



SOULWINNING 201 SESSION 6

KEYS TO SUCCESS

1. KEYS TO BETTER RESULTS IN SOULWINNING

A. Know the Lord (Jn. 17:3)

The disciples were the channel of communication between Christ and the people. This should be a great encouragement to His disciples today. Christ is the great center, the source of all strength. His disciples are to receive their supplies from Him. The most intelligent, the most spiritually minded, can bestow only as they receive. Of themselves they can supply nothing for the needs of the soul. We can impart only that which we receive from Christ; and we can receive only as we impart to others. As we continue imparting, we continue to receive; and the more we impart, the more we shall receive. Thus we may be constantly believing, trusting, receiving, and imparting. DA 370.1

The Saviour knew that no argument, however logical, would melt hard hearts or break through the crust of worldliness and selfishness. He knew that His disciples must receive the heavenly endowment; that the gospel would be effective only as it was proclaimed by hearts made warm and lips made eloquent by a living knowledge of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. AA 31

Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts.... Ev 341.3

B. Believe the message

- i. The main reason most people don't give Bible studies is because they lack confidence in the message. You must know the message for yourself. You must have confidence in it; you must have an interest in it; you must be passionate about it! I'm not talking about just being "passionate about Jesus." I'm talking about being passionate about the 2300 days!

I saw that the mere argument of the truth will not move souls to take a stand with the remnant, for the truth is unpopular. The servants of God must have the truth in the soul. Said the angel "They must get it warm from glory, carry it in their bosoms, and pour it out in the warmth and earnestness of the soul to those that hear." A few that are conscientious are ready to decide from the weight of evidence, but it is impossible to move many with a mere theory. There must be a power to attend the truth; a living testimony to move them. 1T 113

Every soul in every Conference, in every part of the Lord's vineyard, has the privilege of knowing the truth. But truth is not truth to those who do not practice it. Truth is only truth to you when you live it in the daily life, showing the world what those people must be who are at last saved. 1888 1744.2

ii. Some helpful resources

1. *Bible and SOP reading plan*
2. *SDA Bible Commentary*
3. *Discipleship Handbook*
4. *Answers to Objections by Francis D. Nichol*

C. Be genuine, loving and earnest

- i. The apostle Paul wrote “Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...” and “the love of Christ compels us” (2 Cor. 5:11, 14). We should always manifest Christlike compassion toward people, while not shunning to be in earnest with them about their eternal destinies.
- ii. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but *Christ lives in me...*” (Gal. 2:20).

In the work of soul-winning, great tact and wisdom are needed. The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He never made truth cruel, but ever manifested a deep tenderness for humanity. Every soul was precious in His sight. He bore Himself with divine dignity; yet He bowed with the tenderest compassion and regard to every member of the family of God. He saw in all, souls whom it was His mission to save. GW 117.1

D. Be intentional and direct

- i. A person doesn't win souls who isn't intentional about winning souls.

Success in any line demands a definite aim. He who would achieve true success in life must keep steadily in view the aim worthy of his endeavor. Ed 262.1

- ii. Jesus was always looking for ways to reach the hearts. Soulwinning was not a coincidence or a “lucky break” for him. Not only did He mingle with people when invited; He also sought people out, and looked for ways to speak to them of eternal realities.

Jesus saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom. He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. He sought them in the public streets, in private houses, on the boats, in the synagogue, by the shores of the lake, and at the marriage feast. He met them at their daily vocations, and manifested an interest in their secular affairs. DA 151.2

When invited to eat with publicans and sinners, He did not refuse; for in no other way than by mingling with them could He reach this class. But on every occasion ...He opened up themes of conversation which brought things of eternal interest to their minds. GW 394.2

- iii. Commenting on His encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, Ellen White wrote

The Saviour was seeking to find the key to this heart, and with the tact born of divine love, He asked, not offered, a favor. DA 183.4

E. Work with "ripe" interests

- i. Often those we carry the greatest burden for – friends, family members, etc. – are not open to spiritual things. While we focus our time on trying to reach them, we may be overlooking that person in the cubicle next to us at work, or in the desk next to us in Psych class, who may be hungering to know the truth. Jesus said the "harvest" is plentiful (Mt. 9:37). Ellen White wrote that there are people looking longingly toward heaven, "waiting only to be gathered in" (see AA 109).

F. Apply truth to the heart

- i. Ask for obedience, not just assent. A person's Christianity begins, not when they learn the will of Christ, but when they yield to the will of Christ.
 - 1. *Instead of asking questions like "Is that clear?" , "Do you understand?" or "Does that make sense?" ask "Have you started to practice that?"*

The secret of our success and power as a people advocating advanced truth will be found in making direct, personal appeals to those who are interested, having unwavering reliance upon the Most High. RH August 30, 1892

Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. GW 193.2

G. Don't consult your feelings

- i. "He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good" (Eccl. 11:4-6).
- ii. The Christian life is a life of faith, not of feeling (see 2 Cor. 5:7). That isn't to say that feelings aren't a part of the Christian experience; but feelings are easily manipulated, and therefore will never make a faithful guide. The Bible says of Abraham that "he did not consider his own body... and the deadness of Sarah's womb" (Rom. 4:19).

H. Don't be afraid to try

- i. God can never bless the tract you won't hand out, the conversation you're afraid to have or the Bible study you refuse to give.
- ii. A study was done by the Berlin Academy of Music to discover the determining factor that makes a musician a success. Violin students were divided into three categories: the famous violinists, the good performers, and the violin teachers who would not be performers. The single determining factor was found to be the number of hours of practice. The future teachers had practiced four thousand hours in their lifetime. The good performers, eight thousand hours. And every single one of those who became famous had practiced at least ten thousand hours. But here is the fascinating part - There wasn't a single violinist who had practiced ten thousand hours who wasn't a star. In other words, ten thousand hours of practice guaranteed you would become a famous violinist.
- iii. There is no task in which a person can't gain proficiency by practice. If you are nervous about giving a Bible study to an unbeliever, practice on a friend at church. Choose a Sabbath afternoon, or some evening during the week. Prepare the lesson like we have discussed, and then give the study. Do it as many times as it takes for you to start feeling more comfortable with it, and you will become a Bible study "star"!

2. GOD HAS PROMISED SUCCESS.

- A. "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps. 126:5-6).

If you fail ninety-nine times in a hundred, but succeed in saving the one soul from ruin, you have done a noble deed for the Master's cause. ChS 101

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

Time is precious. The destiny of souls is in the balance. God is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message to be sounded to all. There are many who have not yet heard the testing message of truth for this time. The last call of mercy is to be proclaimed throughout the earth. Heavenly angels have long been waiting for human agents... to cooperate with them in the great work to be done. They are waiting for you. So vast is the field, so comprehensive the design, that every sanctified heart will be pressed into service as an agent of divine power. HP 314.5