

FISHERS OF MEN



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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the extension of the Kingdom of God and all the mighty soulwinners and warriors in that Kingdom.

Acknowledgements

Jesus said go into all the world and make disciples of all men, teaching them to observe His teachings and commandments sharing the Good News with every creature.

In the preparation of this teaching manual I would like to acknowledge those in the reference section. These are faithful men who are carrying out the Great Commission, and I recommend their works, words and writings to you. Find the books and read them.

These men have imparted and helped to disciple my life through these writings.

In the compilation of this teaching manual, I present some of their combined thoughts to you. I pray you will be abundantly blessed and encouraged to go out and win souls making disciples for our Great Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

A sincere thank-you to Matthew Petrofski and Sarah Freeman for their hard work, dedication and assistance in compiling this manual.

God's speed be with you as you serve His Kingdom's purpose.

Foreword

T. L. Osborn once said, "In Acts 1 verse 8 Jesus is saying 'You shall receive virtue, miracle working ability, supernatural energy, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, for a specific purpose to enable you to give absolute evidence, miraculous proof of my resurrection, I mean this power working in you will actually demonstrate and exhibit the proof of your testimony, so as to verify your claims as with documented credentials, and you are to exhibit this evidence of my resurrection in your own city and country and unto the inner and hidden parts of the earth even to the remote and lost frontiers of civilisation'".

Oral Roberts once said, "The source of power in my life that attracts the multitudes to these meetings, resulting in over 50,000 souls being saved each year and other thousands being healed through my humble prayers is in the emphasis I do place on the Holy Spirit." And

"The baptism in the spirit did many things to the disciples, three of them stand out above the others, this experience: (1) Gave them the power to win souls, it (2) gave them power to heal the sick, (3) it gave them power to withstand persecution. In all these things they walked in the comfort of the Holy Ghost. No one knows the importance of the Holy Ghost like God does. God commanded the disciples to "tarry until" they were endowed with power from on high. We are exhorted in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 to covet earnestly, to earnestly desire spiritual gifts; Paul says I want all of you to speak in tongues. We must covet earnestly this gift, use it regularly, building ourselves up. (Jude 20.) It is the doorway to the nine gifts of the spirit, the treasures God has for His Church."

I believe that in order to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ, we need to be first filled with the Holy Spirit, boldness and power. Allowing Him to work in and through us. If you are not yet filled with the wonderful Holy Spirit of the living God, you need to see your Pastor or find a Spirit filled believer. And find out how you can receive Him.

Then the Holy Spirit will work His wonderful power and gifts through you as you serve God and win souls.

God Bless You

Dr Shaun Marler

Aims

This seminar equips you to bring searching unbelievers in your *oikos* to Christ. You will do this by partnering with other members of your Life Group. Together, you will lead others to accept Christ as Lord and be nurtured in your group.

The primary task of every Christian is to bring others into the Kingdom of God. This causes each Life Group to multiply as it swells with new believers. You can expect the Holy Spirit within you to empower you as you share your faith.

Touching hearts isn't *taught* – it's *caught*. This means you need to gain experience by working with someone who has *already* brought someone to Christ. Has your partner experienced the joy of bringing someone to Christ? If so, he or she can serve as your "Equipper". If this is not the case, the two of you should seek the assistance from your Life Group Leader. As you reach out, you will soon know the joy of harvesting!

God's Promises

"³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. ³¹If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, How much more the ungodly and the sinner."

Proverbs 11:30-31

"And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Daniel 12:3

"¹ I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. ⁹ As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."

John 15:1-9

Introduction

The Heart-Throb of Soulwinning

A group of Christian women were holding their regular prayer meeting. The evangelist at their church – an ardent soulwinner – was their guest speaker.

He had heard some of them talking about an immoral woman who lived nearby.

The evangelist asked: “And what are you doing to get that sinful woman saved?”

The leader spoke up: “We’re faithfully praying for her salvation every time we meet.”

“Fine!”, the evangelist remarked. “But she’ll go to hell while you pray. Haven’t you gone to her? Haven’t you spoken to her about her soul? Haven’t you taken the Gospel to her house?”

The “Errand-Boy” Philosophy

We have made an **errand-boy** out of God. We forget that He is the General Manager! We busy ourselves telling God to do all the nice things which we ought to do - to visit the poor and needy, to pass by and comfort the feeble, bless and provide for the poor, to encourage the ones in prison, to sustain the weak, to speak to sinners. We want the Lord to do all of those things **while we pray**.

Haven’t we developed a convenient religion? Let me ask you this question: Can you tell me one thing which Jesus Christ can do in your town or community **without a body to operate through?**

When God visited man to show Himself, He came in a body – in human flesh. Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.

They killed Him. Then He returned in the form of the Holy Spirit to take up His abode in **our** bodies as His Temple. (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Now you and I are His Body.

You Are The Church

You are the Church. The Church is the Body of Christ. **You** are Christ’s Body today in your community.

Christ ministers through His Body today the same as Christ ministered through a human body over 2,000 years ago. Today His Body is the Church – and the Church is ME – my body, and YOU – your body. **We** are His temple.

I am the Church. I am Christ's Body. You are the Church. You are Christ's Body. *"For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones"* (Ephesians 5:30).

Christ can do nothing, except through the Church – His Body. That's **ME!** Not my congregation or my denomination. The Church, Christ's Body is ME! It's YOU – if you are a real Christian.

When you stand before God, **you** must give an account of the deeds **you** have done (or failed to do) **personally**; you will not be judged in the light of what your church did as a spiritual body. God will not call your assembly **as a unit** for judgment; He will not judge what your congregation has done (or failed to do) as a part of the "corporate" Body of Christ. You will not be able to say, "Lord, my pastor will speak for me; I am a faithful member of the church body and we all work as a unit, therefore I cannot answer as an individual."

So far as **you** are concerned personally before God, **YOU** are the Church; **YOU** are Christ's Body.

We talk about the Church, or the Body of Christ as being the mystical **union of believers**, the spiritual **community of called-out ones**, and this is all true. But like all truth, it must become PERSONAL, otherwise it is lost. We have regarded the Body of Christ in its **general** collective sense, but not in its personal application. Salvation is **personal**. Christ must live in us **personally**.

The great *"mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints"* is **"CHRIST IN YOU!"** (Colossians 1:26-27).

Christ must have a body to minister through today. That is ME – and YOU. WE are the Church – His Body – His Temple.

This does not imply that we ignore the Body of Christ in its "corporate" sense – made up of all true believers; it means that YOU and I have awakened to the fact that Jesus Christ is born **IN US** and that **WE** are now His Body.

It **sounds** more proper to say, "We are **members** of His Body" – **and we are** (1 Corinthians 12:27). But this popular "membership" concept has somehow been distorted in its application so that Christians ride along at ease in the church, leaving the ministry to the "community of believers." The church, the Sunday

school, the Ladies' Missionary group, the Men's organisation, the Youth movement – they will do it.

Church members like to know that **their church** is doing things. They are willing to **pay** for this as long as some **other** member does the job.

But Christianity is a **personal** thing. If Christ has come to dwell IN YOU, **YOU** are His Body – that is, so far as **you** are concerned. He dwells **in** you because He wills to minister THROUGH you. He **must** have YOUR body to reach YOUR community. The essence of your Christian experience is “CHRIST IN YOU”.

When He was in Nazareth, “*He could there do no mighty works...because of their unbelief*” (Mark 6:5-6). Without human faith on the part of the people, His ministry was limited then, and without human instruments to live and speak through, He is limited today.

God Could Have Sent Angels

How often we have said: “God could have sent angels to preach this Gospel, but He did not; He has ordained that **human beings** must preach it. If **men** do not preach it, it shall not be preached – and souls shall be lost.” And this is true! The preaching of the Gospel is limited to the willingness of human beings to step forth and open their mouths for Him to speak through.

But this same fact applies to all phases of Christian living and witnessing.

Christ cannot go visit the prisoner unless He can go in your body. He will go IN YOU. YOU are the Church. When YOU visit the prisoner, Christ will visit him. Otherwise He CANNOT.

As I said, we have made an errand-boy out of God through our tradition of prayer.

Do not misunderstand me. **Prayer** is vital to each Christian. Christ taught us to pray. But He told us what to pray **for**. Christ prayed. But He did more than pray; He “went about doing good,” witnessing, comforting, visiting, speaking, showing compassion, demonstrating God in action. He didn't just pray. But this is not a book on prayer – this is a book on soulwinning, so I must leave the subject of prayer for another study on its own.

But how sacred we make our traditional prayers sound; how humble and how dedicated we feel while we are in prayer – sending God all of our little orders for the day or the week!

We tell **Him** to do so many things which **we** ought to do. Why don't we just tell Him to preach too? If He is so handy for so many of our tasks, surely He wouldn't mind throwing in some preaching now and then.

With Us - But Now In Us

Isn't it strange: We talk about how the Spirit was **with** men before Pentecost. Now we rejoice that He is **IN** us.

That's exactly where He is. **IN** us. Not floating around all over the world, hovering down over human beings here and there as we direct Him, fixing their problems, visiting them, encouraging them, while we live our little selfish lives in privacy.

Through the redemption of Calvary, and the new creation at Pentecost, Jesus Christ has now returned through the Holy Spirit to "live and move and have His being" **IN US**. **Now Christ is born in us!**

Now *"it is God which worketh IN you both to will and to do of His good pleasure"* (Philippians 2:13). This is what God did **in Christ**. Now He does the same **in us** because now, **WE** are His Body.

Now He speaks through **OUR** lips. He visits the needy and uplifts the fallen through **US**. He encourages the discouraged and reaches down to the fallen ones through **US**. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up the wounds of the suffering ones through **US**. **YOU** and **I** are His Body. We are the Church.

Now you understand why the evangelist told the ladies' prayer group: "That women will go to hell, while you pray."

You are the key!

If we don't do more than pray, if we never visit the lost and witness to sinners, they will never hear Christ's invitation to be saved. We must pray, but then we must rise and go out after souls.

The Gospel In Your Community

Christ's ministry in your community is limited to **YOU!** He longs to speak to souls about salvation, to convict them of their sins and convince them of the Gospel - this is the work of the Holy Spirit - but **HE IS IN YOU**; He works through **YOUR** lips, **YOUR** body. If **YOU** don't go and witness or speak the message, **YOUR** community will be lost. Christ ordained to live **IN YOU** and He cannot visit the lost independent of **YOU**, no more than He can stand in the public place and preach the Gospel without a preacher to preach through.

We like to live selfishly; we love to get alone and pray and send up a barrage of nice little orders and errands which the wonderful Holy Spirit can just “move” around and do for us. It saves **us** the trouble. Besides, we are so busy - with our TV programs, our clubs, our recreational activities, and our own private concerns.

He Has No Other Channel

Let us remember that the Holy Spirit “moves” **through US**. WE are His Temple. If we are too busy to witness, He has no other channel to minister through. He lives in OUR bodies.

Sinners in your community will never be visited by our Lord, if YOU do not go and speak in His Name.

Those who are sick and in prison shall never be visited by the Holy Spirit if YOU do not go to them in His Name.

Men shall never see God - except as they see Him IN YOU!

Christ’s love can only be manifested through YOUR life. His compassion and concern for lost souls can only be exhibited through YOU.

Jesus Christ visits your community every time **you do**. Are you confining Him to YOUR house? Are you selfish? Do you ever let Him speak to your neighbours? Have you ever allowed Him to tell **them** the way of salvation? Have you ever permitted Him to offer **your neighbours** His Life? Do you accuse them of living in falsehood while you never let Jesus Christ tell them the Truth?

The Church - Christ’s Body - IS YOU

You thought these things were the responsibility of the Church.

You were right! But **YOU** are the Church. **YOU** are Christ’s Body.

The Church is not the congregation.

The Church is not the denomination.

The Church is YOU. The Church is Christ’s Body. That’s what YOU are.

Christ doesn’t live in a cathedral of stones or in a temple of bricks and mortar.

Christ lives IN YOUR BODY! YOU are His Temple.

And He ministers, He exhibits Himself, He demonstrates His Compassion, He shows His mercy – through YOUR BODY – through YOU!

This truth is the heart-throb, the motivation of personal soulwinning. Everything else constitutes the MECHANICS of personal witnessing. This truth constitutes the essence, the **spirit**, the DYNAMICS of personal witnessing.

Mechanics or Dynamics

You can memorise the “mechanics”.

But the “dynamics” of soulwinning must be **born** in you; it must a revelation – a miracle.

That spiritual miracle is taking place inside you right now as you listen, so that **personal soulwinning will have a new life-giving dimension all the days of your life.**

YOU have become His Witness, His Body, His Church, His voice, His heart-beat.

YOUR BODY has become His Temple. He begins to minister through you. YOU are lost IN HIM. His life is the energy of YOUR witness. YOU go on His behalf so that He can go through you – and reach lost souls.

THIS IS CHRISTIANITY **in depth!** Everything else is artificial and shallow. Christ is in YOU. You now have purpose in living and witnessing. Now you’ll do it!

Wonderful! – No, Terrible!

A soulwinner visited a Sunday School and was asked to teach a large class.

He asked: “How many here are real Christians?”

Everyone raised their hands, and the regular teacher exulted: “Wonderful!”

The guest teacher countered: “No!” “It’s terrible! We should have sinners here and get them converted in this classroom.” And he was correct.

But the Church (i.e., what we refer to as the Church) is segregated from sinners. It’s not supposed to be the sacred spot where little groups meet to minister TO THEMSELVES **in seclusion.**

Quietly Learning of Christ In Depth

An evangelist tried to arouse a small congregation in Japan to be more evangelistic-minded. The pastor said: "You don't understand; we don't want a large crowd. We only want to have a small group which can meet together in quietness to study the Word and learn of Christ in depth."

An evangelist spoke to a men's prayer group about going out to witness for Christ from house to house.

The leader said, "We can't do that. We're not deep enough in God."

The evangelist asked: "How long have you been meeting and praying?"

"Only two years!" For two years, they had selfishly kept their Lord confined to a room and had never allowed Him to share His Life with sinners in their community.

What a contrast with Christians in the Early Church who in **just two years** made the Word of the Lord heard by "*all they which dwelt in Asia*" (Acts 19:10).

The reason the Gospel has not been preached "to every creature" is because individual Christians have misinterpreted what the Church is. To them it is their denomination, their assembly, their congregation. (And it is correct to speak of the Church as a collective body of Christians.) But from a **personal** standpoint, the Church is YOU! **Your** body is Christ's Body. He can only witness and minister THROUGH YOU!

Christians have misinterpreted the Holy Spirit and His ministry. To them He is the brooding presence which floats around and carries out orders for them so they can stay at home and watch TV. They can have a little prayer and think up enough nice little errands to keep the Holy Spirit busy all week while they live for self and their materialistic way of life.

No wonder the world is going to hell!

No wonder the unconverted throngs mock the Church and the Christians!

No wonder the communists ridicule Christianity!

This is one reason the Jews reject Christianity. Their leaders read the New Testament. They know who Jesus was. They know He was a Jew. They know how He lived. And they know how He told His followers to live - and they know how different and how selfishly Christians live today by comparison.

Jesus was a soulwinner. Jesus mixed with people. He befriended the needy. He healed the sick. He spoke the Good News to sinners. He helped people – unselfishly – all the time.

HE HAS NEVER CHANGED! He wills to do the same today! “He works **IN YOU** both to will and to do His good pleasure.” But He can only do the same today as you allow Him to do so through YOUR BODY. YOU are His agent, His ambassador, His representative. He ministers through YOU – and without your body to express Himself, He is cut off from sinners.

Share Him with sinners. There’s a knowledge of Jesus Christ – **a depth** – which you can never know **‘til you share Him.**

Revival Starts When We Start

God had me preach a sermon once that revival starts or happens when we start. God is waiting for us. Today is the day of salvation. Jesus said “the fields are white [or ready] to harvest.” Pray the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into the harvest. Remember we are co-labourers together with God. (2 Corinthians 6:1)

By all means pray, we can’t spoil the strong man till we first bind the strong man. Then when he is bound, we must go and spoil his house.

“Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.” Matthew 12:29

Otherwise the people will never know they are free. You must show them the way. Jesus said if we follow Him, He will make us fishers of men.

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.” Matthew 4:19

Now is the acceptable hour, let’s hear His call and rise up, go forth in the Harvest, win souls and make disciples of all mankind.

“¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” Matthew 28:18-20

"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." Daniel 11:32

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.'" 2 Chronicles 16:9

"The sky is the limit when your heart is in it." You can do it! You are God's Plan A and He doesn't have a Plan B. You are endowed with the seeds of greatness, designed for accomplishment and engineered for success. You are born-again to win; and greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.

"All things are possible to those who believe"

The Great Commission

1. WHAT IS THE GREAT COMMISSION OF JESUS CHRIST?

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB) “¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, ‘All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”

This is the great commission of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the Church. What do we observe from these verses?

- i) Jesus has legally taken back all authority that was sold to Satan by Adam.
- ii) In telling us to **go**, He has transferred that authority to us.
- iii) This instruction to **go** is to all believers and NOT just a select few.
- iv) We are to **make disciples** and not just evangelise all nations. The Greek word literally means we are to **enrol as a learner or pupil**.
- v) Our **field is the world** and not just our community.
- vi) We are to take them through the ordinances of Jesus (eg. Baptism) and not just evangelise them.
- vii) They are to be **taught** and instructed in the doctrines of Christ.
- viii) We can do all this in the strength of the greater One who indwells and empowers us.

2. WHAT IS THE PRESENT SITUATION TODAY?

We have heard much about the **population explosion** which has been increasing at a far greater rate than the church.

The **world** has been **multiplying** while the **church** has been making **additions**. The only **answer is SPIRITUAL MULTIPLICATION**.

The 90% of Christians who are just basically warming the pews need to join in the ranks, do their basic training, put on the armour of God and become militant. Ephesians 6:15 (NASB) “*And having shod your feet with the PREPARATION of the Gospel of peace.*”

Vs 15 (Knox) ‘... *having your feet in readiness to publish the Gospel.*’

This command is for all Christians and not just for trained Ministers. As the laymen become equipped with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the **power** of the Gospel which is the **dunamis** or **dynamite** of God we will see an **explosion of evangelism**.

3. HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS A PRACTICAL REALITY?

You will never train a pilot by giving him 100 lectures on flying. Likewise, you will never train an evangelist by giving him 100 lectures on witnessing. The lectures are very important, but **ON THE JOB TRAINING** with our Life Groups is probably more important. **One on one witnessing** is the **most effective** form of evangelism and a key to revival, but the saint must first be trained, then mobilised.

4. WHAT WAS CHRIST'S FIRST AND LAST INSTRUCTION TO THE CHURCH?

Matthew 4:19 (NASB) *"And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you FISHERS OF MEN"*

Acts 1:8a (NASB) *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses..."*

We can thus conclude that **the church is a body UNDER ORDERS** by Christ to share the Gospel with the whole world.

5. WHAT IS SATAN'S GREATEST DECEPTION?

Imagine if our enemies could deceive the Australian Defence Force that war was too dangerous - so leave the fighting to the generals. If that ever happened, Australia would be an easy target for anybody. That is exactly what Satan has done in the Church of Jesus Christ. The members of the Body of Christ are leaving the work to the trained ecclesiastical generals and have gone off on vacation.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB) *"in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes."*

Vs 11 (Moffatt) *"...for well I know his manoeuvres."*

6. WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MATTER OF WHO ACTUALLY DID THE EVANGELISING IN THE EARLY CHURCH?

Acts 8:4 (TCNT) *"Now those who were scattered in different direction (Moffatt) went through the land preaching the Gospel."*

Someone said - "Well those who went everywhere preaching the Gospel were the apostles."

Acts 8:1b (NASB) *"And on that day of great persecution arose against the church in*

Jerusalem; (TCNT) and it's members were all scattered (NASB) throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, EXCEPT THE APOSTLES."

Because the laymen were a mighty mobilised trained army, the church had an evangelistic explosion.

Acts 2:41 "And they were added that day about 3000 souls."

Acts 4:4 "And the number of men came to be about 5000."

Acts 4:20 "For we cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard."

Acts 5:14 "And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number."

Acts 6:1 "Now at this time, while the disciples were increasing in number..."

Acts 6:7 (TCNT) "Meanwhile God's word continued to spread; (KJV) and the number of the disciples multiplied (TCNT) rapidly..."

Acts 11:24b (Weymouth) "...and the number of believers in the Lord greatly increased."

Acts 12:24 (TCNT) "Meanwhile the Lords message kept extending and spreading far and wide."

Acts 13:44 (NASB) "And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God."

Acts 13:49 (NASB) "And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole Region."

Acts 16:5b (Norlie) "So the churches ... daily increased in membership."

Acts 17:6b (Rotherham) "They who have thrown the inhabited world into confusion (TCNT) have now come here."

Vs 6b (Berleley) "These world revelationists (NASB) have come here also."

Acts 19:20 (TCNT) "So irresistibly did the Lord's message spread and prevail."

Acts 21:20b (TCNT) "...that the Jews who have become believers in Christ may be Numbered by tens of thousands."

Unfortunately after the year 300 AD there started to arise a division between the clergy and the laity and the task of evangelism fell onto the shoulders of the minority of ministers and the Dark Ages followed.

7. WHAT THEN IS THE MAJOR TASK OF THE MINISTER TODAY?

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NASB) *“And he gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service (NKJV – the ministry), to the building of the body of Christ.”*

The task of the five fold ministry is once again to teach and train the laymen in order to mobilise the full force of the army of the Lord to the building up of the Body of Christ. Therefore a **successful ministry** is not one in which the pastor preaches fancy sermons, however important this is, but one in **which the saints are equipped and doing the work of the ministry.**

8. HOW DO YOU MOVE FROM ADDITION TO MULTIPLICATION?

Simply by realising that it is **MORE IMPORTANT TO TRAIN A SOULWINNER THAN IT IS TO WIN A SOUL.** When you can do both together it is a Double plus situation. Spiritual multiplication will never take place unless converts are turned into evangelists, and disciples into disciplers.

9. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN IN WITNESSING?

Salvation is the work of the Godhead in lives of men and cannot be produced merely by man’s persuasion.

Jonah 2:9c (NASB) *“Salvation is from the Lord.”*

John 6:44 (NASB) *“No one comes to me, unless the Father who sent me **DRAWS** him.”*

John 12:32 (NASB) *“And I (Jesus), if I be lifted up from the Earth I will **DRAW** all men to Myself.”*

John 16:8 (NASB) *“And He (the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness and judgement.”*

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NASB) *“And such were some of you; but you were washed (in the blood), but you were sanctified (by the Word), but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

Titus 3:5 (NASB) *“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in*

righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration (or with cleansing power which gives us a new birth – Knox) and renewing by the Holy Spirit.”

This means that the soulwinner must **constantly pray** for the lost that God knows he will soon be witnessing to, for salvation is from the Lord

They can only be saved as Satan is bound and man is released from the devil’s **bondage of blindness** – then the evangelist can be used by God to speak His faith producing words, so that they can understand, believe and receive the gift of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 4:4 *“In whose case the god of this world (Satan) has BLINDED the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the Gospel.”*

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NASB) *“But the natural (or unsaved) man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness (or nonsense - Williams) to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised (or discerned – KJV).”*

Acts 11:14 (NASB) *“And he shall speak (Rhema) words (or Spirit quickened words) to you by which you will be saved.”*

Therefore, witnessing merely by human persuasiveness is witnessing in the flesh and does not produce results. We need to witness in the Spirit under the anointing of God, which is accomplished by much prayer and study.

2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (NASB) *“⁴ And such confidence we have through Christ towards God. ⁵ Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, ⁶ but as adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the spirit give life.”*

10. WHAT PART DOES MAN PLAY IN THEIR SALVATION?

Dr John Gerstner said, “We can save no one, but unless we proclaim the Gospel to them, God will save no one.” Without the supernatural power of God, no one will get saved, yet the soulwinner needs to learn much more about the power of gentle persuasion under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 16:8b (NASB) *“...for the sons of this age (the unsaved) are more shrewd (perceptive, smarter) in relation to their own kind the sons of light.”*

Vs 8b (TCNT) *“...for the men of this world in dealing with their fellow-men (Williams) act with more business sense than the men who enjoy spiritual light.”*

Remember when witnessing, Satan will try and come up with every argument and excuse why they should not be saved, and you under the anointing of God need to persuade them otherwise.

Luke 14:23 (NASB) *“And the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled’”.*

Vs 23 (Mofatt) *“... and press people to come in...”*

Vs 23 (TCNT) *“... and make people come in...”*

Vs 23 (Knox) *“...and give them no choice but to come in...”*

Vs 23 (Berkeley) *“...and force them to come in...”*

This sounds like very strong persuasion under the anointing of God. We must not let the devil have them. We will not in Jesus name. AMEN!

We must **begin this seminar with the knowledge that we are an instrument of the Spirit. Not a car salesperson!**

Friendship Evangelism

Prayer - The Daily Foundation

Make prayer a daily foundation to your faith in Jesus Christ. Do not make the mistake of praying simply for your own personal intimacy with the Saviour, or for the endless list of “things” we always ask God for. We must pray daily for the souls of our friends and loved ones, asking God what role He would have us play in their exposure to His plan for their lives.

Likewise, we must be in a constant attitude of prayer for those we might encounter on a casual basis, realising that God wants us to proclaim the Good News to all who will listen. As we pray for the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and power, and for the open minds and hearts of the listeners, God will truly bless our efforts to share His goodness with them. Prayerlessness will result in fruitlessness, where prayerfulness will result in fruitfulness.

No-Fail Witnessing

When you obey God, motivated by love, you cannot fail. Your message might be accepted or rejected, but when you share Christ in obedience to God’s command and the Holy Spirit’s leading, you succeed in witnessing, no matter what the immediate result.

Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God.

Read that statement aloud. Memorise it. Whenever the fear of failure begins to immobilise you from obeying God in witnessing, repeat this statement to yourself **“Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God.”**

Friendship Evangelism vs. Initiative Evangelism

For the person with whom you’re in frequent contact, your approach should generally be less direct. It’s important to take the time to build a relationship of friendship and trust, to show by word and deed that you love and care about them. This approach has been called “friendship evangelism” by some, and it does have its place. It is especially important among family members, but also recommended for other close relationships. Friendship evangelism urges a “go slow” approach that is intended to virtually love the non-Christian into God’s Kingdom.

But with its strengths also come two glaring weaknesses. Firstly, many Christians mistakenly subscribe to the friendship evangelism philosophy to the

extent that they rarely share the Gospel with another because “our relationship isn’t quite strong enough yet.” Then, when they feel the relationship is finally strong, they are afraid to say anything that might spoil the friendship. To justify this approach, or non-approach, they decided they’ll “wait for the non-believer to ask me about my personal faith,” and try to simply model Christianity through their non-verbal witness. As a result, the Gospel often falls by the wayside.

The Prayer of Three

A way to utilise the friendship evangelism principle, yet avoid the no share approach, is through a concept called the Prayer of Three. This concept is being used extremely effectively in Bogota, Columbia, by the Church Mission Charismatica International (ICM).

Personal contact is to be made by you or a Life Group member. You can prepare the person's heart using literature and/or other methods to open them up to the message of the Gospel i.e. world events, or current affairs - what the Bible has to say on this, maybe a testimony that is relevant to their situation, biography or relevant video et cetera, as led by the Spirit of God.

Unless there is prayer backing for every aspect of it, it will not work. This is done in groups of three. Each person chooses three lost persons or family units that they desire to win to Christ. You then covenant together to pray for each other, and for the nine units that you have chosen to win to Christ. Spend a month in prayer with some fasting, breaking the powers of darkness to see these people won to Christ. You will then strategise to fellowship with them - either taking them out to coffee, introducing them to other Christians, or bringing them into a Life Group. Needs can then be discerned by the Spirit of God through word of knowledge as you pray for the individuals or in a time of fellowship if the individual person opens up their heart to you. You can assure them that you will bring the particular need to the Lord in prayer, believing God for a miracle on their behalf.

Remember, it's the goodness of God that leads to repentance (Romans 2:4). As you further fellowship with the ones that you are praying and believing for, you can get feedback as to how your prayer is changing their circumstances and getting results and breakthroughs in their life.

This person can then finally be invited to Church to come forward to the altar to surrender their life to Christ. In Bogota, the ICM is seeing outstanding results as they apply this principle of Friendship Evangelism.

Once again, in Matthew 9:37-38 *"³⁷Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

We can see from this scripture that God says the harvest of souls belongs to Him and that there are plenty of people looking to be saved and He needs you and I to go and harvest them for Him. The Prayer of Three is a powerful harvesting method as we put it into practice in our lives.