

**THE SCRIPTURAL MOTIVATION
AND METHODS FOR SOUL WINNING**
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THE SCRIPTURAL MOTIVATION AND METHODS FOR SOUL WINNING

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THE MOTIVATIONS AND ADMONITIONS FOR SCRIPTURAL WITNESSING

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This study was motivated by the ideas from Porter Barrington's study on "How To Witness Effectively". It uses a little bit different approach with the hoped for objective of removing the temptation to rely upon an empty sinner's prayer as the basis for a lost sinner's salvation rather than relying upon the lost sinner exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This document is written with the hope of motivating Christians in our church to have a scriptural zeal for soul winning and to train them to witness scripturally.

The most abused verse when "witnessing" to lost sinners today is *Romans 10:13* which states:

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

Romans 10:13 becomes the proverbial sinner's prayer when quoted out of context. When witnessing to a lost person, *Romans 10:13* should **NEVER** be quoted in isolation from *Romans 10:14*. Thus it is written:

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
Romans 10:13-14

There are some conditions given in verse 14 that must be met before "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". We talk about those conditions below. Read on. We are not talking about works based salvation here! The sinner's prayer that is used today is much different from its namesake in *Luke 18:13* where it is stated: "And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner". You tell me how many of today's sinner's prayers line up with the scriptural description given in *Luke 18:13*. We would answer that there are almost NONE! Empty sinner's prayers, psychological chicanery, sales marketing techniques, and other psychologically manipulative devices should never be used in an attempt to convert lost sinners. These are Satan's devices and tragically most of our "fundamentalist" churches act as if they are ignorant of Satan's devices (2 Corinthians 2:11). We find many Christians today relying on that wicked Freud rather than the Holy Ghost when it comes to soul winning. The best of your efforts can neither convict lost sinners, draw lost sinners, convert lost sinners, or regenerate lost sinners. Those are all the work of the Word of God and God the Holy Ghost.

There is much reliance on Satan's sinister statistical salvation stuntmen when it comes to claims for bloated salvation statistics. That is why I quit reading "The Sword Of The Lord" many years ago. Its pages made me want to literally puke over the braggadocios "soul winning" statistics in its pages. It was enough to embarrass a peacock. It has become a numbers racket promoted by so-called

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fundamentalists that have corrupted the seed of the Word of God by wrongly dividing it. As a result, soul winning is not being done God's way and people are not being saved. A salvation that does not express repentance in the wake of a profession of faith is probably not real. That is what the focus on numbers has done for our churches. David and Israel were not punished for just numbering the people, but they were punished for not numbering God's people God's way. David's story is told in *2 Samuel 24* and the basis for God's judgment was the Word of God as stated in Exodus 30:11-12 where it is written:

¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹² When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them. *Exodus 30:11-12*

The salvation statistics today are not being counted God's way. Professions are being counted as salvations rather than **changed lives** being counted as salvations. If the wildly exaggerated salvation statistics are true, then why are our churches in America dying and why are we seeing a massive doctrinal and practical falling away in our churches in America. From those who advocate antinomian repentanceless salvation, I have yet to hear a scriptural explanation as to why we are experiencing such a massive falling away in our churches. I challenge anyone who believes in salvation without repentance to give me a valid scriptural explanation as to the depraved condition of our churches. Saved folks do not constantly abide in the sin and heresy the way most of our church members in America do. "They are carnal Christians" is the excuse given for unsaved professors. I do not buy it. If these folks were saved, God would probably have killed many of them a long time ago because there is a sin unto death for the Christian. There is no evidence of repentance coming forth from the apostates and heretics in America's churches. Why? Because the Holy Ghost has not worked HIS work of repentance in them because there was no saving faith exercised by the professor. Put another way, repentance is the evidence that a person has saving faith. Most American church members today were led to pray a faithless sinner's prayer that produces no repentance. The fruit(s) of the Spirit in Galatians 5 are a manifestation of the presence of the Holy Ghost. If the fruits of the flesh are the only works that are manifested, then the Holy Ghost is probably not there. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (*Romans 8:9*). "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit" (*Jude 19*).

Assuring newly professing Christians of salvation is not the ministry of any mere man or woman. You do not have the scriptural authority to do that. If they are saved, they will know it. Their assurance is the salvation that they have. Assurance is the ministry of God (*Acts 17:31*). *Romans 8:16* says: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:". The danger of assuring some new "convert" is described by Pastor John Asquith in his book "Who Moved The Goal Posts" on pages 126-127:

Once a person has been assured by a mislead soul winner that they no longer

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have a need for salvation, he will die in sight of the altar. As the Holy Ghost tugs at his heart he will resist because he thinks that the urge he feels in his soul is from the devil. If he talks to someone in the church they will tell him that those feelings are not from God. Many a person sits in a pew and hears the words of life called out to him week after week. He doesn't respond. The Spirit of God tries to search his heart to make him understand God's anger against him, but he rebuffs that sweet voice over and over.

That scenario only affects that very small percentage of easy believism converts who actually attend church. The vast majority of such converts will never come to church more than once or twice. They have served their purpose. They are numbers to brag about. "We had 15 people saved on visitation last week." "20 children gave their hearts to Jesus on our bus route last week." "200 people were saved at our last revival." This has become the currency of fundamental Baptists. As has been said in this book earlier, none of these churches has any recent converts attending and growing in Christ. Oh, there might be some bedraggled wretch sitting there looking for handouts, or someone sitting there tentatively wondering if this is for them, but they melt away quickly. Counting professions of faith instead of counting changed lives as they conform their lives to the house of God is hell's work. Prior to World War II very few people were that evil. Now it is legion.

Many deceived, but well meaning, Christians will blame the Devil for producing doubt in a convert's mind. Blaming the Devil for doubting one's salvation is the "go to" way of running from the conviction of the Holy Ghost. It is a very dangerous practice that can damn a soul to hell. I was not saved very long before I heard someone stand up in a congregation and testify that the Devil was making them doubt their salvation. I thought to myself then, "hum, that is a very strange sounding statement. Why would the Devil make anyone doubt their salvation?". Many times it is the preacher who becomes the Devil that is accused of making someone doubt their salvation when he preaches hell fire and damnation, when he preaches hard against sin, and when he preaches the need for repentance in salvation. If you are a professing Christian who publicly expresses a doubt in your salvation, do not get mad with me if I try to witness to you or preach salvation to you. I submit to you that when a person is doubting their salvation that it is a work of the Holy Ghost. Pastor John Asquith wrote a pamphlet titled "Why Do You Doubt?" that was included in his book "Who Moved The Goal Posts? A Critique Of Soul Winning In The 21st Century". The pamphlet is located on the internet here: <http://www.earnestlycontendingforthefait.com/WhyDoYouDoubt.html> . That pamphlet addresses four reasons why people doubt their salvation. His last stated reason is that it is because they are lost. We highly recommend his pamphlet and his book. Doubt comes from either being unsaved or a Christian refusing to repent of habitual sin. It is okay to have doubt in someone else's salvation if it will motivate you to pray for them and to witness to them. I hear so much preaching and teaching today that criticizes and mocks anyone who would question whether someone who has made a profession is saved regardless of how wicked they live. It is okay to let them go to hell just so you do not question their "salvation". Our churches have become "false

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profession mills” because we will not preach and look for repentance in potential converts. Whatever happened to the watchman. Folks, if they have not repented, they are still yet dead in their sin and headed for the Devil’s hell. By their fruits ye shall know them. As Brother Sammy Allen is wont to say: “no fruit, no root”. Paul expressed a doubt in the salvation of some in the churches of Galatia in *Galatians 4:19-20* when he stated:

¹⁹ My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

²⁰ I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. *Galatians 4:19-20*

To many times we get caught up in the trap of expecting immediate results. Sometimes we get them, but most of the time we will not and when we do get immediate results it has been preceded by the work of another soul winner and the Holy Ghost. We are not responsible for the results. We are responsible to go forth into the harvest. It is a work of the Devil to pressure a potential soul winner to get results. Many times soul winners put themselves in the position of trying to pull green fruit, or even worse, blossoms that have not even set fruit. The conversion of sinners is referred to as a harvest. If there is to be a harvest, there must be a breaking up of the fallow ground of unsaved hearts (*Jeremiah 4:3*); a sowing of the seed of the Word of God; regular watering with the Word of God; a pulling up and throwing forth of the thorns, thistles, weeds, and stones that hinder the work of salvation; and a harvest of the fruit by the Holy Ghost. We are farmers in God’s harvest. That implies that there will be much work involved in bringing forth the harvest and not the one-two-three repeat after me sinner’s prayers of easy prayerism salvations. The whole one-two-three-repeat-after-me scenario is a damnable heresy. Paul said in *1 Corinthians 3:6-9*:

⁶ I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ⁸ Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. ⁹ For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building. *1 Corinthians 3:6-9*

We must not try to rush the work of the Holy Ghost. We must be willing to befriend individuals and work with them for months, or even years, before we see them come to salvation. Church History is full of the testimonies of many such individuals. One such testimony is that of Fanny Crosby, that great Methodist hymn writer who wrote over ten thousand hymns. Concerning the conversion of Fanny Crosby, Pastor John Asquith in his book “Who Moved The Goal Posts” on pages 26-30 wrote the following:

Start Quote: This is as good a time as any to look at the conversion of Fanny Crosby the famous hymn writer. Had Miss Crosby been born in our time it is doubtful that she would ever have been saved. Had she been so fortunate to have escaped the sewers of humanism, Darwinism and victim psychology that destroy the

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souls of young people today, her local Fundamental Baptist Church would probably have completed the work of damnation in her soul. They would have done that through an utter ignorance of how to deal with the lost. They would have damned her by getting her to pray a prayer and then assuring her that nothing else was needed for salvation. If she were to express the least doubt as to whether she possessed the grace of Christ she would have *Romans 10:13* presented to her as proof that she was in Christ.

Miss Crosby had this to say of her conversion. In her autobiography entitled Fanny Crosby an Autobiography, she tells us that she first began attending the 18th Street Methodist Church where she was eventually to be saved in 1839. She was not to get saved until November of 1850. To call a Methodist Church in the early 1800's a dead church not interested in souls would be folly. In the early 1800's the Methodists were some of the most fervent soul winners in Christendom. Had she attended a church noted for soul winning in the years 1990, 2000 or 2010 she would have most certainly been invited to come forward and be shown how that she could know for sure that she was going to heaven. If she didn't respond to that call, it is certain that some enterprising person would eventually take her aside and ask the same question.

Instead, by the grace of God, Fanny was allowed to come to repentance. Fanny was already a virtuous woman and had already achieved some fame. She had entertained governors, presidents, and famous senators as the widely read blind poet from the New York School for the Blind. She had an excellence of personal character. She came close to death in the cholera epidemic of 1849 but selflessly nursed the ill. Yet she said of herself, "I had grown somewhat indifferent to the means of grace" pg.98. In November of 1850 Fanny attended a revival at the church. Fanny has left us a written testimony of her struggles with salvation. She tells us that during that revival she had gone to the altar twice. She left each time not having found the joy that she sought.

Think about what she said. If she were to have gone up to a modern altar she would have been dealt with by someone from the church. That person would have been trained to ask her why she had come forward. If Fanny had expressed her sense of not knowing Christ that person would have shown her a few cursory verses about the need for salvation. That same person would eventually get around to *Romans 10:13*. Fanny would have been instructed that if she asked Jesus to save her, that verse promised that he would. Fanny would not have gone up the second time because the angel of death who ministered to her the first time would have assured her that there was no need.

Fortunately for Miss Fanny, 19th century soul winners knew better. Fanny went to the altar on two different nights and found no peace. On November 20, 1850 Fanny responded to the altar call again. There she prayed alone. She felt that if she did not receive the light this time that she never would. After prayer a hymn was

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sung, “Alas and did my savior bleed, and did my sovereign die.” On the third line of the fourth stanza she heard the words, “Here Lord I give myself away”. Her soul flooded with celestial light. Miss Fanny explained why her early attempts at salvation didn’t work. “I had been trying to hold the world in one hand and the Lord in the other.” pg.99-100.

Had Fanny Crosby come to the average Fundamental Baptist Church in the last 30 years she could have never worked that out. She would have been aborted at the altar. That great work of God that culminated in over 8000 hymns and the comfort of millions would have been cut off before it ever came to fruition. I know that prognosis upsets many of my readers but judge for yourself. Where are all the people that churches say get saved? They are not in church. They do not have changed lives. If someone reminds them of the experience later they are embarrassed to talk about it. Fanny Crosby would have become a statistic about a church revival. Someone would brag that so-and-so many souls were saved on Tuesday night. Instead old fashioned soul winners let her seek the Lord diligently and in seeking she found.

Perhaps my reader doesn’t think that Fanny’s revelation about herself meant anything. Perhaps my reader thinks that Fanny could have been saved much grief had a simple soul winner just taken her to the altar in 1839 when she first began to attend. Perhaps this is why my reader sees no real fruit in soul winning other than meaningless numbers. Perhaps my reader is worried that such talk of true repentance takes the simplicity out of Christ.

There is a big difference between the words “simple” and “easy”. To use a common illustration I’ll use the example of weight loss. If an obese person wants to lose 100 pounds it really is quite simple. If they would restrict their calorie intake to about 1800 calories a day, if they were to cut out junk food, and if they were to walk five miles a day, weight would drop off. It really is simple. Even a child can understand that. It’s simple, but it is extremely difficult. Does a young man desire a good physique with plenty of muscles? Let him eat well, get good sleep and work out with weights daily. It really is that simple. Why don’t more young men do it? It is very hard to do.

Salvation is simple. Jesus died for everyone. If any person comes to repentance and receives Jesus Christ he is saved eternally. It really is that simple. What is difficult is getting a person to see themselves in repentance. Miss Fanny could have recited many verses about the grace of Christ. What she could not do was see the terrible offense that she was to Jesus Christ in that she sought him with one hand and yet sought the world with the other hand. Until she came to that personal repentance that came as a merciful revelation from Jesus Christ as to his anger with her, she could not be saved. *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, 2 Peter 3:9.* **End Quote**

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What this quote proves is that bringing someone to salvation may take years and that we should not manipulate someone into praying a faithless sinner's prayer and then pronounce them to be saved. To do so is to potentially inoculate them to the gospel and send them to the fires of hell. Fanny Crosby's case is but one of untold numbers. As Brother John Asquith said, salvation is simple. The difficult part is getting people to receive it. Shallow soul winning techniques are damnable heresies that could result in some poor lost soul spending an eternity in hell fire. I have been guilty of practicing those techniques before and when I walked away from the individual that I was "witnessing" to, I felt like a sheep killing dog and in a sense I potentially was. We need to be very careful when dealing with potentially lost souls wherever we meet them whether outside our churches or at the altars in our churches. Regardless of where we are we must present a scriptural gospel and wait for the Holy Ghost to do the work. Pastor John Asquith in his book "Who Moved The Goal Posts" had this to say about the altar call in many of our churches:

Start Quotes: This book will work on a twofold basis. There will be many true-life accounts of actual sinners who found eternal life in Christ Jesus. Some of these will be well known historical figures such as D.L. Moody or John Wesley. This book will also seek to explore the scriptures on salvation and compare them with modern practices. Right from the beginning I will put forth my premise, we don't see results like these men saw and we don't see men of God like these men because we abort them at the altar. [page 21, Who Moved The Goal Posts?]

Now, it has become fashionable to go forward. In church after church, the same little clique of young women or some other such group go forward as much to be seen and be part of the crowd as for any other reason. Regardless of how often they go up, they do not change. The altar call is rapidly becoming the "*Nehushtan*" of *II Kings 18:4, He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.* Likewise, the altar call which had been instituted by holy men has been transformed into something different by our age. It is simply impossible for a person to "*call upon the name of the Lord*", before the Lord has crushed that prideful spirit of caring about what others think. There is nothing in today's altar calls to foster such a spirit. [page 206, Who Moved The Goal Posts?] **End Quotes**

We have to many people who get in the way of the Holy Ghost because they seek to do that which only the Holy Ghost can do. If the Holy Ghost has not convicted a lost sinner, there is no amount of psychological manipulation, salesmanship, and praying that can bring them to salvation. Rather than focusing on trying to get the lost to say a sinner's prayer, we ought to focus on saturating them with the Word Of God: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). The fields are white to harvest and God has commanded that we go into them. *John 4:35, Matthew 9:38, Matthew 28:19-20, and Acts 1:8* state:

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³⁵ Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. *John 4:35*

³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. *Matthew 9:38*

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. *Matthew 28:19-20*

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. *Acts 1:8*

Folks the fields are white to harvest, but we must depend upon the Holy Ghost and the Bible as our implements to bring the harvest in.

If those who state that they have been called to preach will not go out into our communities and knock doors for soul winning, or practice some form of individual soul winning outside the walls of our churches, then they should not be allowed into our pulpits inside our churches. If a man who states that he has been called to preach will not participate in individual soul winning, his priorities are not right before God. For most of our Bible believing churches, the pulpit is the safest place to be for a preacher. It is on the streets of America where that safe haven is taken away. Show me a good street preacher and a good door to door soul winner and I will show you a man that God will use in the pulpit of our churches. Show me a dedicated jailhouse and prison preacher and I will show you a man that God will use in the pulpit of our churches. Anyone who has ever preached in a jailhouse, a prison, or on the streets will tell you that there is a world of difference between those venues and a pulpit in a Bible believing church.

If we are going to participate in door to door witnessing, we must be prepared. We must be physically prepared and spiritually prepared.

When I say that we are to be physically prepared I mean that we must be dressed appropriately and clean. That means that our dress is to conform Biblical standards. That means that men and women are to have their nakedness covered. That means that shorts are not allowed. That means that low cut blouses on ladies and tank tops on men are not allowed. Formal attire is not required, but any clothing that is worn should be neat and not sexually revealing. We are to be clean in our bodies and clean in our clothing. There is nothing like the offense that is generated by the body odor of someone who will not take showers or baths or who will not wash their clothes. Bad breath is also an offense that can be taken care of with a toothbrush and some toothpaste. There should be nothing about our hygiene, clothing, or body odor that would be an offense to anyone. Our level of cleanliness must at very least meet the cleanliness standards of the cultures we live in. You represent the Lord Jesus

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Christ and your church.

When we say that we are to be prepared spiritually that is a wide ranging statement. We should be living holy, separated lives. An effective soul winner must be filled with and yielded to the Holy Ghost. That means that we should be vessels that are fit for use by the Holy Ghost. We should be prayed up and confessed up. That means that we are to confess our sins to God and ask him to go before us into the harvest. We are to be as thoroughly familiar as we can with what the Bible teaches about how we come to salvation. We should also be thoroughly familiar with the works based cult and denominational counterfeits that Satan produces as alternatives to Biblical salvation. That in itself is a major undertaking. A soul winner should know how to lead someone through the Scriptures to a knowledge of salvation. A soul winner should rely on the Holy Ghost to do the drawing, convicting, and conversion of a lost sinner.

There are a number of canned, or boxed, salvation plans out there for presenting the plan of salvation to the lost. They include the Roman's Road, the John's Road, the Hebrew's Road, the Isaiah Road, and so forth. We are not opposed to using these canned plans, but the soul winner must be prepared to go beyond these plans because many people raise questions during the presentation of the gospel that must be answered before we can move on. Know your Bible! We must be students of the Bible so that the Holy Ghost can call to our minds specific Scriptures to deal with questions raised during the presentation of the Gospel.

We have prepared a document that deals with some of the most common objections that lost people raise when dealing with them about salvation. The title of that document is "Objections To Salvation Answered". There are forty-four objections listed with several Bible answers listed for each objection. These are by no means all of the objections that could be raised, but they help a potential soul winner to be better prepared.

If you are presenting the gospel to someone and they raise a question that is a distraction to presenting the Gospel ask them if it would be alright if you answered that question later at the end of your presentation. Never tell someone that you will answer their question later without the intent of doing so. Your last question to a potential convert should be: "Have I answered all of your questions today?". If you do not know the answer to a particular question do not be afraid to tell them that you do not know, but that you would be glad to get back to them. Take their name and address down and be sure to return as you have promised.

We are not to use door to door soul winning to straighten people out doctrinally. Doctrinal correction is the ministry of the local church to be conducted within its OWN walls upon its OWN members. There is a place for apologetics, but it is not on the doorstep of someone we are trying to witness to. We are not to argue doctrine with a potentially lost person. Many, if not most, religious people are lost. We learn what they have been taught to believe not for the purpose of winning an argument, or to correct them, but for the purpose of discerning how best to deal with their perceptions of what salvation is. If we will have a meek and humble spirit, our knowledge of what the various denominations and cults teach about salvation will be used by the Holy Ghost to show us what we need to say in a particular circumstance. In other words, it will give us greater spiritual discernment. The Holy Ghost will use our knowledge of the cults and various denominations to show us how to avoid doctrinal arguments that almost always destroy an opportunity to lead a lost religious person

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to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just because a person's church believes that they have to be baptized to be saved does not mean that that person is lost. Just because a person's church believes that you can lose your salvation does not mean that that person is lost. We could go on and on because there is so much false doctrine out there. We have many saved folk in our Baptist Churches who hold to false doctrine not because they are not saved, but because they have not been properly disciplined. Tragically, most of the members in our Baptist churches are lost because they have never been given a Scriptural presentation of the Gospel. One-two-three-repeat-after-me AND in hell spend an eternity.

Before you depart for door to door soul winning, or address specific soul winning visits, make sure that you have a supply of Gospel tracts, a King James Bible, a small pocket notepad, and an ink pen. If someone makes a profession of faith, or requests a return visit, make sure that you write down their name, address, and any telephone numbers. Invite them to church. Offer to go back and pick them up if they do not have a ride. Now let us get into the means, or "How Tos", of Scriptural Gospel presentations.

THE MEANS OF SCRIPTURAL GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION: THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY GHOST IN SALVATION.

One day as Jesus walked by the sea of Galilee He saw two men, Simon, called Peter and Andrew, his brother. They were fisherman. "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (*Matthew 4:19*). Soul winners are made, not born. Therefore, to be an effective witness, you must be taught, trained, and motivated by the power of the Holy Ghost. Jesus took three years to teach and train His disciples in the art of soul winning. After His resurrection He instructed them to stay in Jerusalem and, "wait for the promise of the Father" (*Acts 1:4*). When the disciples asked Jesus if the time had come for Him to restore the kingdom of Israel, "⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (*Acts 1:7-8*). On the day of Pentecost, the hundred and twenty received power to witness; and any believer who will acquire the know-how can be an effective soul winner. He can know that he and the Holy Ghost are a witnessing team. Peter said, "We are witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Ghost, *WHOM GOD HATH GIVEN TO THEM THAT OBEY HIM*" (*Acts 5:32*). Therefore, when you witness remember that "your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you" (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*).

¹⁹ And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
Matthew 4:19

⁴ And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they

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should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. *Acts 1:4-8*

³²And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. *Acts 5:32*

¹⁹What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

When you witness, trust the Holy Ghost to do three things:

- A. **Illuminate The Mind Of The Unbeliever.** All lost souls are in spiritual darkness (2 *Corinthians 4:3-4*).

³But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. *2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

- B. **Stir The Heart Of The Unbeliever.** As Peter preached Christ the listeners, “were pricked in their heart” (*Acts 2:37*).

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? *Acts 2:37*

- C. **Move The Will Of The Unbeliever.** The prodigal returned home when he came to his himself and said, “I will arise and go to my father” (*Luke 15:18*). You may be up-to-date in all modern techniques and technologies of soul winning, and able to quote the necessary Scriptures without a flaw; but if you do not evangelize in the power of the Holy Ghost, your soul winning efforts will be ineffective. Approach this Master Outline with an open heart and receptive mind, willing to be made fishers of men.

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¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, *Luke 15:18*

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II. THE NECESSITY AND IMPORTANCE OF WITNESSING. Read *Romans 10:13-17*:

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:13-17*

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (*Romans 10:13*). Do not lift this text out of context. There are three questions in verse 14 that must be considered along with verse 13. They are:

- A. **First Question: “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?”** The answer is, the lost cannot call on the Lord to be saved until they believe: “That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, And that He was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to Scriptures” (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*).

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

- B. **Second Question: “And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?”**

The answer is, the lost cannot believe in Him until they hear the good news of salvation. The eunuch had to hear to believe (*Acts 8:26-39*). Paul had to hear to believe (*Acts 9:1-18*). Cornelius had to hear to believe (*Acts 10:1-48*). The Philippian jailer had to hear to believe (*Acts 16:25-40*).

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²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. *Acts 8:26-39*

¹ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. ³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷ And the

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men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. ⁸ And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. ¹⁰ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹ And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, ¹² And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³ Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴ And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. ¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. *Acts 9:1-18*

¹ There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, ² A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. ³ He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. ⁴ And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: ⁶ He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. ⁷ And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; ⁸ And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa. ⁹ On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: ¹⁰

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And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, ¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: ¹² Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. ¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. ¹⁵ And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. ¹⁶ This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. ¹⁷ Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, ¹⁸ And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. ¹⁹ While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. ²⁰ Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? ²² And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. ²³ Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. ²⁵ And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. ²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. ²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. ²⁹ Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? ³⁰ And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, ³¹ And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is

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Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. ³³ Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. ³⁴ Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: ³⁵ But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. ³⁶ The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) ³⁷ That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; ³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: ⁴⁰ Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; ⁴¹ Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. ⁴³ To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. ⁴⁴ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷ Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. *Acts 10:1-48*

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. ²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling,

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and fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. ³⁵ And when it was day, the magistrates sent the serjeants, saying, Let those men go. ³⁶ And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. ³⁷ But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. ³⁸ And the serjeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. ³⁹ And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city. ⁴⁰ And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed. *Acts 16:25-40*

C. **Third Question: “And how shall they hear without a preacher (witness)?”**

The answer is, they cannot hear the good news of salvation without a witness. Three thousand were saved at Pentecost because the 120 witnessed. The eunuch was saved because Philip witnessed. Paul was saved because Stephen witnessed (*Acts 7:54-60*), and Jesus the God-man witnessed, and Ananias witnessed (*Acts 9:1-18*). Cornelius and his household were saved because Peter witnessed. The Philippian jailer and his household were saved because Paul and Silas witnessed. You were saved because someone witnessed to you! According to the word of God, the lost cannot be saved without a witness. They must have a witness to hear, they must hear to believe, they must believe to call, and they must call to be saved. But they cannot call until they believe and they cannot believe until they hear and they cannot hear without a witness. “So then faith (saving faith) cometh by hearing” (*Romans 10:17*). We are not born with saving faith; it comes only when we hear the gospel. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that every born again child of God obey the great commission to evangelize, to go with the gospel!

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I

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see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. ⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, ⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. ⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *Acts 7:54-60*

¹ And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, ² And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. ³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵ And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. ⁷ And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. ⁸ And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. ¹⁰ And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. ¹¹ And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, ¹² And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. ¹³ Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ¹⁴ And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. ¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: ¹⁶ For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. ¹⁷ And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the

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Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. *Acts 9:1-18*

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:17*

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III. THE SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS OF A WITNESS. Read *Colossians 2:6-7*:

⁶ As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: ⁷ Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. *Colossians 2:6-7*

A qualified witness is one who is:

A. Stablished In The Faith.

To be stablished in the faith is to be rooted and grounded in God's Word. Peter said, "*1 Peter 3:15* " ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:". The fifteen Master Outline studies in the "Christian Life New Testament" were prepared to help establish you in the faith. Study them, carry your Bible with you and take advantage of every opportunity to ponder a portion of one of the great doctrines. They will give you a foundation on which to build a strong faith (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

B. Saved And Knows It.

I know that I am saved because God tells me so in His Word and God cannot lie. We have the:

1. Witness of the Spirit stated in *Romans 8:16*:

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are

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the children of God: *Romans 8:16*

2. The witness of the Word written in 1 John 5:13:

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *1 John 5:13*

3. The witness of faith recorded in 1 John 5:9-10:

⁹ If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. ¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. *1 John 5:9-10*

C. Separated.

Paul said that he was “separated unto the gospel of God” as it is written in *Romans 1:1-16*:

¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) ³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ⁴ And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: ⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: ⁶ Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: ⁷ To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; ¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; ¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. ¹³ Now I would not

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have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. ¹⁴I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. ¹⁵So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. *Romans 1:1-16*

This is positive separation and Paul analyzed it as:

1. A holy desire to share spiritual gifts (verse 11).
2. A holy purpose to bear fruit (verse 13).
3. A holy obligation to pay a spiritual debt (verse 14).
4. A holy eagerness to share the gospel (verse 15).
5. A holy boldness to exalt the cross (verse 16).

To be separated unto the gospel is to share the Good News with the lost.

D. Will Be Filled With The Spirit.

“Be filled with the Spirit” (*Ephesians 5:18*). We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit (see Master Outline #11-Section #4). Evidence of the Spirit-filled life as seen in the early Christians:

1. They spoke the word of God with boldness (*Acts 4:31*).
2. They witnessed with great power (*Acts 4:33*).
3. They witnessed with great grace (*Acts 4:33*)
4. They shared their wealth (*Acts 4:34-37*).
5. They worshiped in unity (*Acts 2:42-47*).
6. They suffered persecution (*Acts 8:1-4*)
7. They glorified in tribulations (*Romans 5:3*).
8. They sang in prison (*Acts 16:25*).
9. They loved and prayed for their executioners (*Acts 7:54-60*).
10. They rejoiced to suffer shame for His name (*Acts 5:41*).
11. They were accused of:
 - a. Filling Jerusalem with the gospel (*Acts 5:28*).
 - b. Upsetting the world (*Acts 17:6*).

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with

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boldness. ³² And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. ³³ And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵ And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. ³⁶ And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet. *Acts 4:31-37*

⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. *Acts 2:42-47*

¹ And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. ³ As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. ⁴ Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. *Acts 8:1-4*

³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; *Romans 5:3*

²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. *Acts 16:25*

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⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. ⁵⁵ But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, ⁵⁶ And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. ⁵⁷ Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, ⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. ⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. *Acts 7:54-60*

⁴¹ And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. *Acts 5:41*

²⁸ Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. *Acts 5:28*

⁶ And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; *Acts 17:6*

E. The 120 Spirit-filled Christians witnessed on the day of Pentecost and the people were:

1. Bewildered, that is, they were mentally arrested (*Acts 2:6*).
2. Amazed, that is, they were mentally frustrated (*Acts 2:7*).
3. Marveling, that is, they stood in mental awe (*Acts 2:7*).
4. Mocking, that is, some mentally reacted (*Acts 2:13*).
5. Inquiring, that is, some mentally acted (*Acts 2:37*).

⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard

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them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? *Acts 2:6-7*

¹³ Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. *Acts 2:13*

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? *Acts 2:37*

The gospel proclaimed in the power of the Holy Ghost will motivate the hearer to act or react. On the day of Pentecost three thousand acted as evidenced by repentance and baptism, while others reacted mocking. No one, but no one, ignored the witness of those Spirit-filled believers!

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IV. THE METHODS OF APPROACHING POTENTIAL CONVERTS. Read *John 1:40-46*:

⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone. ⁴³ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. ⁴⁴ Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. *John 1:40-46*

There are two ways to approach the prospect. The first is:

A. The Direct Approach. This approach can be used when witnessing to:

1. A relative.
Andrew used the direct approach to bring his brother Simon Peter to Christ (*John 1:40-42*).
2. A friend.

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Phillip the apostle used the direct approach to bring Nathanael to Jesus (*John 1:45-46*).

3. The concerned.

Jesus used the direct approach to win Nicodemus (*John 3:1- 21*).

4. The seeker.

Paul and Silas used the direct approach to lead the Philippian jailer to Jesus (*Acts 16:19-34*).

¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. ⁹Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ¹¹Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. ¹²If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? ¹³And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth

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not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. *John 3:1-21*

¹⁹ And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, ²⁰ And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, ²¹ And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. ²² And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. ²³ And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: ²⁴ Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. ²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. ²⁶ And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. ²⁷ And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. ²⁹ Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? ³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway. ³⁴ And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house. *Acts 16:19-34*

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The second approach is:

B. The Indirect Approach.

This can be used when witnessing to:

1. A stranger.
Jesus used the indirect approach to witness to the Samaritan woman (*John 4:7-26*).
2. The religious.
Phillip the evangelist used the indirect approach to lead the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ (*Acts 8:26-39*). The method in either case will vary according to the leading of the Holy Ghost.

⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. ⁸ (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) ⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. ¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? ¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. ¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. ¹⁷ The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸ For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. ¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. ²¹ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour

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cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. ²⁵ The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. ²⁶ Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. *John 4:7-26*

²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. ²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, ²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? ³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. ³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: ³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. ³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. ³⁶ And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the

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eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
Acts 8:26-39

Whether you use the direct or the indirect approach, be sure to follow through until you have presented God's plan of salvation and invited them to accept Christ as their personal Saviour.

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V. THE NECESSITY OF WAITING ON THE WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST. Read *Matthew 13:3-8* and I:

³ And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴ And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: ⁵ Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: ⁶ And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: ⁸ But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
Matthew 13:3-8

¹⁸ Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. ²⁰ But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; ²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. ²² He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. ²³ But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. *Matthew 13:18-23*

The parable of the sower illustrates that the work of salvation in the unbeliever is likened unto farming. It moves through the process of tilling, planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. The parable of the sower indicates that there will be four types of people we will encounter in our attempts to witness to lost folks. It also indicates that there will be four types of ground we will plant in. Jesus explains the parable in (Matthew 13:18-23), and we learn that:

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- A. The Sower Is The Witness.
- B. The Seed Is The Word of God.
- C. The Soil Is The Heart.

We also learn that there are four types of hearts. They are:

1. The hard heart; this is the wayside soil, fertile but hard.
2. The shallow heart; this is the stoney soil, fertile but depthless.
3. The worldly heart; this is the thorny soil, fertile but possessed.
4. The understanding heart: this is good soil, fertile and prepared.

There will be four types of potential converts that will be found. These are:

1. The person who will outright reject the Gospel.
2. The false professor who will appear to gladly receive the gospel, but will almost immediately fall away because the seed found no root in their heart.
3. The convert who genuinely possesses salvation, but shows no evidence of growth because they are extremely worldly and carnal.
4. The fruitful Christian whose first priority is the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives a separated life, and who produces much fruit in soul winning.

The lesson here is that the fallow ground must be plowed. The seed of the Word of God must be sewn. The seed must be watered. The field must be weeded. Then we must look for the Holy Ghost to gather the harvest. The increase belongs to God. We must be ever vigilant because the Holy Ghost may want us to go back and plow the field again and replant the seed of the Word of God. In the case of the carnal, worldly converts the field must be weeded with the Word of God.

Again, what all this indicates is that soul winning is a labour of love that is not rooted in a sinner's prayer. Most deceived "soul winners" today insist on gathering a harvest from a field that has not been plowed and from seed that either has not been sewn or is infertile because it is corrupt. Your King James Bible is your most important earthly farming implement that you have in your soul winning barn.

Another issue for most "soul winners" today is that they put the Holy Ghost on a time clock. They are not willing to spend the TIME and EFFORT to work the fields. If you take a look at the book of Acts, you will see that it was the common practice of Paul to work the fields for many hours and many days in his efforts to bring others to the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at these passages in *Acts 17:1-4*, *Acts 18:1-6*, *Acts 24:24-25*, and *Acts 28:23-24*:

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¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: ² And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, ³ Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. ⁴ And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. *Acts 17:1-4*

¹ After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; ² And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. ³ And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. ⁵ And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. ⁶ And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. *Acts 18:1-6*

²⁴ And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. *Acts 24:24-25*

²³ And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening. ²⁴ And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not. *Acts 28:23-24*

In *Acts 17*, it took Paul three Sabbath days worth of **reasoning** with those in the synagogue at Thessalonica before some of them believed. In *Acts 18*, Paul went into the synagogue at Corinth and **reasoned** with them every Sabbath. Notice that the reception in Corinth was one of much opposition and blasphemy. There was no quick and easy presentation of the Gospel. In *Acts 24*, Paul reasoned with Felix and Drusilla for many hours. In *Acts 28*, Paul **persuaded** them from morning till evening. The message is to wait upon the Lord. Do not try to rush the work of the Holy Ghost.

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VI. **BE PREPARED FOR AND EXPECT THE RESISTENCE OF HARDENED HEARTS.**

Yet another issue is that the ground in America is much harder than it has ever been. Most of America is stony ground in 2026. The wickedness of America has become as an adamant stone against the Word of God. We have been possessed by the wicked spirit of sodomy, fornication, adultery, pornography, murder, abortion, and child molestation. Why should we be shocked at the mass school shootings that are taking place by children when we have taught our children that murdering babies is okay. Make no mistake about it, abortion is nothing more than a contract murder for hire because the abortionist is paid for his homicidal services.

There was a time when children were taught to read using the King James Bible and school days were opened with prayer. Alas, that day is long past! There was a time in America when most of our citizens were taught the general precepts of the Bible just by being present in our society. Even though many were not saved, the morals of our society were dictated by Biblical principles and commandments. In general, Biblical laws ruled the land. That atmosphere in and of itself carried a certain level of conviction rooted in the words of the Holy Ghost that kept hearts softened and more ready to receive the Gospel. That time has long since passed and America is at the same point in its moral and spiritual depravity as Israel was when the prophets said in *Zechariah 7:11-12*, *Amos 8:11-12*, and *Jeremiah 6:10*:

¹¹ But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. ¹² Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. *Zechariah 7:11-12*

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: ¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it. *Amos 8:11-12*

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. *Jeremiah 6:10*

America has set its heart as an adamant stone against the God of the Bible, against the Bible itself, and against Bible believing Christianity. Our hearts are hardened by our abominable wickedness. We think that by refusing to hear God's word that we will not be held

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accountable. There has never been a time in the history of the world when the Bible was more available to a people as it is in America. Yet, we refuse to hear. In fact, the prophet Jeremiah said that our spiritual ears are uncircumcised so that we CANNOT hearken to the Word of God because we consider it to be a reproach unto us. In America, we have gone beyond having no delight in the Word of God to utterly detesting it. America is possessed of the spirit of Mahatma Ghandi's three unclean frogs that see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil of America's wickedness. Our preachers must start preaching the law again. The Bible says in *Galatians 3:23-24*:

²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. ²⁴ Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. *Galatians 3:23-24*

What that means is that we MUST preach the law and the commandments and hell fire and damnation until people become desperate to be delivered from the torture and consequences of their sin. Many times, knocking on doors and passing out tracts is the way the Holy Ghost opens the door to get the lost into the house of God so that the Word of God can be expounded unto them.

I have said all that I have said about the resistance to the Gospel in America not to discourage you, but to warn you and prepare for the resistance you will surely receive at the hand of Satan when witnessing. Forewarned is forearmed. Regardless of the resistance that we will receive in our soul winning endeavours, we are charged to deliver the Word of God anyhow. After warning Ezekiel that the people would not hearken to his word God told him in *Ezekiel 3:10-11*:

¹⁰ Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. ¹¹ And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. *Ezekiel 3:10-11*

Regardless of the expected resistance that we will receive we are commanded to go forth into the harvest. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*". (*Psalms 126:6*). The harvest is well worth whatever it costs us. Hallelujah!

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VII. HOW TO GIVE A SCRIPTURAL PRESENTATION OF SALVATION. Read *Acts 4:12*:

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¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. *Acts 4:12*

There are seven simple steps to take in sharing God's plan of salvation:

A. Share Your Personal Testimony Of Salvation.

Don't give your life story. It should not take more than a few minutes to tell how the Lord saved you. As you come to the close of your testimony, bring out your Bible and say, "May I share with you God's plan of salvation that changed my life?"

B. Now Tell Them: "It Is A Fact That God Loves You." Read (*John 3:14-17*) and the study notes with them:

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. *John 3:14-18*

STUDY NOTES: "Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness" (*Numbers 21:5-9*). He lifted up the serpent for a sinful, disobedient people. When anyone was bitten by a serpent, he had a choice: He could humble himself and by a simple act of faith look and live (*Isaiah 45:22*); or he could refuse to look on the serpent of brass and die.

"Even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Just as the serpent in the wilderness was the only means for the healing of Israel, so the death of Jesus Christ is the only means for the new birth. And the only way to appropriate the regenerating power of God is by faith in the vicarious death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 15:1-4*).

The sinner must come to Christ by faith, believing:

- (1) That Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (*Isaiah 53:1-12* and *Zechariah 13:6*).
- (2) And that He was buried. This is the proof of His death. He

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- was in the grave three days and nights.
- (3) And that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. This is the gospel that saves-but it is powerless to save until the sinner believes it (*Romans 1:16*).

The means of the new birth is found in that:

- (1) “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son” to be the only means of the new birth (*John 3:16*).
- (2) Jesus Christ gladly came into the world to become the only means of the new birth (*John 12:27* and *John 17:1-5*).
- (3) The Holy Ghost came into the world on the day of Pentecost to convince men of their need of the new birth (*John 16:7-11*). A personal faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the only means of the new birth.

When you come to the close of the study notes, say something like this: “Will you now admit that God loves you?” Lead them to admit it, if you can. This will get them involved in the plan of salvation.

- C. **Now Tell Them: “It Is A Fact That You Are A Sinner.”** Read (*Romans 3:23*) and the study notes with them.

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*

STUDY NOTES: What is sin?

Sin is lawlessness (*1 John 3:4*).

Sin is unbelief; it calls God a liar (*1 John 5:10*).

Sin is active rebellion against God (*1 Samuel 15:23*).

Sin is passive rebellion against God (*Isaiah 1:2*).

All unrighteousness is sin (*1 John 5:17*).

God, who cannot lie, said: All have sinned. All includes you! You have sinned against God by thought, word, and deed. You have committed sins of commission and sins of omission. In the sight of God, you are a lost sinner. Before going to the next fact, admit to yourself that: I am a lost sinner, because I have sinned.

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When you come to the close of the study notes, ask them to admit that they are a lost sinner. When they admit that they are a lost sinner, say something like this, “Isn’t it wonderful? God loves you even though you are a sinner!”

- D. Now Tell Them: “It Is A Fact That You Are Now Dead In Sin.”** Read (*Romans 6:23*) and the study notes with them.

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6:23*

STUDY NOTES: You have already confessed and admitted that you are a sinner. Now God would have you know that ... the wages of sin is death. You are dead in sin until you accept Christ as personal Saviour. The Apostle Paul said, And you were dead in your trespasses and sins (*Ephesians 2:1*). To be saved is to be made spiritually alive in Christ.

¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; *Ephesians 2:1*

What is death?

Death is spiritual separation. Your sins have separated you from God; you are dead in your sins.

Death is physical separation. It separated the spirit and soul from the body.

Death is eternal separation.

If you remain lost in your sins, you will stand before God at the great white throne judgment. And there your sins will separate you from the mercy of God forever; this is Hell (*Revelation 20:11-15*). You know that God loves you, and that you are a sinner-dead in sins. Before going to the next fact, admit to yourself: I am dead in sins.

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the

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dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15*

When you come to the close of the study notes, ask them to admit that they are dead in sin. When they admit that they are dead in sin, say something like this, “Isn’t it great? Even though you are a lost sinner, dead in sin, God loves you!”

- E. Now Tell Them: “It Is A Fact That Christ Died For You.”** Read (*Romans 5:6*) and the study notes with them.

⁶ For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. *Romans 5:6*

STUDY NOTES: He died for those who are unlike God; this includes you!

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (*Romans 5:8*). “For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”. (*2 Corinthians 5:21*).

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” (*1 Peter 1:18-19*).

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

In light of these wonderful Scriptures, will you now thank God for His great love in sending His Son to bear your sins in His own body on the cross, and admit to yourself that: Christ died on Calvary for me!

When you come to the close of the study notes, ask them to admit that Christ died on Calvary for them. When they admit that Christ died for them, say something like this, “Isn’t it wonderful? Isn’t it great that God loves you so much that He died on Calvary

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bearing your sins?”

- F. **Now Tell Them: “It Is A Fact That You Can Be Saved By Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ.”** Read (*Acts 16:30-31*) and the study notes with them.

³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. *Acts 16:30-31*

STUDY NOTES: The Philippian jailor asked Paul and Silas: Sirs, what must I do to be Saved? The answer was quick in response, and positive in content: And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Paul and Silas preached the gospel to the jailer and those in his house; they believed and were saved. What is this gospel that saves when believed?

1. First, it is: that Christ died for your sins.
2. Second, it is: that He was buried.
3. Third, it is: that He was raised on the third day (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*).

Jesus Christ the God-man died for you, was buried for you, and rose from the dead for you; and is now at the right hand of the Father interceding for you (*1 John 2:1*). “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (*Romans 1:16*). The gospel is the power of God for salvation only when you believe. Your faith in Jesus Christ releases the power of God that saves your soul. The man born blind received physical sight by a miracle; but, spiritual sight came when Jesus asked, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered, Lord, I believe (*John 9:35-38*). Salvation came to Thomas when he believed and confessed, My Lord and my God (*John 20:24-29*). “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (*Romans 10:9-10*).

¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: *1 John 2:1*

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¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. *Romans 1:16*

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? ³⁶ He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? ³⁷ And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. ³⁸ And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him. *John 9:35-38*

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. ²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. ²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. ²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. *John 20:24-29*

- G. Now Ask The Potential Convert The Following Questions:** (1) Do you believe that God loves you? (2) Do you believe that you are a sinner? (3) Do you believe that you are dead in your sin? (4) Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross for your sins, died, was buried, and was resurrected? (5) Do you believe that you can be saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? (6) Would you be willing to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today? If the answer to all six of these questions is YES, then encourage them to call upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save them by reading them *Romans 10:13-14*:

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¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? *Romans 10:13-14*

At this point, ask them if it would be okay for you to pray. Ask them to join you. Then you pray and ask God to convict them, to draw them, to give them understanding, and to save them. Most lost folks will not know how to pray. At this point, if they have agreed to all six of the points just covered it will be alright to help them out. Tell them something similar to the following:

“If you will accept the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and ask Him in your own words to save you, He will save you. Asking something of God in your own words is praying. If you believe in your heart that you are sinner, and that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins, was buried, and then arose from the dead on the third day, then just tell Him that and ask Him to save you and He will save you. The prayer itself will not save you, but your faith will. The prayer is making confession with the mouth unto salvation (See *Matthew 10:32-33*). The prayer is that which publicly reveals the saving faith that is in the heart. The Bible says that you must confess the Lord Jesus Christ before men.

If they are reluctant to join you, do not force the issue. If what they say they believe is not strong enough to overcome their reluctance, then you run the risk of getting a false convert who is twofold more a child of hell. If they are still unwilling to call upon the Lord, be gracious above all, thank them for their time, invite them to church, and ask them if it would be okay if you came back for a visit. Make sure that you write down their name, address, and telephone number before you leave.

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VIII. THERE MUST BE DISCIPLESHIP FOLLOWING PROFESSIONS OF FAITH.

The “Great Commission”, or the “Great Commandment”, is very specific in its requirements to evangelize lost folks and to disciple new converts. *Matthew 28:19-20* states:

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. *Matthew 28:19-20*

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Verse 19 is the commandment to evangelize the lost. Verse 20 is the commandment to disciple the converts by teaching them to observe all things that the Lord Jesus Christ has commanded. Those verses mean that we are to be active soul winners and that we are to teach the converts the Bible. Once you lead someone to the Lord, your responsibility does not end there. In a very real sense they become your baby. You are to make sure that they are started out with the sincere milk of the Word Of God (*1 Peter 2:2*) followed by the strong meat of the Word Of God (*Hebrews 5:11-14*):

² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: *1 Peter 2:2*

¹¹ Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. ¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:11-14*

In order to feed new converts the milk and meat of the Bible, they need to become members of a local New Testament Church. Salvation is the prerequisite for baptism and baptism is the prerequisite for church membership. *Acts 2:41-47* says:

⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵ And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. *Acts 2:41-47*

New converts must be reminded of the necessity of attending church on a regular basis. Read to them *Hebrews 10:24-25* where it is written:

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some

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is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. *Hebrews 10:24-25*

There are some things that you can do to help the new Christian to grow spiritually:

1. Make sure they have a King James Bible.
2. Take them to church and sit with them. If they drive themselves sit with them.
3. Introduce them to your Pastor and other church members.
4. During the invitation ask them to go forward with you and make a public profession of faith (*Matthew 10:32-33*).
5. Take them to your Pastor so that they can talk about setting a date for baptism.
6. Tell them that since they are saved, they are to obey the Lord in all things.
7. Teach them to pray on a daily basis.
8. Teach them to read and study their Bible on a daily basis.
9. Stress to them the importance and necessity of witnessing and soul winning.
10. Remind them of the wonder and beauty of publicly testifying to their salvation and giving God the glory (*Psalms 107:2*).
11. If your church has a new converts class, get them into it as soon as possible.

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