

Evangelism



Dan Nell

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THE GREAT COMMISSION

The Great commission which Jesus gave to His disciples is found in Matt. 28:19. "Make disciples of all nations"

In **Matt. 9:37,38** Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few and that we must pray asking the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest fields.

If I interpret Rev. 14 correctly, it appears that the labourers will not reap the harvest in time and that the Lord will have to swiftly put in the sickly to harvest. Is this not already starting to happen? **Rev. 14:15** "Take **Your** sickle (the angel is talking to Jesus) and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe"

May God give us a new passion for lost souls? Some of them we work and study with every day. Others are our neighbours next door. Others are our sport friends.

Even though we may talk about all the various methods used in Evangelization, it does not mean that these techniques must first be perfected before we can start winning souls for the kingdom of God.

We need to heed the Word, which says in **Ecclesiastes 9:10** "***Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.***"

There are many Christians who have never won a soul for the Lord. The main reason being that they have no burden for the lost souls of humanity.

Jesus Christ removed the burden of our sin but replaced it with a burden of a different kind, a burden for souls. There is no greater joy than bringing a seeking soul to a seeking saviour, who is able to save them that believe.

Do you want to have a burden for souls? Realize then that every unsaved person is lost without hope, heading for an eternal hell. What will you do with this startling truth while God desires that all should be saved?

Charles Pearce of England was on his way to the gallows when confronted by the prison chaplain who pleaded with him to surrender his life to Jesus Christ. Before his execution he turned to the chaplain, looked him straight in the eyes and said, "Sir, do you believe there is a hell for the unrepentant such as I? And Sir, do you believe that God is merciful to save the likes of me?" When the chaplain was through answering these questions, Charles Pearce said to him, "Sir, if I believed it, I would cross England, even if it meant crawling over broken glass to warn the unsaved of their eternal destiny without God." These were the last words of Charles Pearce before he was hanged.

DO WE BELIEVE IN WHAT WE PREACH?

Do we really believe that my neighbour, my friend or family will go lost forever if they are not washed in the blood of Jesus Christ?

Think on this: All the treasure in the world cannot pay for one soul.

Matt. 16:26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Try and think of the price on the cross, which Jesus had to pay for our salvation.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: "the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10)

THE FIRST THING YOU MUST DO IS "LOOK"

John 4:35 "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, **lift up your eyes and look at the fields**, for they are already white for harvest!"

You will have a compassion for people if you could **see them in their need!**

In Matt.9:36 we read of Jesus the following: “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”

THE SECOND THING YOU MUST DO IS “GO and TELL”

The whole Gospel is a “**GO**” Gospel !

Jesus never said that we must wait until the souls come to our church, but He said we must go to all nations with His word.

He also did not say that we must only pray for the harvest, but we read these words in **Matt. 9:37,38** “**Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the harvest.**”

*In Mark 5:19 we read what Jesus told the man that was delivered from demons and wanted to stay with Jesus. He said: “**Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.**”*

Also read: Mark. 16:15 and Matt.28:19

LET US ALSO CONSIDER THE SHORTNESS OF LIFE!

1 Sam. 20:3 “But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but one step between me and death.”

Psalms 103:15-16 “As for man, his days are like grass... For the wind passes over it, and it is gone.”

Jas. 4:14 “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

Psalms 39:5 “You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath.”

Soul winner heed this warning. We often receive only one chance to speak to someone about his soul’s salvation. Let us not miss that opportunity and stand guilty before God, through neglect.

WHY SHOULD WE BE SOUL WINNERS?

Because Jesus Christ commands us to reach the world with the Gospel:

Matt. 4:19 “Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Mark. 16:15 “He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Luke 14:23 “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.”

Matt. 10:32-33 “Therefore whoever confesses (acknowledges) Me before men, him I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

Because we are appointed to watch over one another.

Ezekiel 33:7-11 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel, so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, “O wicked man, you will surely die,” and you do not speak out to warn the wicked from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will be saved yourself...As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?”

We are made watchman and we are made our brothers keeper.
Today we want to do what Cain did when God asked him where his brother was.

Gen. 4:9 “Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Able? ‘I don’t know’, he replied. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

We hear arguments like these:

“Why should I watch over others? They also have the Bible in their home. They can also themselves go to church, etc.etc.”

Soul winner, you and I should not one day stand guilty before God!

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SOUL WINNER?

1. He/she must be someone who is born again otherwise it will be the blind leading the blind.
2. We must remember that Jesus told His disciples to wait until they were filled with the Holy Spirit before starting to evangelize.

Luke. 24:49 “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4 “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised.”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Considering these scripture it is clear that we should allow God’s Spirit to fill our lives so that we can be more effective in sharing the Gospel of Christ to others.

3. **Proverbs 11:30** says that he who wins souls is wise. You should first win people for yourself before you win them for the Lord.

Wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Matt.10:16)

Learn when to speak and when to be quiet (Matt.10:19)

Paul gave good teaching on this in 1 Cor.9:19-23.

In verse 19 he says:” *I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more*” and in verse 22 he says:

“I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some.”

This does not mean that you must become a sinner to win a sinner for Christ! But if we want to win the world for the Lord we should get rid of our “holier-than-thou” attitude.

Yes, you should even dress differently when witnessing to a businessman than to a farmer.

4. A true soul winner is someone who is always ready, waiting for the opportunity to witness for Christ. His eyes and ears are alert waiting on the guidance of the Holy Spirit to assist him when the moment comes for him to witness boldly. Consider how Jesus approached the women at the well in John 4. Jesus started the discussion asking her for natural water and ended up giving her the spiritual Living Water!

- (a) Jesus started with her need
- (b) He created a desire in her heart (v.13-15)
- (c) He touched her problem (v.16,17)
- (d) She made a decision

What happened to this woman was so powerful that she went into her city and told everyone what Jesus did for her. The end of this story is that they all believed in Christ.

You as a Soul winner must give your best to that one soul you meet in this life, that they may be used by God to win many others to the Lord.

HOW TO PREPARE A TESTIMONY

To personally share your testimony with someone, by telling them what Jesus Christ has done in your life, is the most important commission a Christian can fulfil.

To help us become more effective, let us look at the following guidelines:

- a) A thoroughly prepared testimony, which is given with the backing of the Holy Spirit, will have an immediate effect. We must strive to present Jesus Christ and this wonderful salvation message in such a clear, attractive and powerful way that it still retains it's beauty and simplicity, so that people will not only desire to know Him, but will be led to have a personal encounter with Him.
- b) God will use a well-planned testimony of three to five minutes.
- c) WHAT TO DO:
 1. Ask the Lord to lead you and give you wisdom.
Jas. 1:5-6
 2. Use a 4 point scheme to get direction in your testimony:
 - Before I became a Christian my life was... and I thought
 - How I accepted Christ...
 - The changes that have come, now that He is in control.
 - The security and joy plus peace and other benefits which are in Him.
 3. Expand on all that has taken place now that He is in control and let it all be to His praise and glory.
 4. Keep your testimony short and captivating, remembering that it is His name that must receive the honour, not yours.

5. Remain positive throughout and do not relate negative tales of general problems in your church or even in your own life.

d) WHAT NOT TO DO

1. Do not use church names. It can implicate that all others are wrong and only yours are right.
2. Do not “preach” Speak naturally; you are testifying not preaching.
3. Do not use words that are mere clichés. Always take time to explain words not commonly used in every day language such as saved, born again, justified, etc.
4. Do not talk too long. It is unnecessary to talk on and on. Get to the point.

HOW TO DELIVER A TESTIMONY

1. The listeners must sense an attitude of love, enthusiasm, devotion and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Eph. 5:18.**
2. Be friendly. Don't start an argument or try to be controversial. Avoid showing that you are nervous, such as clearing your throat, or playing with your nose or tie, etc.

WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WHO HAVE EXCUSES

We first mention the problem or excuse and then the Scripture verses which can be used as a solution (Write them somewhere in your Bible)

a) “I am a too great sinner”

1 Tim. 1:15 – “This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”

Is. 1:18 – “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

1 John. 1:7 “...and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

John. 6:37 “.... And him that cometh to Me I will no wise cast out.”

b) “I am too hard”

Ezek. 36:26 – “ a new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.”

c) “It is too difficult to keep God’s commandments”

1 John. 5:3; Matt. 11:29,30 satan’s yoke is heavy and hard !

Prov. 13:15 “...but the way of transgressors is hard.”

d) “I will be persecuted if I become a Christian”

If it is for the sake of Christ, you should be thankful!

2 Cor. 11:24-28 says: “ Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep.

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own court men, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. In weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting, often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.”

2 Tim. 3:12 “ yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

Matt. 5: 10-12 “ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

John. 16: 33 “ These things I have spoken unto you; that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

1 Peter 4: 12-16 “ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange things happened unto you. But rejoice, in as much as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you; on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a

busybody in others men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

Look at what others had to go through. **Acts 5: 40-41** tells us: " And to him they agreed; and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go, and they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his Name."

e) **"What will my family and friends say ?"**

Matt. 10:37 " He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he that loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

Matt. 19:29 " and every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sister, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life."

Salvation is a personal matter. The invitation is still very clear: "**Follow Me!**" **John. 21: 19-22 says:** " This He spoke, signifying by what death He would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him: 'Follow Me'. Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also leaned on His breast at the supper, and said: 'Lord, who is the one who betrays You?' Peter seeing him, said to Jesus: 'But Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him: 'If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow me."

f) “ I am afraid that I will not be able to persevere”

John. 10: 28-29 “ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”

1 Cor. 10:13 “ there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

Gal. 5:16 “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

2 Tim. 1:12 “ For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day. “

Jude verse 24 “ Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”

Phil. 4:13 “ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Amplified Bible: “*Him who infuses inner strength into me (that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency)*”

The challenge that comes to each child of God, is not alone to pray that souls are saved, but add to your prayers: “**AND SEND ME!**”

“CHRIST ALONE CAN SAVE THE WORLD, BUT CHRIST CANNOT SAVE THE WORLD ALONE.”

HOW TO WIN and KEEP SOULS IN THE CHURCH?

- During every church service we must invite people to receive Christ
- There must be trained workers that can pray with these people (we will call these workers “*Altar Workers*”)
- Then there should be “*Follow-up Workers*” that must visit these new converts and guide them in God’s word
- The next step is to introduce them to a cell group where they can feel they belong to God’s family. In this cell group they will be cared for.

Why do we need **Altar Workers** ?

Remember, the preacher seeks the Lord and brings the message in all sincerity.

The next step is of the greatest importance and that is to get the souls to come out to be prayed with. Here we need these Altar workers.

Altar workers must be trained before they can be used.

This training can be done in one evening.

If the natural birth of a baby must be handled with the greatest care, how much more care should be taken when a searching soul is to be born again. It must be realized that if a soul is not handled correctly, unlimited damage can be caused.

Unfortunately the development of many new Christians is hampered by the fact that something went wrong at their “new birth”

Dr. Oswald Smith (one of the greatest soul winners who lived in Toronto, Canada) once said: “If you can’t help a seeking soul through, rather leave him alone.”

LET US LOOK AT THE ALTAR WORKER

(Use these notes in training the Altar workers)

1. He/She must be a person truly committed to the Lord, living a life dedicated to the Lord. One cannot help another if one needs spiritual help oneself. It is thus necessary to read the Bible faithfully and to spend time in prayer
2. The Altar worker must be a person who is worthy of the trust put in him/her. What is said to the worker must be treated confidentially. When a person confides in you, he/she does not want to hear all about it in town the next day.
3. The worker must always be neatly dressed. Always attend to your breath, hair and nails, so that a searching soul will not be hindered to come to Christ.
4. Always come to church prayerfully.
5. Allow visitors to feel at home by welcoming them friendly.
6. When the invitation is given by the preacher, do not look around you but pray earnestly for the harvest to come in.
7. As soon as the invitation to come to Christ is given, get up and move forward. Your movement may often encourage someone sitting next to you, to stand up for the Lord too.
8. Brothers pray with men and sisters with ladies.
9. Introduce yourself and ask: "What do you need from the Lord?" (This is how you will determine a person's need).
10. Never talk or pray out loudly. Someone might be disturbed. See to it that you do not speak or pray directly into the person's face.
11. Never be in a hurry! Rather spend quality time with one person than attending to a number of persons and leaving them halfway.
12. Allow the person to read the verses of Scripture with you.

13. Do not attempt to counsel a person without your Bible. Choose your verses beforehand. Do not search around for them in front of this new soul, seeking the Lord.
14. You should always have an altar card and a pen with you to write down the name and address of the person.
15. Refrain from the habit of placing your arm around the person.
16. If the person is unknown to you, introduce yourself and find out who the person is. Do not fill in the altar card now, that is done after the person has been prayed with.
17. Determine the need of the person by asking for instance: "What do you need from the Lord?"
18. The person's answer will determine the next step. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential because very often people are shy and not even honest with themselves so that their real need is not mentioned.

HOW TO LEAD A SEEKING SOUL TO CHRIST

Explain to him/her that we have all sinned.

Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

1 John. 1:8 & 10 "If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His Word has no place in our lives."

If a person realizes this and consents to it, there is hope that he/she can be saved because Christ said in **Luke 5:32** "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance". Christ came to this earth to atone for our sins

He/she must now confess their sins to Christ.

1 John. 1:7-9 "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His son, purifies us from all sin. If we

confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Is. 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be as red as crimson, they shall be as white as wool.”

And when God forgives, He also forgets and says He remembers it no more.

Now the person must pray himself and confess his sin. (He doesn't need to confess them one by one, but only what the Holy Spirit lays upon his heart). Now he must accept Jesus Christ as his Saviour. He must believe that the Lord has heard him because this is a step of faith. He should not depend on his feelings. We are being saved because the Word of God declares it and not because we feel that way. This is not to say that there is not emotion attached to religion. On the contrary, he will most definitely feel better because his burden of sin has been removed and his debt has been paid! If God has forgiven him, he must forgive himself also.

If he is not able to pray himself, you should help him by praying ahead of him, allowing him to repeat after you word for word. The prayer said by him should include two vital points:

- a) he must confess his own sin and
- b) he must accept Jesus as his Saviour.

Jesus must be accepted as Lord and Saviour.

John. 1:12 “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”

Having accepted this truth the new convert must be told to tell others that he is a child of God.

Rom. 10:9-10 “If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. v10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

How can a new creature in Christ remain silent?

Now you pray for him and congratulate him. Write down his name and address and complete the altar card using block letters.

State carefully whether it is Mr., Mrs. or Miss.

In case of a child, make use of the first name.

HOW DO WE HELP CHILDREN?

Explain all this to the child on his level. Make sure that the child knows what it is all about.

Pray separately with each child and not in a group.

THE FOLLOW UP WORKER

Follow-up work is one of the things that have been neglected very much in the Church and must be restored again. We will not benefit when souls visit our services and even make commitments to the Lord, if they are not properly followed-up.

WHERE AND HOW SHALL WE START?

1. Trust the Lord to put His hand on the right follow-up workers.
2. Train them with a course for follow-up workers before using them.
3. These workers must be willing to get together each Monday evening for prayer and to do visitations. Each new convert must be followed-up within 24 hours after his/her commitment.

PROGRAMME ON MONDAY EVENINGS

1. At 18h30 the workers get together.
2. Not later than 19h00 they pray and plan together, after which they depart for visitations. Most of these visitations should be arranged by making appointments with these persons during the day. The church office is responsible for these arrangements. The worker(s) can arrange additional visitations.
3. It is always advisable to send an experienced worker with a new one. (Mark 6:7)
4. The names and addresses of the persons to be visited will be given to you on a memo. The following information will be found on the memo:
 - When a person has made a commitment to Christ
 - His/Her name and age
 - Who the person was who led him/her to Christ
 - Their specific need, etc.

Study this memo beforehand and use this information as a start of the conversation at the home you will visit.
5. Because of the fact that many people become nervous when seeing you at their doorstep with a Bible in the hand, do not take one with you. Should you need a Bible you can ask the person(s) you are visiting to help you with that.
6. It is also wise to select carefully and first read the literature that you plan to leave in the home you are visiting. Poor printing and wrong teaching in literature will do much harm to well-meaning souls.

7. What does one do when arriving at a home?

- After knocking at the door or pressing the doorbell, inquire about the person you have come to visit. Then friendly introduce yourself and converse the purpose of your visit.
- If you intend to only visit one person or child of the family, it is important to communicate this immediately but friendly in order that the rest of the family will be conscious of this fact. They will show you a private place to chat or may leave you alone with the required person after a few minutes. One should never embarrass a person by talking about his/her spiritual condition in front of others.
- Set people at ease by first having a “preamble” by discussing common events or topics. One should, however, stay conscious of one’s real aim and switch over to the spiritual as soon as the time is ready.
- Do not just accept that the worker before has completed their work effectively. Always find out from the person what their spiritual experience was and in this way determine the condition of the person. From this point one can proceed to go ahead.

8. Be surrendered to the Holy Spirit to guide you very clearly.

9. Do not linger at a house for too long – stay for as long as they are interested. It doesn’t benefit to speak to people when they are tired.

10. Avoid arguments ! **2 Tim. 2:23** “But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.”
Rather lose an argument and win a friend. An argument can also get you off course and so you will miss your goal completely.

11. Pray with the family before leaving. If someone in the home is sick, it is of course a wonderful opportunity to pray for the sick person, and therefore also for the whole family. Always pray with great wisdom, and if another worker is visiting with you, he/she should never agree in prayer too loudly – please be wise in this. When the situation is not positive, do not force down a prayer on them. Should you promise to remember them in your prayers when at home, you must keep your promise.
12. Very urgent cases must be handed to the Pastor telephonically that very same evening. Feel free to ask counsel from the Pastor when needed.
13. Evaluate your own work – it will enable you to concentrate on weak points with your next visit. If you find that your knowledge on a basic spiritual subject is not good enough, it is important for you to read about this or ask someone's counsel.
14. It is your responsibility to keep on praying for the persons you visited.

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING

***Those that are sick should know that it is
God's will to heal them***

Ex. 15:26 "I am the Lord who heals you."

The word "heals" in Hebrew is "rapha" meaning: To cure, heal, repair, mend, restore.

The main idea of the verb "rapha" is physical healing.

If that was what God was for approximately 2 to 3 million Jews in the desert, then that is most definitely what He is for us too!

Study the following scriptures: Is. 53:4;1 Peter 2:24; Matt. 8:16-17; Mark 1:40-41.

Divine healing has taken place since the earliest times in history.

"So Abraham prayed to God; and He healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children."

Gen.20:17-18

Also read: Num. 12:13-15, 1 Kings 13:6, and 2 Kings 20:1-5.

The whole of the New Testament testifies of signs and wonders. Today God is restoring the supernatural in His church once more through mighty signs and wonders taking place everywhere.

GOD DOES NOT MAKE SICK

If it were God who afflicts people with sickness, why should He heal them again?

A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. (Luke 11:17,18)

As you make a study of the following verses you will undoubtedly see that sickness is from the devil.

Matt. 17:14-21, Luke 11:14-20, Luke 13:10-17, Acts 10:37-38, and 1 John 3:8.

THE FIRST DISCIPLES WERE COMMISSIONED TO HEAL THE PEOPLE

Matt. 10:1 *“And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease.”*

Mark 16:17-18 *“And these signs will follow those that believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”*

Luke 9:1-2 *“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”*

God wants to heal because:

Sickness robs people of happiness and finances.

Think of the woman who suffered from an issue of blood.

The Bible says the following about her: *“Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.” Her sickness made her poor.*

My mother-in-law always said: “It is cheaper to trust the Lord for your healing!”

The man at the Pool of Bethesda was bedridden for 38 years. (John 5:1-9)

The man with the withered hand was a burden for society. (Matt.12:9-13)

Peter’s mother in law’s sickness prevented her from serving Jesus. (Mark 1:29-31)

The woman we read about in Luke 13 was in bondage for 18 years!

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS WAS KNOWN BY HEALING AND DELIVERANCE.

Matt. 4:23 *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”*

Matt. 8:16 *“And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick.”*

Matt. 9:35 *“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”*

Matt. 19:1-2 *“Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these sayings, that He departed from Galilee and came to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.”*

Matt. 21:14 *“Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.”*

Luke 7:21 *“And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.”*

JESUS HEALED THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DISEASES:

Leprosy in Matt. 8:3, Mark 1:40-41

A withered hand in Matt. 12:13, Mark 3, and Luke 6

Blindness and dumbness in Matt. 12:22

Lameness and cripple ness in Matt. 15:30, 20:20-34, Mark 10:46-52

A lunatic in Matt. 17:18,30

Fever in Mark 1:30-31, John 4:49-53

A lame woman in Luke 13:10-13

A lame man in John 5:1-9

10 Leprous men in Luke 17:11-15

The ear of Malchus that was cut off in Luke 22:50-51

A man born blind in John 9:1-9

**THE MINISTRY OF HEALING WAS NOT ONLY MEANT
TO ESTABLISH THE CHURCH, BUT ALSO CARRIED
ON AFTER JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN.**

The lame man that was healed at the temple gate (Acts 3:1-9)

Aeneas healed that had been bedridden for eight years
(Acts 9:32-34)

The lame man in Lystra (Acts 14:8-10)

The slave girl that was delivered from demons in Lydia
(Acts 16:16-18)

The many miracles in Ephesus (Acts 19:11,12)

Healings on the island of Malta (Acts 28:8,9)

It is marvellous to know that God is still the same. What He
did in the earliest days, He will do today because He never
changes! Heb.13:8, James 1:17.

**YOU ASK ME: “HOW DO I GO ABOUT MINISTERING
TO THE SICK?”**

- Pray in the “Name of Jesus” (Acts 4:16)
- By laying on of hands
Mark 16:18, 6:5, 8:23, 7:32-33, Matt. 8:15, Luke 4:40, 13:13,
Acts 5:12, 9:17, Acts 14:3, 19:11, 28:8.
- By anointing the sick with oil.
I have seen more healings when I anointed the sick with oil,
than I have seen just laying hands on them.
Read: James 5:13-14, Mark 6:12-13.
- Applying cloths and handkerchiefs (Acts 19:11,12)

WHY DOES HEALING NOT ALWAYS TAKE PLACE?

SIN MAY BE THE REASON. Isaiah 59:1-2 John 5:14.

Make sure that in the case of sin, you confess it and turn away from it, so that you can receive your healing.

What a pity that people eat of the bread and drink of the cup (talking about communion) in an unworthy manner and in so doing they eat and drink judgment on themselves!

(1 Corinthians 11:29-30)

***One big sin today is the sin of bitterness.
Study Matt. 18 and James 5:16.***

UNBELIEF WAS THE REASON WHY Jesus could not do many miracles in Nazareth. The people would not believe in Him. Matt. 13:58, Matt. 21:22

Nowhere in the Bible do we find one example where Jesus refused to heal those that came to Him in faith!!

Cleanse therefore your heart of doubt and unbelief so that faith may triumph.

HOW CAN A PERSON MAINTAIN HIS HEALING ?

1 Give God the glory for your healing, and tell others what God has done.

Ps. 50:15 *“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”*

2 Do not allow doubt in your heart when symptom's come back.

3 Sin no more.

After Jesus healed the lame man at Bethesda He said to him in **John 5:14** *“See, you have been made well, sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”*

Rom. 6:13 *“And do not present your members (of your body) as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*

- 4 Take refuge in the Lord.
Read the whole of Ps. 91.

CONCLUSION

Divine healing is God’s method to open up doors for the Gospel so that many might be saved. Acts 3:9, 8:6-8.

READ: Acts 9:32-35

God wants to do it again today. Are we living where God can use us to confirm His word with signs and wonders?

HOUSE CHURCHES

HOUSE MEETINGS WASN'T SOMETHING "STRANGE" FOR THE FIRST CHURCH

WE READ IN ACTS 2:46 *They were "breaking bread from house to house."*

We also read in Acts 5:42 *"and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ."*

You must be challenged to use this method of bringing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ

THE EARLY CHURCH AND "HOUSE CHURCHES"

In Romans 16:3,5 Paul sends greetings to a house church: "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, Likewise greet the church that is in their house."

Col.4:15 "Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house."

Philemon 1:2 "to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house."

You can also have a "CHURCH IN YOUR HOUSE"

I want you to study 1 Cor.14:26 "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation."

This scripture can never really be experienced in a normal church service because how can **"each one of you"** do what is written here by Paul? How can for example 300 church members do that in one service?

I think that this can only take place in a House church or Cell group.

IT IS HERE IN THE HOME WHERE WE CAN:

- (1) Give a song to sing
- (2) Be used by God in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Peter 4:10 *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”*
There must always be time in our Cell groups where God can use us to minister to others. The moment you discover a need in the lives of your group the Holy Spirit will give the Gift that is needed for that time.
That need may be salvation or sickness.
Pray for one another
- (3) Share a teaching
It is very important that solid teaching should be given at a Cell group.
Teaching that will help Christians to grow to the full maturity of Christ.

What will we teach them ?

- (1) *The THREE basic truths in Acts 2:38*
REPENTANCE (That means to turn from sin altogether)
BAPTISM (This always comes after Repentance)
THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPRIT (Teach them how to receive and pray with them for this gifts from God)
- (2) *Love for the WORD; PRAYER and the CHURCH*
Bible reading must be done daily
Prayer is to talk to God
Encourage them to attend the church where they can grow in the Lord
- (3) *How to FORGIVE*
A study with them on Matt. 18:15-35 is very important
They must learn how to forgive and to go on with their lives. (Phil.3:13)

(4) What their POSITION is in CHRIST

*A study on Eph. 1 will help them to understand this
Also explain to them that they are a new creature in
Christ and the old things have passed away (2 Cor. 5:17-
21)*

(5) How they can WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST

*They must tell others what God did for them and also
challenge their family and friends to receive Christ.*

CHILD EVANGELISM

VISUAL AIDS

GOD USED “VISUAL AIDS”

- (1) He used the RAINBOW (Gen.9:12-15)
- (2) The Stars when He spoke to Abraham (Gen.15:5,6)
- (3) Birds and lilies (Matt.6:25-30)
- (4) A coin (denarius) (Matt.22:19)
- (5) The sower and the seed (Matt.13)

WHY IS VISUAL AIDS SO IMPORTANT ?

- (1) Because when the child SEE and HEAR they will remember 70%
- (2) It will keep their attention better than just words
- (3) It speeds up the learning process
The old Chinese saying is true: “One picture is worth a thousand words”
- (4) It makes the training process more attractive
- (5) It will lead the child from the known to the unknown

Warnings

- (1) The visual aid must never become the substitute of the real lesson
- (2) The visual aid must have the same value as the lesson
- (3) Make sure that your visual aids will not fail.
Projectors that breaks; Penn’s that won’t write; Pictures that cannot be found.
Always test what you will use before the time
- (4) Practice the visual aids with your lesson so that you know exactly WHERE and WHEN to use them.

Visual aids you can use with success

- (1) Always use your Bible. The child must know that you are teaching from the Word of God.
- (2) Yourself: Your voice; hands; face; body language
- (3) The blackboard.
- (4) The flannel board. You can use pictures from magazines; your own photos; paint something; make something you can use.
- (5) Puppets. Use the heads of old dolls and make your own dress.
Make dolls from paper bags.
Puppets can also be bought.
- (6) Maps: Show the children where the Bible story took place. Show the children where the country and city is
- (7) Videos and slides. You can even make up your own show.

Note: Our goal is to share God's word in such a way that it will impact the lives of our children that they will never forget it,

CHILD EVANGELISM

By: Connie McKenzie (CFNI, Dallas)

Treasured ministers know that leading children to Jesus Christ and helping them to grow in the Lord is the most important work they will ever do.

A half-hearted attempt to cultivate our children's spiritual development will lead to young people with a half-hearted commitment to God.

“Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive and accept and welcome the Kingdom of God as a little child, positively shall not enter it at all.” Mark 10:15
Amplified Bible

Children can receive Christ as their personal Saviour. Research shows that 85 % of those who ever accept Christ make the decision to do so between the ages of four and fourteen. Recent Barna Research indicates that children ages five to thirteen have a 32 % probability of accepting Christ, while those ages 14-18 have only a 4 % probability and adults have a 6% probability of becoming a born again Christian.

Ministering salvation to children is often a process. Children have some characteristics that make them more prone to accept Christ than adults. Some of these are the ability to believe.

They know how to receive a gift. Children are already dependent and trusting of their parents. They do not have the pride that hinders adults from responding to the gospel. They have a tender conscience. Children have an excellent memory; they are curious and eager to learn.

When explaining salvation to children it is important to emphasize the following points:

1. **Heaven** There is a heaven, God wants every one of us to go there when we leave this earth.
John 14:2, Rev. 21:21
2. **Sin** Define sin in terms a child can relate to, relating it to their culture. Help them to realize that everyone has sinned, and that sin creates a barrier between man and God. Isaiah 59:1,2
3. **Jesus** The son of the only One True God. Jesus willingly died on the cross to pay the price for our sin and He rose from the dead on the third day. It was the love of God that provided this solution for sin for us.
1 John 1:7
4. **Cleansed** When we accept Jesus, He forgives us and we are given new, clean hearts. 1 John 1:9
5. **Growth** As a new Christian, we need to grow. We can grow as Christians by praying, reading the Bible, spending time with other Christians, and telling others about Jesus. 2 Peter 3:18
6. **Holy Spirit** The Holy Spirit gives us the power to live the life God has for us.
He comforts us when we are hurt and helps us in many ways.

The Prayer of Salvation:

After helping children understand the wonderful plan of salvation, we can actually lead them through the Prayer of Salvation. Help children understand that this is an important personal decision they make on their own free will, it is not to be forced on them.

It is important that they actively repent before the Lord. Teach them what it means to turn from their sinful ways and follow Jesus. Since the Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him up, you will be saved.” Have the children pray out loud, thus confessing with their mouths, that Jesus is Lord.

It may be helpful to pray short phrases that the child can repeat after you.

Keep it short and simple.

A sample prayer is:

“Dear Lord Jesus, Thank you that you died on the cross for me. I ask you to forgive me of my sin. I repent and turn away from all those things that do not please You. I ask You to be Lord of my life, and I choose to follow You today. Amen.”

Assurance

After the child has prayed the sinner’s prayer, allow him/her to know the assurance that they are saved. You can review what God did for them.

- Jesus became your Saviour. John 3:16
- God gave you a new life in His family. John 1:12
- God made you a new person. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- God gave you eternal life. 1 John 5:12
- Write down the date. The child now has a new birthday!

Follow Up

After a child has become a Christian it is important to continue supporting them in their decision.

You can do this by:

- Praying for them.
- Call or visit the child. Have some contact within days. Ask the child if he/she has questions, how they are doing, and pray with them.
- Help them to become part of a solid church.
- Teach them to pray, read the Bible, and ask forgiveness if they do something wrong.
- Encourage them to tell others about Jesus.

Expect A Change In Behaviour

A saved child will begin to demonstrate a change in behaviour. They will begin to observe some of the following:

- A love for God's word
- Willingness to testify
- Desire to see others saved
- Ability to tell someone else how to be saved
- Believe that God answers prayer

The Bottom Line

The church and parents must work together for the benefit of the children. We must help them stand against the effects of society that seek to destroy them. Of course, we must never force salvation on children; we must gently lead them to it. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gently leads *us*, and He is our example.

We have not reached the goal of children's ministry until the children in our care have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is when children put their faith in Jesus that the true teachings of Christ can transform their lives.