



SOULWINNING 201 SESSION 4

# HOW TO GIVE A *REALLY* *GOOD* BIBLE STUDY

## 1. THE PRE-REQUISITE TO ANY AND ALL SOULWINNING WORK

### A. Remember that the work and its results are the Lord's

There is far more being done by the universe of Heaven than we have any idea of, in preparing the way so that souls shall be converted. We want to work in harmony with the messengers of Heaven. We want more of God... we want to feel that unless the people are reached through God, they never will be reached. *Ev 127*

## 2. FOUR TIPS FOR A BETTER BIBLE STUDY

### A. Assume the role of teacher

- i. You are the teacher, not the moderator or facilitator. Your role is to "lead them into the truth" (see ChS 69). If they are seeking truth, they are *expecting* this.

### B. Believe the message yourself

- i. One of the most compelling aspects of giving studies is your own personal conviction. If you are convinced, no one else will be convinced either.

On a certain occasion, when Betterton, the celebrated actor, was dining with Dr. Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop said to him, "Pray, Mr. Betterton, tell me why it is that you actors affect your audiences so powerfully by speaking of things imaginary." "My Lord," replied Betterton, "with due submission to Your Grace, permit me to say that the reason is plain; it all lies in the power of enthusiasm. We on the stage speak of things imaginary as if they were real; and you in the pulpit speak of things real as if they were imaginary." *Ev 179.1*

When God opens the way for the accomplishment of a certain work, and gives assurance of success, the chosen instrumentality must do all in his power to bring about the promised result. In proportion to the enthusiasm and perseverance with which the work is carried forward, will be the success given. *PK 263*

### C. Know your material

- i. Prepare – Go through the lesson yourself. Look up texts, fill in blanks, highlight pertinent points, jot down illustration ideas and other notes. You may find some texts that don't make sense. It could be a misprint. In any case, either substitute a text that does make sense, or simply skip over the question. There's nothing worse than finding out you have the wrong text in the middle of giving the study!
- ii. Review – Go through the lesson now as though you were giving it. It may help to listen to a sermon on the same topic.
- iii. Practice – It may help to practice giving the study to a friend or family member. In fact, this may be an opportunity to study with someone who wouldn't otherwise ;)

### D. Engage your study interest

- i. Invite them to read and answer the questions.
- ii. Ask them practical questions about the lesson like
  1. *"How would you explain that text in your own words?"*
  2. *"How does this text answer the question?"*
  3. *"What does this text tell us about God's will for our life?"*
- iii. Encourage them ask you questions. If a question they ask will be covered in a later study, say so. If a question will require a more extensive answer that would sidetrack your study, have them write it down and cover it later. However, don't discourage them from asking questions as this is often where the truth becomes practical to them.

### E. Apply truth to the heart, not the head

- i. Don't forget that your purpose in giving the study is to lead souls into the truth. This requires them to make personal application of the truths presented. Your appeals, therefore, need to be applied to their daily life and practice, and not merely a mental assent to the truth. For example, when appealing on the Sabbath study, instead of asking "Do you understand that the Sabbath, according to the Bible, is on the seventh day, Saturday, and should be kept from Sundown Friday to sundown Saturday?" You would want to ask "Will you choose now to observe the Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday according to the commandments of God?"

Our success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. ChS 122.3

When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to cooperate with One who knows no failure. COL 363.1