--that these remarks are being made.

God's Word is the text book on soul-winning. The New Testament is God's special treatise on this, the finest of the fine arts. Blessed is he who learns how to win lost souls. God's agencies in this fine art are the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and the lives and labors of God's children. Christ said, "Come ye after me; and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17.

If you would like to become fishers of men, it is possible for you to do so. What I am about to say is intended to be suggestive only. The Holy Spirit Himself must be your guide in every soul-winning effort.

In the light of my study of the scriptures, and other Christian literature, it is my conviction that the following suggestions will help you to do personal work effectively.

1. Live close to Christ.

If communion with Him is not maintained, your words will lack the essential quality of helpfulness. The experience of the prophet Isaiah should be helpful to us. Sorely grieved at the death of his King, Isaiah wended his way to the temple of the Lord, as apparently was his custom in perplexity. The Lord's house is the best place for anyone to go in time of need. In that temple Isaiah received a vision which made an indelible impression upon him and completely transformed his life and work. There he saw the Lord sitting upon a throne in majesty and glory. Isaiah's vision of the holiness of God was followed immediately by a penetrating sense of his own unworthiness. He discovered his own impurity by gazing on purity. A true vision of God always causes an awareness of sin. When we stand in the presence of the Lord, a sense of sin overwhelms us. Isaiah sobbed out the confession of his spiritual bankruptcy and repented of his sins, whereupon he received the assurance of mercy, pardon and cleansing. Following his experience of cleansing, he received a divine call to work. Without hesitation he was ready to go forth in obedience to the will of God. Placing himself unreservedly in the hands of the Lord, he determined to give his very best in service for the glory of God and the good of others.

Before any good surgeon performs an operation, he uses antiseptic soap, lathering his arms to his elbows. Then the nurse places a white apron on him. He wears powdered rubber gloves. He puts on a white cap, and wears a partial mask over his face. If a man is that careful when touching a human body, how much more careful ought Christians to be when touching human souls.

2. Pray Much.

A prayerless worker will be a powerless worker. Pray before, during and after your efforts to win others. Otherwise, you cannot succeed in personal work.

Pray that your own heart will be right, your motive heavenly, your words wise, and that God's will may be done in and through you. Pray for human tact and divine power. Pray that God will go before you, that He will mellow the heart of the lost, that you may be led to the right person, and that your method of approach will be right. Keep praying for your unsaved friends until you have the joy of knowing that they have been saved. If you will make it a matter of earnest prayer, God will provide the opportunity and open the door to you.

3. Study the Bible diligently.

A great need today is a clear conception of the primary fundamentals of the gospel of the grace of God. A study of the Epistle to the Romans will reveal the utter ruin of man by sin, the mighty redemption of man by the Son of God, and the regeneration of man by the Holy Spirit. Every presentation of the gospel should have as its center the facts as disclosed in I Corinthians 15:1-4.

4. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

If you will do this, you will approach the right person and in the right manner. Illustration: Philip and the eunuch.

5. Be tactful in your approach.

Exhibit common sense in seeking an entrance for the gospel message. In your desire to use tact, do not neglect the attack. In your caution to do the right thing, do not neglect to do anything. In your concern to begin right, do not neglect to begin.

6. Be sympathetic.

Do not assume an "holier than thou" attitude. It is not that you have already attained and are on a pedestal and are urging the lost to climb up. Do not minimize the sinner's problems. Do not ignore them, for they are real. Show him that you understand and want to help.

7. Be courteous in manner.

Always act in a courteous manner, never losing your temper no matter how severely you may be tempted to do so.

8. Talk with the individual alone.

9. Show him his need of Christ.

He is guilty, lost, condemned, and dead in trespasses and sin.

10. Show him that he cannot save himself.

Man is not saved by keeping the law, by personal character, or by good works.

11. Show him that Christ is the only Saviour.

There is no substitute for Him.

12. Show him that he can be saved only by trusting Christ.

"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:31

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24

13. Show him that no case is too hard for Christ.

He is able and willing to save the worst of sinners.

14. Refuse to be drawn into an argument.

Controversy will always divert attention and lead away from salvation.

15. Refuse to give up because of failure at first.

George Mueller of Bristol, England, prayed and worked for the salvation of one man for more than sixty years before he won him.

16. Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

He is God's agent in applying the truth. Christ said He is come into the world to convince men of sin. He is the one who convicts man of sin. Show the sinner that repentance toward God and faith in Christ are essential to salvation. By the help of the Holy Spirit show him that he must receive Christ into his own believing, trusting soul.