

WHAT SHOULD I DO FOR

JESUS?

MATTHEW G. NEEDHAM

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The Crucified Saviour (John 3:16)

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INTRODUCTION

‘Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?’ (Proverbs 24:11-12).

SAVE THE PEOPLE!

What would you think of a man who sat reading a book on the beach while there was a child drowning in the sea right in front of him? Asking this man why he did nothing to save the child’s precious life, he merely replies, “It wasn’t my child and I was really enjoying this book.” Wouldn’t you be shocked that a person could have such a heart of stone? Yet multitudes of people are drowning in their sins while many Christians do little more than read the Bible.

Just as there is a moral and legal obligation to reach out and save the life of a drowning child when we have the ability to do so, we have an even higher responsibility to earnestly plead with people to repent of their sins and turn from the path that is leading them to their own destruction. You can save people’s lives by leading them to Christ, but do you really know how to share your faith and participate with the Lord in this wonderful work? Training believers how to share the words of eternal life is infinitely important.

Unfortunately many Christians don’t enjoy the “let’s do more evangelism” type of messages. Yet the truth of the matter is that we live in a lost world, among a people who are spiritually blind and easily deceived, and they are drowning in their sins right in front of us. What are we going to do about it? Life is serious. You and I must reach them with the good news of the gospel before it’s forever too late. Every Christian does need to have a burden and a deep concern for the salvation of lost

souls, so let's come to Jesus and say, "Yes Lord, what do You want me to do for You?"

The thought of having to do any type of evangelism can frighten those who have bought into a "feel good" Christianity that demands no sacrifice. Having to save a drowning child would frighten me, but I would have to let go of that fear and simply jump into the water and save the child. When I was young I did almost drown, but thankfully a lady saw me and screamed. A man heard the scream and jumped into the water and pulled me out. Sharing our faith is the Christian's obligation. We should be so thankful to be saved that we therefore want to save others. It is a joy and a privilege to witness for Christ.

We must care about where those around us are going to spend eternity. We need our spiritual eyes opened so that we can overcome any excuses or fears that are hindering us from taking action. Don't let it paralyze you if there are certain types of evangelism you are not comfortable with. Find something you can do. You might not be able to swim, but you can at least scream with urgency so that someone who can will jump into the water and save the child's life. If you understand the importance of saving souls you will automatically take action when an emergency unfolds. Let God open your eyes to the real state of this world.

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO MAKE YOU MORE ZEALOUS FOR GOD?

It has been estimated that only 2% of professing Christians actively share their faith. This means that most Christians have never been sufficiently trained or motivated in their walk with Christ to arise and actually be the light of the world. Nothing will change unless we allow God to change us. If we as Christians are truly following in the footsteps of Jesus, we will go out to seek and save the lost the way Jesus did (Luke 19:10). The subject of reaching this lost world has to be thoughtfully considered and prayed about, with practical strategies being put into place by every church fellowship. Believers need to be

stirred into action otherwise we can become content in doing virtually nothing.

Some time back a really good challenge was put out to call believers to let go of false excuses when it comes to the work of evangelism. This was the call: "If you were going to be given a thousand dollars for every person you witnessed to, would you be more zealous in evangelism?" If you really knew that you were going to be paid a thousand dollars every time you witnessed to someone wouldn't that help you to overcome any fear of man and quickly get to work? Has fear disabled you from sharing the gospel? The solution is to fear God in view of the lost being destroyed in the eternal fires of Hell (Luke 12:4-5). No person on this planet should ignore the reality of Hell and every Christian should let it motivate them to save souls.

We need to examine our own hearts and see if we would be more zealous for money than for our God. It's good to remember this if you're nervous about witnessing so that you can find strength to overcome the obstacles that are hindering you from sharing the words of eternal salvation. We have to let love for God be our primary motivation and if we could do it for money why can't we do it for the one who laid down His life for us? Do you love Jesus enough to stand up for Him and to proclaim His glory? What are you willing to do for Jesus?

HOW TO TURN FORMAL CHURCHES INTO SOUL WINNING AGENCIES

This booklet offers you a practical way to be trained in the art of witnessing and evangelism. It will teach you how to share your faith more effectively. By putting a few simple steps into place you can become a shining light to those around you. Every Christian needs to be stirred into action and encouraged to openly share the good things that the Lord has done for them. Every Christian needs to be taught how to lead people into God's kingdom. If we are going to release significant evangelistic ministries then we need more intense training. Faith demands action (James 2:17). Are you ready to take a step of faith?

Giving opportunities for training in evangelism helps people get on fire for God. Are you willing to learn how to effectively seek and save the lost? Churches ought to go all-out to win souls and compel people in the love of Christ to come into God's kingdom. Christians inwardly know that their churches need to be fervent in proclaiming the gospel to unbelievers but often they don't take the right steps to make it happen. Are you completely satisfied with your witness for Christ and the current evangelism methods incorporated by your church? Are you stepping out in faith as you should? Is your church fervent in its evangelistic programme?

The most important work of every Christian is to save souls, yet many who profess to be believers do not take hold of this responsibility because they have never received the right discipleship or training. They have never thoughtfully studied this subject in order to qualify themselves for the work. Evangelism is hard work, but it is our responsibility to help unbelievers understand why they need to become followers of Christ. Many people have been deceived by wrong priorities. Churches can become very busy with all kinds of activities while the real work of the church, evangelizing and winning the lost, is almost entirely neglected.

We should focus on inspiring and equipping believers to step out and really share the words of eternal life with those who desperately need it. Developing a people who share their faith grows the church and releases new life and spiritual refreshing. Taking the gospel to all nations and proclaiming it to all people was not a last minute suggestion from Jesus but rather a command that must be carried out until the end of the age (Matthew 28:18-20). Then Christ shall come in His magnificent glory. Would you want to stand before the judgment seat of God having never won a soul for the Lord?

Don't wait any longer. Get desperate for God to use you and let His compassion fill your heart. Your primary job is to save souls for eternity, not merely sing songs to Jesus while the world is drowning around you and falling into the tormenting fires of Hell – lost in sin for eternity. There is a pain in my heart that millions of people are perishing on every side. Every

Christian needs to learn how to share their faith, simply and effectively. Only that which is done for Christ has any value in the light of eternity; everything else will soon come to nothing. God wants people to open their hearts to Him. The heartbeat of God is for the salvation of souls, souls, souls...

'Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear – hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh' (Jude 22-23).

TAKE SOME TIME TO GET BETTER EQUIPPED!

1

GET YOURSELF PREPARED

‘But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander’ (1 Peter 3:15-16).

MAINTAIN YOUR WALK WITH CHRIST

To enter the work of evangelism you have to truly make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. He must truly be your Saviour, Master and King. You must know what it means to have been born again by the Spirit of God and have an assurance that you are a child of God. You must know that God is your heavenly Father and Jesus is your best friend, as the Holy Spirit continually pours the love of God into your heart. As you share the message of salvation with others, it strengthens your own walk with the Lord so that your relationship with Jesus is alive and real. Every believer should make the effort to explain the reason why they believe.

You should always be prepared to give an answer. The apostle Peter assumed that every believer does have something worthwhile to say. The words of Christ and His divine presence are the answer to every problem in this world, but how do we present the answer in a way that opens people’s eyes to the truth? This is where we need to get prepared. Preparation is essential for success in any field of endeavour and the work of evangelism is no exception. Many people are ineffective in their witness for Christ simply because they are not prepared. They have not been trained and that is why they are falling short in their walk with the Lord. Giving

yourself to the Lord enables you to receive more of His presence.

Evangelism is simply the work of proclaiming the gospel. The role of an evangelist is to seek and to save the lost by proclaiming the word of God by every possible means, and secondly, it is to help equip the rest of the Church to share the gospel through teaching and training on the subject of evangelism. Evangelists are just normal people who are willing to reach out to others with the love of Jesus. One of the keys to having a fulfilled Christian life is to share the gospel message with as many people as you possibly can. If you know someone you think has a gifting in evangelism but they are not operating in it, please pray for them and encourage them to lay hold of their mission field. Lives are at stake.

At times believers can be ashamed to witness for Christ because they don't have a clear conscience. There is a blockage in their walk with Jesus and this hinders them from fulfilling the call of God upon their lives. Before we go any further and before we try to save other people, we need to make sure that our own hearts are right with God and that we are walking on the path of righteousness. Let's ask God to fill our hearts with His light so there will not be any areas of darkness or things that we are not willing to let the Lord deal with in our lives. We need to have a clear conscience and be honest before God.

We need to make sure that our walk with the Lord is right because God looks for holiness. How can a person repent if he doesn't know what sin is? That is why we have to be clear about what is right and what is wrong. At the same time let's remember the power of the blood of Jesus to wash away our sins, knowing that when we confess our sins to God He will purify our hearts. Repentance before God is what sets you free. If you are involved in any of the following sins, you need to come before the Lord and get these things sorted out:

Sin includes sexual immorality (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, sodomy, incest, prostitution, pornography, etc.), idolatry (worshipping man-made gods or putting things

ahead of the one true God), greed, thieving, lying, swearing, cursing, wild parties, drunkenness, drug abuse, envy, hatred, outbursts of anger, dishonouring one's parents, selfish ambitions, arrogance, jealousies, unforgiveness and murder (which includes unnecessary abortion).

The acts of the sinful nature also include witchcraft (such as fortune telling, horoscopes, sorcery, séances, wearing lucky charms, praying to angels, white and black magic, etc), martial arts (which seek strength by the aid of demonic spirits), false religions and cultic heresies (such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, who deny the Sovereign Lordship of Christ, and Mormons, whose founder practiced witchcraft and polygamy), being cowardly about following Christ and unbelief. These sins stop a person from walking intimately with God.

Many people fall into false religions because they have excuses why they don't want to follow the one true God. The true God is righteous and holy, but they want to remain in their sins and that's why they don't want to acknowledge the truth of who the Lord and Saviour of the world really is. Man-made religions fall short of God's glory and compromise His majestic holiness. The true God is glorious and mighty. The true God is greater than the limitations of man's thinking. The true God is a Holy Trinity – the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

The Bible says, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness' (2 Timothy 2:19). You must let go of anything that is evil and receive a fresh cleansing by the blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus died upon the cross for you to break the power of sin, but to receive it you have to surrender your heart to the Lord, count yourself dead to sin and alive to righteousness (Romans 6:11; 8:10). When Jesus died on the cross it wasn't just a man being brutalized; it was God in human form taking the punishment for our sins.

There is something wrong in your Christian faith when you don't have a zeal for reading the word of God, seeking direction from the Lord in prayer or for reaching the lost. If that is the way you are, you could be a false convert and in need of

getting on your knees and repenting before the Lord so that you receive a deep salvation experience. False converts lack the fruit of righteousness and self-control. They lack the desire to really serve God and live for Him. Whoever is bound by fear and unwilling to confess their allegiance to Christ before others needs to repent and be set free.

Break the chains of sin that are holding you back from serving the Lord. If there is any area of blockage that is hindering your walk with God, then surrender to the Lord right now and let Him save you from your sins. Confess and forsake any wrong conduct that is weighing upon your conscience. Let Jesus save and deliver you as you call upon His name. Please say the following prayer:

DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST

“Lord Jesus, come into my heart and fill me with the light of God. Save me from every sin. I confess my sins to you now..... (name any specific sin that you need to deal with).

I forgive those who have sinned against me and I bless my father and mother in obedience to Your command to honour my parents. I renounce every work of the devil and anything that is not of God. Wash my heart clean with Your precious blood. Let the peace of God fill my heart and fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit. Make me into Your true servant.

I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord! Jesus is my Saviour, my Master and King. I will follow Him all the days of my life. I believe that Jesus has risen from the dead and He is alive forever. I set apart Jesus as Lord. I ask You to give me a clear conscience and let all past sins be forgiven and all guilt removed.

Make me into a strong witness for Your kingdom. Teach me and train me how to share my faith with others. Let the fire of God burn in my heart to preach the gospel and witness for You. Let me save people’s lives. Send me wherever You want to send me, and use me to speak to whoever You want me to speak to. Draw them into Your kingdom by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name I pray. Amen”

When we set Christ apart as Lord, we are warned in our opening Scripture that we will face opposition. When we live wholeheartedly for Christ and share the truth of God's righteousness, we need to realize that there will be people who will speak against us. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).

Jesus wants you to be aware that things can be tough so that you do not fall into discouragement but rather you rejoice that you have been found worthy to suffer for Christ. There are many things that could stop you from sharing the word of God and when you step out to do the work of the Lord there will be times when you face opposition. This is another reason why you need good preparation and depth in your Christian walk. You need to keep learning and upgrading your skills, becoming more effective in your service for the Lord. You need to maintain the joy of knowing that you are saved.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARATION

To get a passion for evangelism, I encourage people to put three things into place in their lives, preferably immediately, after they have become a Christian. These three simple steps will help you to be prepared to share your faith and witness for Christ:

1) Begin with intercessory prayer for the salvation of lost souls. God opens the way for those who pray.

2) Learn a simple method of evangelism so that you know how to witness, what to say, how to share your testimony and the essential elements of the gospel. Knowing what to say to people will help you to make the most of your opportunities.

3) Carry with you some suitable Christian material to give away. You could change a person's life forever by giving them

the right message to read or a gospel DVD to watch in their spare time, etc.

Let's quickly look in a bit more detail at these three things that can help us and strengthen us to become effective in doing God's work:

1) INTERCESSORY PRAYER

When stepping out for God we need to begin with prayer because we cannot save anyone by our own strength. We need to walk in harmony with the Holy Spirit. We need to motivate the church to intercede for the salvation of the lost and to pray for the restoration of those who have fallen away from Christ. There needs to be an earnest prayer for the salvation of souls in order for there to be a release in evangelism. If the church is weak in evangelism, then first of all look at the prayer meetings. We will only pray as much as we value prayer.

When there is fire in the prayer meetings there will be fire in the lives of the believers to live for Christ. Stir up Christians to pray. Press into God and lay hold of Him. Pray that the Lord will raise up a new army of evangelists who are a great flame and force for breaking out of the four walls of the church and into the community with the gospel. You probably know the basics of the Bible as well as I do and arguments about evangelism are not what you need. What you do need to do is go to your room, get down on your knees and stay there until you receive a revelation of the heart of God and His burden for the salvation of lost souls.

Both the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul promoted prayer in awakening the believers to their responsibility of taking forth the gospel. Many Christians only pray for themselves or for their own church needs, but Jesus wants us to open our eyes and see the harvest fields (John 4:35). The gospel must be preached so the harvest can be reaped. When there is a lack of going out to take the word of God to those who are unsaved, we must remember what Jesus said: "The harvest is

plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:37-38). We can move men toward God through prayer.

We don't have time to waste. There has to be an urgency in prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit to shake the church and to fill us with boldness (Acts 4:31). We have to pray that we ourselves will be bold and strong in sharing our faith and then we should also pray for our fellow-believers that they will also be empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness for Christ. We should pray for those who are called to preach the gospel that they will preach it fearlessly as they should and that God will give them a great open door for effective work (Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:2-4). Prayer does open the way for evangelism, so seek God in earnest prayer for this lost world.

When God's power changed my life as a teenager, I immediately got a burden to pray. I would pray (inside my mind) for the salvation of those sitting around me during class. Prayer was a delight and it flowed easily. One of my early prayers after I was called to the work of evangelism was that God would fill me with boldness, earnestness and zeal for the sake of His kingdom. God answered that prayer and I was enabled to fearlessly share the gospel in all kinds of places and to all kinds of people. What I noticed some time later when I began to forget to continue that prayer was that my urgency in sharing the word of God also began to slacken. If you are not praying for the salvation of the lost then that is probably a major reason why you lack enthusiasm in witnessing for Christ.

Another blessing I had in the early days of my evangelism work was that I joined a prayer school, which was a bit like a Bible College yet it was more specifically devoted to prayer. That time instilled into me the lifestyle of prayer. At the back of the main prayer room there was a large map of the world and we had to pray for the work of God to spread throughout the nations. We prayed through the day and the night. Each of us had a two hour time slot where we were alone with God in prayer, as well as other times when we had combined prayer meetings. That place forced me to learn how to pray,

especially when my prayer slot was one to three or three to five in the morning.

As soon as you take Jesus as your Lord and Saviour you should develop a stronger relationship with Him through prayer. One of the key qualifications for ministry is simply to spend time with Jesus. Prayer is all about fellowship with Jesus. If you are unsure how to begin reaching out for the Lord, you can pray that the Holy Spirit will give you an opportunity, a divine appointment to witness with someone. God answers prayer and He will open the way for you to share. God is continually bringing opportunities to us, but we need our eyes to be opened to see how we can use our daily circumstances to fulfil the plans and purposes of God.

We need to look at the world through Jesus' eyes of compassion. Compassion moved Jesus to heal the sick and to feed the hungry (Matthew 14:14; 15:32). Prayer opens the way for God to ensure that His people get to the ripe harvest fields on time (Matthew 9:36-38). Jesus wept over the lost state of the people (Luke 19:41). When we have a heart of compassion for this lost world God Himself will work through us. God asks us to pray that He, the Lord of the harvest, will raise up an army of evangelists to be a powerful force for revival. Cry out to God for a great spiritual awakening.

Who will pay the price of pleading and petitioning Heaven for the fire of revival to fall? Who will be like the apostle Paul and know the heart of Jesus to weep over a lost world and a backslidden church? We, as disciples of Christ, must pray for the salvation of our unsaved friends, neighbours, relatives and the unreached people groups of the world. As we continue praying and interceding for them God will open the way for ministry.

2) LEARN HOW TO USE A SIMPLE METHOD OF PRESENTING THE GOSPEL

To be effective in evangelism we need to know a simple method of sharing our faith so that we are ready to go at any time. We need to know how to relate to people and open their

hearts to our message. Practice being friendly to whoever you meet. Say “hi” to strangers and talk to people as opportunities arise. To witness for Christ you need to know how to bring up the things of God. You should be prepared and ready to quickly share your own testimony and bring out real life experiences to show the reality of walking with God. Your testimony is the reality of what God has done in your life. The presence of God can touch people through your words.

We need to know how to give the good news of salvation and lead a person to Christ. By learning how to urge unbelievers to think seriously about spiritual things, you will show them the importance of coming to Jesus at once and passing from spiritual death to life. Your salvation story can build up faith in the believer and the non-believer. It is a marvellous tool for awakening people to how great and mighty God really is. Your testimony should impart hope as others see the grace of God in your life.

You have many things in your life that can be shared in different circumstances to bring glory to God. What were you like before you became a Christian? How did you come to the Lord and why did you commit your life to Him? How has your life changed and how has God helped you? Using your testimony will make the gospel message more genuine and personal. When giving your testimony, make sure you don't exaggerate to make it sound more dramatic. Keep it real and focus on glorifying Jesus as your Saviour. Be prepared to share your conversion experience with friends or relatives, at a homegroup or church meeting, etc.

A good thing to learn for witnessing is how to share a shortened version of your testimony in one minute. One minute is not a lot of time so you have to choose a highlight or a simple thing that God has done in your life and be able to say it precisely and quickly. Choose what you are going to share, write down a couple of notes, get a stopwatch and time yourself for one minute. Practice makes perfect. Make sure you don't go overtime so you can get a one minute testimony together.

I'll give you an example of what I would say. Because I had a powerful experience with God when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I often like to share about that when I only have a short amount of time, yet every Christian should work on a variety of testimonies they could share. One minute starts now:

"I can tell you that God is real and true because His power touched my life. I was listening to a man share how God had saved him out of a life of drugs and crime. A strong pressure came upon my chest and I knew this was my time to respond to God. When I closed my eyes I could see a bright shining light and when I was prayed for something like an electric shock of power and warmth went right through my body. From that day my life was totally changed.

I've experienced the reality of God and His power in many ways. I've seen demonic spirits cast out of people, the sick healed by the power of Jesus' name, God has spoken to me through dreams and visions, and I've had amazing answers to prayer. I can tell you with one hundred percent certainty that God is real and true. You need to believe in Him and give your life to Jesus today. What do you think?"

If you have got the person's attention he/she will then want to discuss it more and then you will have more time to bring out other aspects of your testimony and explain things in more detail. After that you can bring up the issue of sin, the difference between right and wrong, and how God has given us a conscience so that we will walk in the path of righteousness. As you are sharing expect God to touch the person's heart. This will give you an opportunity to explain why Jesus had to come from Heaven to take our sins upon Himself and die for us so that we can receive forgiveness and make peace with God.

Your testimony can open the way for a simple, quick presentation of the gospel, and if the person is willing to listen you have given them a tremendous opportunity to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

There are many different methods or ways of presenting the gospel, but I think that the one minute testimony idea is a good start because it can then lead to other opportunities. It is easy to put into use and can be extremely effective. Your testimony is most likely totally different than mine, but as you speak from your heart your experience with the Lord will have an impact upon those you are able to share it with. The early apostles simply spoke of their experiences with Jesus (Acts 4:20). That is what we've got to do as well. What Jesus has done in and through you is what unites you to the gospel and makes it yours (Romans 2:16; 15:18; 16:25). Your testimony for Jesus is what the gospel is all about.

Practice a quick testimony accompanied by a brief call to have a changed life by making peace with God by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts. Using the testimony of your walk with Christ is a key to destroying the works of the devil (Revelation 12:11). What God has done in your life needs to be told. Use your testimony to plead with people to come to Jesus for salvation. Writing out your testimony helps you to rediscover how you got saved. Sow the seeds of faith by telling what Jesus can do because a testimony sets the atmosphere for God to do it again. As you share about how you were saved, it gives God the opportunity to save others.

Every believer should know how to share their own story about what God has done in their life. Once you have a short version of your testimony prepared you can also work on the longer version. You can send your testimony to people via the internet and put it on suitable web sites. Your testimony can awaken people to consider spiritual things. As we share with others we are hoping to arouse their interest and show them the extreme importance of this subject. Often people don't understand even the basic message of salvation. That is why we must be prepared to share with whoever God brings across our path.

3) CARRY SUITABLE CHRISTIAN MATERIAL THAT YOU CAN GIVE AWAY

To be effective in evangelism you then need some good Christian resources, such as tracts, booklets, evangelistic comics, films, audio messages, Bibles, etc. Having the right material to give to the right person at the right time is a part of godly wisdom and it can save lives. The Bible says that those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever (Matthew 12:3). The treasures of Heaven are to encourage us to do evangelism. Those who are wise lead people to the Lord.

Most of the time I carry gospel tracts, booklets or DVDs with me. These help me to be ready. Often I'm giving them out so frequently that I run out and then I'm in need of getting more supplies. I have written my own tracts and booklets, so I can easily photocopy more when I need to. I have a large variety of different messages and material for different types of people and different occasions. Having suitable material helps motivate me to share my faith. We cannot reap a harvest unless we sow the good seed of God's word into people's hearts. Distributing gospel tracts alongside an experienced person can help build confidence in those who have never done it before.

I started writing my own tracts in the early 1990's. Then I started putting together testimony booklets. In this way I have been able to preach the gospel to hundreds of thousands of people. We have to start small, but if you are faithful in doing evangelism you will eventually reach the multitudes. There are so many exciting and powerful ways to witness for Christ and all kinds of stories about what God has done in people's lives. Jesus has revealed Himself mightily in our generation, so we need to lay hold of what is available and use it to lead people to Christ.

Two of the main reasons why people don't share their faith are that they are scared of rejection or they don't know how. This is where tracts come in very handy. A gospel tract can get inside a house and reach a whole family. It can be sent to the other side of the world. It will never compromise its message, be discouraged nor give up. They are economical to print and

can be translated into other languages. If you don't feel bold enough to speak to someone about eternity just yet and you've struggled to share your own testimony, then get a hold of some gospel tracts and let them do the talking for you. We should use tracts because God uses them.

Using tracts can help break the ice and overcome the initial difficulty in approaching people with the gospel. When witnessing we want to show people that we care about them so be friendly and smile. The nicer you are, the more likely someone will talk with you and accept what you are offering them. When distributing tracts in busy places where not so much personal conversation is appropriate or possible, you can ask those walking by, "Did you get one of these?" When people show more interest you can then share your testimony with them and even offer to pray for any needs they may have.

A simple plan that can awaken a church to evangelism is to insert a different tract each week in the church's Sunday morning bulletin. Church members are then encouraged during the service to ask God to lead them to the person they should give the tract to during the week. This is an easily attainable goal and just by giving one tract a week you can share the gospel with fifty-two people per year. If one hundred people did this, that's five thousand two hundred a year just by each person giving out one tract a week. Many of the members will begin passing out more than one per week and enthusiasm for evangelism will grow.

You may be shy to talk to people and not very good with words, but that doesn't need to be a barrier. Anyone can have a successful witnessing ministry. Sometimes when referring to tracts people think of outdated, boring little things that nobody wants to look at. Thankfully there are some good ones out there that grab people's attention time and time again. If you're still not happy, why doesn't your whole church rise to the challenge and design some new ones. Every Christian should have a few high-quality tracts on the subjects that can meet the needs of those they are acquainted with and know how to use them to open a person's heart to the things of God. There is no limit to what you could accomplish for Christ.

Don't send missionaries to the field without supplying them with the right ammunition. Some time back while on the mission field I felt to give out tracts along the whole boulevard. One of the young men who were reading my tracts died a few days later as he was hit by a car when he unwisely ran onto the road. I don't know how he stood with God, yet I do know that he was reading gospel material with a clear salvation message and call to receive Christ the last couple of days before he died. This illustrates the importance of using tracts. We need the initiative to saturate nations with the word of God. By distributing gospel tracts you can even witness to people you have never met!

There are many interesting testimony books, booklets and tracts that when given to the right person can be life changing. There are gospel films that are exciting to watch while illustrating the essential truths for getting people saved. Look out for good Christian material. Order it from a Christian bookshop or begin writing some of your own. God can give you some new ideas so you can become more effective in spreading the good news of salvation. Christian literature can enter through doors that have been locked for decades. This is one of the most effective ways to reach the most people in the shortest period of time.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

1) Have a time of prayer for God to give you His burden for the lost and to open doors for you to share your faith. We should continue to seek the Lord and ask Him to give us effective ways to reach our family, friends, neighbours and total strangers with the gospel.

2) Prepare a one minute testimony, followed up with other appropriate stories and a short presentation of the gospel – what is sin, why Jesus died for our sins, and why the person needs to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. This will encourage believers to share what God has done for them in a natural and informal way.

3) To get yourself into a position of becoming a soul winner for Christ you should look out for suitable resources that you can carry with you to give away as opportunities arise. You may need to write your own gospel tracts. Make it a priority and set aside some time to get yourself resourced.

If you put these simple steps into practice you will become a more effective servant of the Lord and you will find that it is not hard to witness for Christ. Evangelism will become a part of your daily lifestyle. The best way to grow as a Christian is to share your faith with others. It makes you grow and it makes you study God's word so you can give answers and share the hope you have in Jesus. If you are not prepared you will miss opportunities. If you are prepared you can save someone's life and lead them into the kingdom of Heaven. Get prepared and then arise to speak to people about the Lord.

It is the duty of all nations to believe the gospel; therefore it is the duty of all Christians to proclaim the gospel.

'The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise' (Proverbs 11:30).

'Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone' (Colossians 4:5-6).

WALK IN THE WISDOM OF GOD

2

HOW YOU CAN SHARE YOUR FAITH

'I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ' (Philemon 6).

As the apostle Paul was imprisoned for preaching the gospel, this gave him time to concentrate on prayer. He realized that he had to pray for the believers that they would be active in sharing their faith. Our prayer should be that every Christian is able to effectively witness for Christ with confidence and assurance of what and why they believe. We therefore need to train those who don't know where to start so they can learn what to say.

Our job is to challenge people where they stand in relationship to God and I've used a number of different ways to approach people and try to open their hearts. The following method of sharing the gospel is based on the style of a fellow New Zealand evangelist called Ray Comfort. He now resides in America and has been able to teach his principles of evangelism in an effective TV series and a web site called, "The Way Of The Master."

By asking people a few questions you can help prepare them to receive the good news of salvation. I have adapted this technique to suit my style of sharing with unbelievers and you should do the same. Practice using these questions and you can develop your own questions as well. We should learn from others, but we are also free to develop our own evangelistic style. The more witnessing you do the more experienced you will become, so get out there and be active in

sharing your faith. Here are the questions for an effective evangelism method that is not hard to use:

1) Do You Consider Yourself To Be A Good Person?

This simple question can open a conversation to spiritual things: “Do you consider yourself to be a good person? And if so, could you tell me why you think that you are good?” People are not offended by this question, for most people think they are good and are happy to answer because they enjoy speaking about themselves. This is a great question to ask a stranger, to discover their spiritual condition. Often it will reveal their pride and self-righteousness that has to be pulled away in order for them to see their need of salvation.

When people consider themselves to be good, say to them, “Can I ask you a few questions to see if that’s true?” If the person admits that they are bad then ask him or her why they feel that way. Such a person knows he has sinned and is probably feeling guilty about something. If they are willing to confess their sins to God they can receive forgiveness, yet you will need to find what barrier or hindrance is stopping them from giving their whole heart to God. Therefore continue with the next question.

2) Do You Think You Have Kept God’s Commandments?

Some will say “yes,” others will say “no.” Regardless, you simply continue by asking them, “Let’s look at a few and see.” God appeared to Moses and wrote His commandments on stone so that people could know God’s moral standard. God is holy, righteous and perfect in every way, and He expects us to walk in His holiness (Exodus 20:1-17). Examine your own heart and judge yourself as we go through the Ten Commandments because they are the standard of God’s goodness:

“Have you ever told a lie?” Some will admit to having lied, but if the person says “no,” ask them, “Do you mean to tell me that you have never told a lie even once? You have never said

anything that was only half true to deceive a person or to hide what you have done?" Once they admit to having lied, you can ask them, "How many lies does it take to become a liar?" Most people are unwilling to admit that they are a liar, but it only takes one lie to be a liar. Deceitfulness of heart is a serious transgression that hinders people from walking with God.

"Have you ever stolen something and taken that which did not belong to you?" If he says, "No," you can say, "You just admitted to me that you're a liar. Have you ever taken something even if it was just small?" If the person says "yes," then you can ask them, "So what does that make you?" The answer to that is, "A thief." If you have taken something wrongly then you are a thief. Do you realize that when you steal something you have sinned against God?

"Have you ever looked at someone with lust?" Lust is simply pornography of the mind and Jesus said that this makes you an adulterer in heart (Matthew 5:27-28). God's standard is high because He is perfect. A big issue that people need to face up to if they want to walk with God is that sexual immorality, which includes fornication (sex before marriage), adultery and homosexuality, rape, incest and prostitution, etc, are terrible sins against the Lord. God created the marriage covenant and the marriage bed must be kept holy (Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

"Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain or casually used God's name to express anger?" This makes you a blasphemer in heart and you need to be aware that you will have to give an account to God for every careless word that you have ever spoken (Matthew 12:36-37). The name of God is so meaningless to many people that they hold it in contempt and it runs off their lips as if it means nothing at all. Have you realized what you are doing? You cannot dishonour God's name and call yourself a good person. Jesus is coming to judge those who have spoken against Him (Jude 14-15). Be careful what you say.

“Have you ever hated someone?” This makes you a murderer in your heart. The apostle John said, ‘We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him’ (1 John 3:14-15). Jesus said that if you merely call your brother a fool, you are in danger of judgment (Matthew 5:21-22).

We live in a society which says it is okay to do what you want and this causes many people not to see the seriousness of their sin. God has set a day when He will judge those who kill their children through deliberate unnecessary abortion. Hatred smolders on the wick of unforgiveness and pollutes the air with bitterness and jealousy, and clouds a person’s common sense. We cannot expect God to forgive us of our sins if we are unwilling to forgive other people. Is there someone you need to forgive?

“Have you always honoured your parents and treated them in a way that is pleasing to the Lord?” Are you having good communication with your parents and do you have a right attitude towards them? Have you forgiven them if they have done something wrong to you and have you sought to show them love? Value your parents in a way that is pleasing to the Lord.

“Have you jealously wanted something that did not belong to you?” That is breaking the commandment, “Do not covet.” Many people are driven by selfish ambition and greed. This shows that they have a lack of God’s love in their hearts because they love the world more than God.

“Have you always put God first in your life?” Most people don’t realize the importance of living wholeheartedly for God, so they have false gods in their lives. God our Creator commands that we have no other gods before Him. There is only one Almighty Sovereign Being who is to be worshipped and adored. If you are not worshipping that God, you are

worshipping a false god and that is a sin. Do you glorify God by the way you live your life?

“Have you ever made an idol, a god to suit yourself? Have you made money into your idol?” Many people form a god to suit their sins. It is a great error to form your own god that has no righteousness, truth, justice and holiness in order to accommodate your sin. A man-made statue is not the true God. There are no idols in Heaven and God does not tolerate them on this earth. Man-made gods are not gods at all. They are false gods. Do you love money more than your own life? Many have destroyed themselves in the pursuit of money because it is their idol.

“Have you honoured God by setting aside the Lord’s Day to rest from work, so that you have time to worship and learn more about Him?” You have no chance of going to Heaven when you put yourself and your own interests ahead of the Lord. A main reason why people are lost in their sins is because they don’t want to live for God. They want to live only for themselves. Be honest and be reasonable. Are you going to live for God?

In evangelism we are working with the Holy Spirit to lead people to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has been sent to convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-11). As we use God’s law (the Ten Commandments) in evangelism we are preparing the way for the gospel. The aim is to make contact with a person’s conscience (Romans 2:15). Your conscience is the knowledge of right and wrong that God has put within your heart and mind. It is a judge in the courtroom of your mind and when you sin it says, “Guilty!” Being convicted of sin shows us our need of the Saviour.

Most people are happy to live in darkness and sin because the wickedness of their hearts has not been exposed. God wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, but instead we go our own way and pursue the things

we want. Don't fool around with what you know is wrong. Many people hate Jesus without reason and every day their lives are an offence to the Lord. We need to help them to understand the seriousness of their sin because this is what separates them from God. Exposing the wickedness of men's hearts is to help them see their need of forgiveness. Most people do nothing to secure their own salvation because they think they are okay the way they are. They don't realize that they are totally unprepared to meet God.

A doctor has to take the time to explain to a patient the symptoms of a disease before he offers the cure. Sin is like cancer. It can easily spread and until it is removed your life is in danger. We cannot preach the cure without first revealing the disease. God's law reveals our disease and by discovering precisely what we have done wrong first actually causes the good news of the gospel, which is the cure, to make sense. Unbelievers are enemies of God in their minds due to their spiritual blindness (Colossians 1:21; Romans 8:6-8). That is why we have to penetrate the sinner's conscience. A person's conscience bears witness to God's righteousness and gives a strong testimony or confirmation to the fact that what God says is true.

If unreached people don't clearly understand that they have violated God's commandments and are lost in sin, the good news of salvation will seem foolish to them. But once they understand that they are accountable for every word, deed, action and hidden motive of their hearts, they will appreciate getting right with God. How can a man repent if he doesn't know that he has sinned against the Lord? There is no trembling before the holiness of God unless people see the exceeding wickedness of sin and the error of their ways. For people to be soundly saved there must be evidence of repentance and a change of heart.

If the person acknowledges his sin, you can show him that by his own admission, he is a lying, thieving, blaspheming, adulterer and murderer at heart. One of the most important things in conversion is that people realize and acknowledge that they are sinners and for them to see their sin as being

disgusting, ghastly and abhorrent. Without repentance there is no salvation. If the person still claims to have done nothing wrong then point out that the Bible says that if anyone claims to be without sin they are a liar and they will not receive salvation. You must confess your sins to God and then He will purify your heart (1 John 1:8-10). Is your heart clean and pure before God?

3) When God Judges You By His Commandments On The Day Of Judgment, Will You Be Innocent Or Guilty?

We are all going to pass through the door of death and face a holy God on the Day of Judgment. When do you think you will die? Have you ever walked through a graveyard and looked at the ages on the tombstones? Every person needs to think about getting right with God right now, because as you get older your heart and attitude towards God will get harder if you are unwilling to listen to Him. The beginning of wisdom is to fear God and hate evil, rather than spit on His mercy and arouse His anger. Do you know that God can get angry at you for your sins? The reality is that we don't know how old we will live to be.

On the Day of Judgment the books will be opened and every person who has ever lived will have to stand before God and give an account for what they have done with their lives. The truth will prevail. Every sin you have ever done will be brought forth for judgment. The Bible says that the law of the LORD is perfect (Psalm 19:7). If you have broken God's commandments in just one area then you have fallen short of God's perfection. The Bible says, 'For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it' (James 2:10). It only takes one sin to become a lost sinner. Most people do not realize how much they are going to be held accountable for. Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27). God has appointed a day when He will judge the world in righteousness.

Do you feel that you are accountable to God for your sins? We want people to feel that they will be held accountable for what they have done with their lives. When Joseph was tempted sexually, he said, "How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9) The prodigal son said, "I have sinned against heaven" (Luke 15:21). David cried out to the Lord, "Against, you, you only, have I sinned" (Psalm 51:4). Ultimately we are all accountable to God for everything that we have ever done. God commands all people everywhere to repent, for He has appointed a day when He will judge the world with justice (Acts 17:30-31). God is absolutely righteous; therefore all evil is against God.

How would it make you feel if all your friends, family or if the whole world were to see your every sin openly displayed? Would you be embarrassed and ashamed? This is how many people will feel when they have to give an account before God, but then it is too late to be saved. It doesn't matter how happy a person feels as they enjoy the pleasures of sin today. That will only last a short time, but God's judgment is set for eternity. This should make us feel alarmed and aware of the great danger of standing on the side of the wicked and being cast out of God's kingdom. Anyone who pursues wickedness rather than righteousness is choosing to be condemned by God.

Most people sin thinking that they will get away with it. They are aware of the enormity of their sin. They may acknowledge that they have broken God's law, but they are not alarmed about it. It seems as if they just don't care, so this is why they have to be brought face to face with the supremacy of God on the Day of Judgment. Remember that God has seen all the secret thoughts and motives of your heart and nothing is hidden that will not be brought into His light. You are responsible for your own sinful actions and on the Day of Judgment there is no second chance. The judgment that God pronounces upon your life will be final. God is angry with those who willfully live against Him and God will have His day of justice.

If God is a righteous judge He won't ignore your crimes. He will see that justice is served and that you get the exact punishment that fits your sin. On that Day Jesus will separate the people like a shepherd who separates the sheep from the goats. The sheep symbolize those who are righteous and those who listen to God's voice. The goats symbolize those who are wicked and have refused to listen to God (Matthew 25:31-46). How will you stand before God when every secret thought of your mind, every deed and every wrong word is exposed? Will you stand before God covered in sin? Are you innocent or guilty?

For solid conversions we need unbelievers to come under conviction of sin and perceive their guilt. Without the righteousness of Christ a person will die in their sins and be lost forever. God sees into our hearts and is going to hold us accountable. If you die in your sins God will give you the justice you deserve. People need to consider the holiness of God so they will realize their need of a Saviour. They need to see the seriousness of their situation and think about how they will stand before God to give an account for their lives. All of us have an appointment with death that we cannot miss and after that we will be judged for what we have done.

How will you stand before God? Think about it. Take some time just to sit and ponder what this Day will be like when the great multitude, billions and billions of people, stand before the throne of Almighty God and the books are opened (Revelation 20:11-15).

4) Will You Go To Heaven Or To Hell?

If a person admits they will go to Hell haphazardly, without feeling any seriousness, you need to ask them, "Do you know what Hell is like?" People need to let the reality of being lost forever really get into their minds because Hell is a place of punishment for sin, worse than any prison that can be found on this earth. It is an eternal punishment; no chance of escape. The apostle John was shown visions of a lake of fire. Horrific pain and suffering is caused by being burnt. The torment of

being lost in sin is beyond one's ability to bear and yet it will go on forever.

Jesus spoke about Hell many, many times because He wants us to be saved (Mark 9:42-48). There are no pleasures in this world gained by the acts of the sinful nature that are worth spending an eternity in Hell. Unbelievers are going to be punished for rejecting God even if they think that they have done nothing wrong. They have not lived for the Lord and have in fact been living against Him. Hell was created for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Those who live without God have sided with the devil and are in rebellion towards the Lord. It should terrify you to think that you would go to Hell for eternity. You are without excuse if you have refused to be saved.

A number of people may admit that they have sinned, that they are guilty, but still say that they are going to "Heaven" rather than admit that they deserve to go to Hell. Many people seem to think that God will automatically let them into Heaven no matter what they do. If somebody keeps justifying themselves while living in sin then you have to say, "Look, if you keep justifying yourself you will never receive God's mercy. If you don't confess your guilt you won't receive God's forgiveness. You have got to be honest." Some people hope to go to Heaven, but really they are unsure. Instead of just hoping, you should know whether or not you have a true friendship with God and whether or not you are really saved.

Our past sin has to be accounted for. You might think that you have done more good than bad, but it doesn't matter how many good deeds you have done when you are being tried for a crime. A murderer may have lived a good life for the last ten years, but when it is discovered what he did all those years ago the law has to judge him as guilty. Time doesn't forgive sin. Living a good life today doesn't take away your past sins. When a person stands in the court room before the judge, all his good deeds do not determine whether he should be punished for the crime he is guilty of. Your good deeds cannot take away your bad deeds.

God can never be bribed or compromised, for His standards are much higher than human standards. He loves justice and He has promised to punish not only murderers and rapists, but also liars, thieves, adulterers, fornicators and blasphemers. Your good deeds do not make you innocent if you have sinned against God. When you know you have sinned and then continue to deliberately live without making peace with God then you are lost and undone. Those who don't live for God are wasting away their lives. We have all sinned and we are all lost without Christ, so we really need to understand this so that we do make sure of our salvation.

People must see themselves as lost before they will cry for mercy. They will not escape danger unless they see it. A person has to see himself in truth. Those who are unwilling to look at God's perfect holiness often deceive themselves into thinking that they are so good that they don't need God. They don't want Jesus because they don't think that they need to be saved. Therefore, they throw away the hope of eternal life. The "nice" sinner who thinks he is alright without following Jesus needs to realize that he is going to Hell, and if he wants to go to Heaven he has to come to the Lord on God's terms. The people of the world are undone, unsaved and unprepared to meet God. Those who reject Christ will die in their sins.

Let's think of a criminal who is guilty of serious crimes, such as rape, murder and pushing drugs. What would happen if he stands before the judge and says, "I'm sorry for what I've done. Please forgive me. I know that you are a good man and you don't want to send me to prison, so cancel my crimes because I'm now going to live a good life." Can that good judge let a person go free simply because he said he was sorry and that he won't do it again? Of course not! There is a hefty fine to be paid and a prison sentence that is rightfully deserved. For justice to prevail he must receive his punishment. The judge will say, "I am a good man and because of my goodness I'm going to see that you are punished." When you believe in God's justice you don't justify

the wickedness of men. You call them to repent, otherwise they will perish.

The very thing that sinners hope will save them on the Day of Judgment will be the very thing that will condemn them. The goodness of God will condemn sinners to Hell. Each of us is guilty before the Lord, and God will not let us go free simply because we feel sorry about it. Saying “sorry” to God on the Day of Judgment won’t be good enough. Jesus has promised that if a person dies in their sins they will go to Hell for eternal punishment. Jesus has told us the truth. He does not lie. His word will be fulfilled. Ask the person, “Does this concern you? Isn’t it wise to heed these warnings and take every precaution to make sure that you are saved? Why take an unnecessary risk? It’s the weight of your own sin that is pulling you into Hell.”

When people feel the enormity of their sins condemning them to the fires of eternal damnation then they are ready to receive the light of salvation. The problem today is that most people are unwilling to acknowledge how lost they are and the depths of their sin against God is quickly glossed over. God is infinitely holy and while sin can appear to be very minor and insignificant to us, it can look very different to an infinitely holy God. When a person says they don’t believe in Hell, it is like trying to say to the judge that you don’t believe in prisons. God must punish crime if He is good. The wickedness of living without Christ needs to be clearly understood. Please realize that if you haven’t surrendered your heart to Almighty God, you are not a good person.

People will not take their salvation seriously unless they understand the truth and see their need. Therefore a good portion of evangelistic preaching is to show people the error of their ways and the punishment they are accumulating due to their sins. Without this they will not feel the urgency to come to Christ and surrender their lives to Him. You can see the seriousness of a crime by the punishment given by the judge. Eternal punishment for denying Christ shows the enormity of the sin of refusing to trust in Him and the necessity of living for Jesus today. We tend to trivialize sin and not take it seriously

but God does not trivialize the evil of denying His Son. We need to look at ourselves from God's perspective.

Every person who refuses to walk humbly before God has wasted their life and is storing up for themselves a greater punishment. A judge would be guilty of injustice if he never sentenced a persistent criminal. When unbelievers deny the existence of Hell you have to show them their error in denying God's justice. God's judgments are always right and true, and when Jesus warns us of the necessity of being saved from an eternal punishment we should take that warning very seriously. People need to come to the point where they realize that God would be totally just in punishing them for their rebellious, evil deeds. Once you step over the threshold of time it is Heaven or Hell forever and ever and ever.

5) Are You Willing To Repent Of Your Sins And Be Saved?

It is very difficult to try and save a person who doesn't think he needs saving. Don't feel pressured to give the good news of salvation to a proud self-righteous person who is not willing to admit his guilt before God. If a person admits that he is concerned about being lost, only at that point should you explain to him the true way to God. If the person is no longer justifying and defending his sins, or his response indicates that he has been humbled, you now have the wonderful pleasure of sharing the good news of salvation. When a person acknowledges that they have broken God's commandments and are in need of forgiveness then they are ready for the gospel.

The law of God shows us that we have sinned. The Day of Judgment shows us that we are held accountable for that sin. The reality of Heaven and Hell shows us that we can either be saved or lost forever. The next question we should ask is, "Do you know how to obtain peace with God and the assurance of eternal salvation?" We want people to understand what God did so they don't have to go to Hell. Salvation is actually a gift – a gift of God's love. With any gift it can be received or rejected. Unfortunately many people reject God's love because

they want to go their own way and they don't allow God to transform their hearts by the power of His love. That is why we have taken the time to show people why they must be saved and now we want to show them how they can be saved.

God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). To enter the kingdom of God, you have to be convicted, humbled and broken because of your sins. Then you have to look up and see that Jesus Christ carried your sins to the cross. We broke the law but Jesus paid the fine. Faith in Jesus allows God to wipe away your sins so that on the Day of Judgment when your court case comes up before God He can say that your case is dismissed through lack of evidence. Jesus is the only one who could be the sacrifice that would fulfil the righteous demands of eternal justice. It is due to God's infinite love and mercy that He has made the way of salvation possible.

In God's great and wonderful love, He sent His one and only Son to suffer and die in your place, taking your punishment, so that you could be forgiven. Jesus paid your penalty for breaking the law of God. He carried your sins to the cross and was brutally murdered. Jesus is God in human form, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, and His blood was the blood of God. His blood alone was the holy, righteous blood that could atone for the sins of the world. On the third day Jesus rose from the dead in order to conquer the effects of sin. That is why if you will repent – confess and turn from that which is evil – and place your trust in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, God will forgive you and grant you everlasting life. That is the amazing love of God to save a lost sinner.

It needs to grip us that Jesus was actually dying for our every sin when He was nailed to the cross. Salvation is all about having a Saviour. All nations have been warned that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. Those who have Jesus are saved; those who do not have Jesus are eternally lost. Only Jesus can wash away your sins and make you clean and pure in the sight of God. When a person gives their life to Jesus they are exchanging their sin for God's righteousness. I know that God longs for people to be saved, but He won't save

them unless they choose to follow Him. Do what the Bible says you need to do for salvation – replace sin with righteousness and put your trust in Jesus today.

Preaching the gospel leads to a definite demand to follow Christ. It is the lost sinner's reasonable duty to repent immediately and to open their heart to receive God's love. This is so simple that even a small child can understand it and receive eternal salvation. We have to earnestly plead with people to get saved: "Choose this day who you will serve. Would you like to make peace with God and receive eternal life right now?" The problem is that many people start to follow Jesus but then turn back, trampling upon His holy blood (Hebrews 10:26-31). Salvation is not about saying a little prayer, "God, forgive me," and then living your own life. Salvation is truly taking Jesus as your Lord, Saviour, Master and King.

Are you going to receive Jesus as your Supreme Lord and Saviour or are you going to ignore and reject Him? Remember that there is no middle ground and if you do not make the right decision you are outside God's kingdom. There is no guarantee that you will be given another chance in the future. The Bible says that today is the day of salvation and it warns us that when you hear God's voice do not harden your heart (2 Corinthians 6:1-2; Hebrews 3:7-8).

If a person is sorry for his sins and he wants to get his life right with God and make a life commitment to Jesus, you can lead that person in a prayer of commitment to the Lord.

THE PRAYER OF A LOST SINNER FOR SALVATION

"Lord Jesus, I need You to save me. I know that I have sinned, but I don't want to be lost. Thank You for dying on the cross and paying the penalty for my wicked ways. I confess these sins to You now..... (name those sins).

I turn from them and I look for You to help me to walk the path of righteousness. I realize that my evil deeds are

to blame for Your painful crucifixion, so I am truly sorry and I ask You to forgive me.

I believe the good news that You rose from the dead and that You are alive forever. I believe that You are watching me at this very moment, so I open the door of my life to receive You as my Lord and Saviour.

Come into my heart, take away my sins, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I want to be Your friend. Fill me with the power of the Holy Spirit and let me overcome all the works of the devil. Come Holy Spirit.

Thank You for saving me and giving me assurance of a place in Heaven. I give all praise, honour and glory to Your holy name. Amen.”

‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9).

**I have decided to follow Jesus
all the days of my life!**

Yes

No

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever (your name) _____ believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Date of birthday into God’s family: _____
(The day you accepted Jesus as your Saviour)

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

3

THE KEY TO SUCCESS

“The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life’ (Revelation 22:17).

Breakthrough success in evangelism comes through working in partnership with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit and the bride are to be in unity in calling people to take the free gift of the water of life. The bride of Christ is the church (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:32). The Holy Spirit works most effectively amongst a people who are thirsty for the things of God. Success in the eyes of God can be quite different than what is perceived to be success in the eyes of man. What Jesus is looking for is fruit that remains – fruit that will last into eternity (John 15:16). Jesus Christ walked in perfect unity with the Holy Spirit and He is our example to follow.

I was blessed to have had a powerful encounter with God at a crucial time in my life during my teenage years. A hunger for God had been stirred up in my heart. Two things coincided which led me into the deeper things of the Spirit. One was a little book which contained some teaching on the Biblical basis for speaking in other tongues and the other was a Christian youth camp, where I received prayer. My life was to never be the same again. Suddenly a childhood of church attendance and faithful allegiance to the teachings of Scripture was catapulted into a deeper relationship with God. The Bible came alive like never before.

Experiencing the power of God set me on fire for Jesus. Around that time I then heard of a midweek Bible study group that was being led by an older couple from the church. They were going to go through a study on the personality of the Holy

Spirit. This Bible study was like putting knowledge to what I had just experienced. Before that I had never really known the Holy Spirit on that kind of personal level. I had a personal friendship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ throughout my childhood, but somehow I had never come into a personal friendship like that with the Holy Spirit. Now that I realized this was possible it added a whole new dimension to my Christian walk. You need to know the Holy Spirit.

THE DIVINE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) The Holy Spirit Has The Attributes Of God

The God of the Bible is a Trinity of three eternal persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and is of the same essence as the Father and the Son. To deny the Holy Spirit is to deny God.

The Holy Spirit is eternal (Hebrews 9:14); all powerful – omnipotent (Luke 1:35); all knowing – omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10-11); and present everywhere – omnipresent (Psalm 139:7). He is our Creator (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30), along with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God (Acts 5:3-4). The words “temple of God” and “temple of the Holy Spirit” are used interchangeably (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19), showing that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is equated with the God of the Israelites (Hebrews 3:7-11), and He speaks on behalf of God, as God (Acts 13:2).

Knowing that the Holy Spirit is God and that He is in all places at all times gives us great confidence that the power of the Holy Spirit is tremendously effective today. Faith in the power of God is really faith in the divine work of the Holy Spirit. The miracles of Jesus were done by the Spirit (Matthew 12:28), as were the miracles of the apostle Paul (Romans 15:18-19). The Holy Spirit is Lord, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity (2 Corinthians 3:17-18).

2) We Can Have Fellowship With The Holy Spirit And Know Him Personally

Jesus said, “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17). The people of the world do not know the Holy Spirit, but every true believer will come to know Him because He lives with us and He dwells in us. God dwells in His people through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:22).

The Bible says, ‘May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all’ (2 Corinthians 13:14). What does it mean to have fellowship with the Spirit? (Philippians 2:1) Fellowship speaks of sharing, friendship and intimacy. We are to have a unique friendship with the Holy Spirit and we are to know His presence and know His voice. The reason we can fellowship with the Holy Spirit is that He is a divine person.

The Holy Spirit has a mind (Romans 8:27), a will (1 Corinthians 12:11), and emotions (Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30). The Holy Spirit gives joy (Luke 10:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:6) and He knows what is best for us (Acts 15:28). The Holy Spirit gives warnings of what we have to face in the future so that we are well prepared (Acts 20:23). He appoints people to positions of ministry and sends people out to preach the gospel (Acts 10:19-20; 13:2; 20:28).

To fellowship with the Holy Spirit we should acknowledge Him and talk to Him. We should give Him time to speak to us by listening and being still in His presence. As spiritual beings we can soak in His presence. Knowing the presence of God with us in this way is a great source of strength and wisdom for evangelism. The Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher (Luke 12:12; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:14).

3) The Holy Spirit Draws People To God

The Holy Spirit helps us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. He is the one who convicts people of their guilt in regard to sin, righteousness and judgment because they do not believe in Jesus (John 16:8-11). The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus (John 15:26) and He brings the words of Christ to

our memory (John 14:26). He completely changes our lives through Jesus when we are converted and born again. He comes into our hearts and is with the believer forever (John 14:16).

The Holy Spirit is constantly speaking to people (Acts 1:16; 10:19-20; 20:23; 28:25; Hebrews 3:7; 10:15-17). He can hear and speak to us because He is a divine being (Revelation 2:7). In the work of proclaiming the gospel and witnessing for Christ the Holy Spirit will give us words to say and He will speak through us (Mark 13:11). His work is to bring glory to Jesus (John 16:14). He seeks to guide us into the truth (John 16:13).

To be a child of God you have to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:14). He testifies within our spirit that we belong to God and He bears witness for Christ (John 15:26; Romans 8:16). The Holy Spirit intercedes with deep groanings (Romans 8:26). He will strengthen and encourage us in our walk with the Lord (Acts 9:31).

4) The Holy Spirit Releases The Power Of God

The Holy Spirit strengthens us and empowers us. Before ascending to Heaven, while Jesus was eating with His disciples, He gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Jesus also said, “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” (Acts 1:4-5,8). We should be baptized with the Holy Spirit in order to receive power to witness for Christ.

If you lack boldness in evangelism then you need to receive the promised power to witness. After the disciples received the fire of God on the day of Pentecost, they faced persecution for the sake of the gospel and they needed to meet together to pray. God answered their prayer for miracles by filling them with the Holy Spirit and enabling them to preach the word of God with boldness. Luke writes of this saying: ‘After they

prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' (Acts 4:31).

Without the Holy Spirit there is no power. The apostle Paul said, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power" (1 Corinthians 2:4-5). God still wants the faith of His people to rest on His power and not just words. His purpose is to equip us with power. The Holy Spirit gives us power to heal the sick and power to drive out demons (Luke 4:18-19; Acts 10:38). The Holy Spirit raises the dead (Romans 8:11). Mighty miracles are the work of the Holy Spirit.

5) Mighty Moves Of God Come Through Outpourings Of The Holy Spirit

God offers us the Holy Spirit freely as a gift. Like a loving Father, God gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him in faith (Luke 11:13; Galatians 3:2,5,14). 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy' (Acts 2:17-18). Dreams and visions from God come through the Holy Spirit.

'While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have" (Acts 10:44-47).

When the apostle Paul arrived in Ephesus he found some disciples who had come to the Lord through the ministry of John the Baptist. Paul asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not

even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-7). Speaking in tongues is a sign of receiving the Holy Spirit. I know the devil does try to counterfeit the work of God and there are false prophets and demonic spirits, but we should never let the devil stop us from receiving a true work of God.

After this God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. Those who had dabbled in the occult confessed their evil deeds and a number of sorcerers burned their scrolls and publicly confessed their allegiance to Christ. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power (Acts 19:11-20). Whole communities were impacted by the preaching of the gospel. Being full of the Holy Spirit is the key to miracles (Acts 6:3,5,8-10; 7:55). We need to continue seeking God for fresh outpourings of His Spirit.

6) The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit Are For Today

‘He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well” (Mark 16:15-18). The gospel must be preached to all creation in our generation. Miraculous signs will accompany those who believe.

‘Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different

kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines' (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

The presence of God is manifested through the genuine use of the spiritual gifts. Like the believers of the early church, we should pray, preach and teach in the power of the Holy Spirit. It is written: 'Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy' (1 Corinthians 14:1). The gift of prophecy is especially important. 'For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged... Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues' (1 Corinthians 14:31,39). 'Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt' (1 Thessalonians 5:19-20).

7) Manifestations Of The Spiritual Gifts Lead People To Believe In Jesus

It is very interesting how Jesus witnessed to the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus used the prophetic gifts to open her heart and mind so that she would be able to receive the truth (John 4:16-19). Because of her encounter with Jesus many people from her town were saved. A prophetic word can get to people's hearts and show them that God hasn't forgotten them. He knows and understands what is going on in their lives. Cold hearts can be opened to the gospel in this way because they will realize that God has really spoken to them.

The prophetic gifts can get people's attention. It is written: 'But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"' (1 Corinthians 14:24-25) When God speaks through His people there is a greater awareness of His presence. People's hearts will be touched and they will acknowledge that God is with us.

We need to be able to give a word in season; that is the right word for the right time. The Bible says, 'The Sovereign LORD has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught' (Isaiah 50:4). We have to listen to God and then trust Him to give us His word. This is what Jesus did all the time. He was always looking to His Father to speak through Him (John 12:49; 17:8). Our prayer as we share our faith should be, "Oh God, please give me a prophetic word for this person right now."

We need a specific word for each person we minister to because every situation is unique. Evangelism is about speaking on behalf of the Lord and calling a person to be saved. We need to be sensitive to the needs of people around us and allow the Lord to speak through us. There are different ways in presenting the gospel. To the religious leader, Nicodemous, Jesus spoke of being born again (John 3:1-8). To the rich young ruler Jesus spoke of selling his possession so that he could have treasures in Heaven (Luke 18:22). Jesus used the circumstances He found Himself in to present the way to eternal life. What does the person you are speaking to need to hear from the Lord? What could illustrate to them the way to enter God's kingdom?

The Holy Spirit is the revealer of future events (Acts 1:16) and the inspirer of prophecy (1 Peter 1:11). We don't want to speak from our own will, but rather we have to let ourselves be carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). As we give our minds and hearts to the Lord, the Holy Spirit can give us inspired words to speak. As we speak out, not knowing at times what the next words will be, we must have a total trust in the Lord that He'll continue to provide the right words and that they will flow automatically. The key to the gift of prophecy is to hear from God. 'The lion has roared – who will not fear? The Sovereign LORD has spoken – who can but prophesy?' (Amos 3:8)

Just as the prophetic plays an important part in opening people's hearts to the gospel, so does the gifts of healing.

Jesus healed a man who was born blind, who then boldly testified of his miracle even when he didn't know who had healed him. When Jesus found him again, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshipped him' (John 9:35-38). The power of God will bring people to their knees in worship.

When people see God's miracles they have no excuse for their unbelief. When the apostle Paul was on the island of Cyprus with Barnabas, they were opposed by a sorcerer who tried to turn the leader of that area away from the Christian faith. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and he said to the sorcerer, "Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord (Acts 13:4-12).

Signs and wonders confirm the preaching of God's word (Mark 16:20). The power of the gospel is demonstrated with prophetic words, healings and deliverances from evil spirits. Preach the word of God with conviction and pray for the sick with boldness. Faith moves the hand of God. This lost world needs demonstrations of God's power. If the power is not coming through as it should it is obvious that something is hindering it. Satan doesn't want you to be filled with power to witness. If you have not experienced the power of God you need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

'On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to

receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified' (John 7:37-39).

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended back to Heaven, He sat at the right hand of God the Father and He is now glorified. Jesus has been exalted to the highest place and given a name that is above every other name (Philippians 2:9). Jesus has now given us the Holy Spirit. Streams of living water flow within the Spirit filled believer. The apostle Paul was speaking to those who had already been "born again" when he said, "Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). If your Christian walk is dry and you are lacking spiritual power then you need to receive a touch from God by the rushing flow of the Holy Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a necessary experience that is available for believers today. It is a part of your inheritance as a Christian. Speaking in tongues edifies the believer and strengthens your faith (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20). The natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit, but Jesus said that speaking in tongues would be a sign that would follow those who believe (Mark 16:17; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Do you have a spiritual mind?

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is called a gift (Acts 2:38-39; 10:45). A gift can be received or rejected. Speaking in other tongues can be received or rejected. Are you hungry for more of God? When a person realizes that they need to be baptized with the Holy Spirit they are then in a position to ask God for this blessing. We are to pray with the people who are willing to receive this gift (Acts 8:15).

'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:1-4). Millions of Christians around the world have had this same experience today.

The following prayer is helpful in opening your heart to God, confessing any sins that may be blockages in your life, and

then receiving God's power and an impartation of the spiritual gifts. This prayer can be used as a guide to come before the Lord and receive a life changing experience with God.

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Heavenly Father, I commit my life wholeheartedly to You. Once again I ask You to forgive me of any sin and I plead the precious blood of Jesus Christ, Your Son, upon my life. I renounce any involvement in witchcraft or idolatry on my own part or that of my ancestors. I renounce all fear, unbelief and any blockage of my mind. I confess that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and He is watching over me at this very moment.

Now I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit and grant me power to be a witness for Your kingdom. I believe this gift is for me and I believe that Jesus is the one who baptizes people with the Holy Spirit. I open my heart to receive this gift. I ask for Your power and anointing to come upon me right now. Baptize me with Your Spirit and fill me to overflowing with Your power.

By faith in Jesus I receive the gift of speaking in other tongues. I also request that You release to me the gift of prophecy and any other spiritual gift according to Your will. Thank You Father, for hearing and answering this prayer, and anointing me with Your amazing power. In Jesus' mighty name I pray. Amen.”

Continue to wait quietly upon the Lord and soak in His presence. Allow the Holy Spirit to give you a new language and release to you the gift of tongues. Expect to speak in a heavenly language immediately as you receive this gift from God. Open your mouth and let God fill it. Speak out any words that you are receiving. As you do so you will find that God will give you a beautiful prayer language. Those who have already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit can lay hands on those

who are seeking God for this experience and impart to them this spiritual gift.

Once you have received this blessing, set aside time with the Lord each day to speak in tongues. There is no reason why you cannot be prayed for several times if you did not receive the full gift of tongues the first time, but have a believing heart and act in faith. Believe the word of God and allow Jesus to come closer to you. The Lord is with you and you will become more aware of His presence as you are renewed by the Spirit of God. Now you will know the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit more intimately. Each person of the Trinity will be real to you. This is the key to evangelism because you have to know God in order to make Him known.

SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST THE WAY JESUS DID – THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

While doing street evangelism you will find that a number of people are open to being prayed for. Often those who are backslidden and lost in the world will still be happy for you to pray with them right there and then. Prayer evangelism can produce incredible results. Praying for people gives God an opportunity to move in power. You can pray for healing, for deliverance and breaking of curses, for financial provision and for God's love and peace to come into their heart. You can pray for whatever need they may have. As you pray for the person, keep your eyes fixed upon Jesus and believe for the power of the Holy Spirit to touch them. At times God will manifest His presence and people will know that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. Evangelism with power is a key to winning souls.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' (Romans 15:13).

KNOW THE TANGIBLE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

4

GOD NEEDS YOU!

‘He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation...”

After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it’ (Mark 16:15,19-20).

PREACH EVERYWHERE

We are commanded by Jesus to go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation and this is the great challenge of missionary work and evangelism. After Jesus was taken up to Heaven, it says, ‘Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere.’ The two words, “preached everywhere” have really been on my heart. They express what Jesus Christ wants us to do, for He wants the gospel to be preached everywhere. God needs you to preach everywhere!

God laid those two words upon my heart during my first missions trip to Nepal. I had one helper with me and we went through the country distributing tracts and gospel booklets. I then got sick with a bad fever and diarrhoea. As I was lying on my bed praying about what to do next, God laid upon my heart this truth that we have to preach everywhere. I had to go up and down the mountain ranges of Nepal preaching the gospel. I had to return to India and spread the good news of salvation. Over the next few years I was able to give out hundreds of thousands of testimony booklets.

The apostle Paul said to Timothy: ‘Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season...endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist’ (2 Timothy 4:2,5). An evangelist calls

people to turn away from their sins and proclaims the gospel to save people from being lost forever. He declares the way of repentance and forgiveness to lead lost souls onto the path of eternal life. Jesus wants us to do this work and He will use anyone who is simply willing to obey and step out to go forth in His name.

Jesus was the greatest evangelist and He wants us to follow in His footsteps. There have been many fantastic preachers throughout history, but Jesus wants more workers and He wants to train us to become more effective. When you are called by God you need to be strong and courageous in order to take the land. The harvest is large, but the workers are few. We need more evangelists!

THE POWER OF PREACHING

One thing we need to be clear about is the tremendous power in preaching the gospel. The apostle Paul talked about how the world did not know God, but God in His wisdom made a way so that everyone could know the truth of who He is. Paul explained it like this: 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21). God is pleased to save people when they believe the message of the cross and in this we see the tremendous importance of preaching, witnessing and sharing with other people what God has done in our lives and what Jesus can do in their lives. That is the power of preaching.

The apostle Paul said that 'the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God' (1 Corinthians 1:18). The key for us in being able to save other people is that we must present the message of the cross. Whenever you witness to someone you are entering a spiritual battle for the salvation of their soul. The true preaching of God's word is what opens their hearts and exposes them before God. It shows them why they need to repent and walk in God's light.

The apostle Paul said that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). Jesus is the

Saviour of the world and He is the one who saves us when we call upon His name (John 20:31; Acts 4:12). Yet people cannot believe in Jesus if they have never heard who Jesus is and they cannot hear unless someone preaches to them. The apostle Paul asked four questions (Romans 10:14-15):

1) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?

2) And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?

3) And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

4) And how can they preach unless they are sent?

People are not going to hear the gospel and they are not going to call upon the name of the Lord and they are not going to be saved without us preaching the true message of salvation to them. Who is going to tell them? Who is going to warn them, plead with them and explain to them the wisdom that brings eternal life? To be sent you have to be told to go and who has told us to go? Jesus has commanded us to go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation and make disciples of all nations (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20). God has spoken and He looks for those who will step out in faith and obey.

PLACES THAT NEED A PREACHER

We should preach at the places where Jesus preached – on the mountain (Matthew 5:1-2), beside the lake (Mark 2:13), beside the well (John 4:6-10), from village to village (Mark 6:6), in the towns (Matthew 11:1), in His home town (Matthew 13:54), in the capital city (John 7:25-26), in remote places (Mark 6:34-35), in the synagogues (Mark 1:21,39), in the temple courts (Luke 20:1), house meetings (Luke 5:17-19), house visitation (Luke 19:5-10), on the boat (Matthew 13:2-3), while walking (Luke 24:15,27), while having dinner (Luke 14:1-24), etc.

Everywhere means everywhere. Wherever and whenever we get opportunity we should proclaim the words of

redemption and warn people to be saved. The Bible teaches us to do the following kinds of evangelism:

1) Street Evangelism – “Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests’ (Matthew 22:9-10).

‘The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame” (Luke 14:21).

2) Marketplace Evangelism – ‘So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there’ (Acts 17:17).

‘And wherever he went – into villages, towns or countryside – they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed’ (Mark 6:56).

3) House To House Evangelism – ‘Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ’ (Acts 5:42).

‘You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus’ (Acts 20:20-21).

4) Daily Discussions – ‘Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had

discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord' (Acts 19:8-10).

5) Witnessing While Travelling – 'Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him' (Acts 8:26-31).

6) Witnessing Through Your Secular Employment – 'Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy" (2 Kings 5:2-3).

'The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court' (Daniel 2:47-49).

7) Write Tracts And Books To Lead People To Christ – 'Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son

of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name' (John 20:30-31).

'Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught' (Luke 1:1-4).

8) Outdoor Gospel Crusades – 'He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all' (Luke 6:17-19).

'When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city' (Acts 8:6-8).

9) Prison Ministry – 'Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should' (Ephesians 6:19-20).

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:22-24).

10) Preach Wherever A Crowd Gathers – ‘Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say” (Acts 2:14).

‘Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.” Having received the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic’ (Acts 21:39-40).

11) To Your Own Family And In Your Home Town – ‘Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed’ (Mark 5:19-20).

‘Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and ‘sinners?’” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:29-32).

12) To The Ends Of The Earth – “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” (Acts 1:8).

‘I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done – by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation. Rather, as it is written:

“Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand” (Romans 15:18-21).

GET OUT THERE AND DO IT!

To reach the world there needs to be an emphasis on preaching everywhere. A pastor once said to me that preaching on the streets isn't effective these days and he implied that there isn't even any point trying to do it. When the evangelistic fire comes into your heart, when you see Jesus Christ as an evangelist, you will realize that we have to be preaching on the streets. We have to be preaching to the lost people who don't want to come to church. We have to be bold and strong. Fishing for men is a part of following Jesus (Matthew 4:19). If you are not fishing, you are not following. Many people claim to believe in Jesus but are they really following Him?

One of the best things that happened in the early days of John Wesley's ministry was the fact that he was not well received in the church. The church hierarchy rejected him, so this gave him the burden and the passion to ride his horse everywhere around England preaching the gospel. John Wesley is a good example of a person who went out and preached everywhere and that's what we still need today. Christians need to have a burden to take the gospel message to every place. An unpreached gospel is no gospel at all. The gospel is something we have to proclaim.

It has been well said that if we don't spend enough time in prayer with Jesus we will lose the edge of our message, but if we don't spend enough time going out to reach the lost we will lose the edge of our ministry. It is important to keep up a regular habit of going out to witness. Unless we have this burden to preach everywhere we will not be inclined to reach the unbelievers. We can receive boldness from God because the fire of evangelism comes from Jesus Christ, but if that fire has died down then the church needs to get back to doing what God has called us to do. Ask the Lord for guidance as to where you personally should be ministering and how best to do it.

Any Christian who really gets a burden for the lost can go out and preach anywhere. Jesus calls us to look for the places that aren't hearing the gospel, the unreached places that still need to be harvested. We need a continual burden for the lost souls and the places that aren't yet hearing the message, so that we will plan to go to these places. We can witness on the streets, from house to house, at schools and in prisons. We need people going out with boldness, zeal and the fire of God to preach everywhere. The majority of unbelievers don't want to have anything to do with church and they're not going to come to a church meeting to hear the word of God. We must go to them. We must take the gospel to them.

Jesus is calling for the raising up of evangelists who are willing to live and die for the sake of Christ and for getting people saved. We have to bring back mass evangelism and citywide gospel campaigns. Are you willing to serve Jesus with all your heart and to do the will of God? Do you have the evangelistic fire? We must preach the gospel everywhere and to everyone. We must seek and save the lost people of this world in Jesus name. To reach out with the gospel we have to take steps of faith. Jesus said that the kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it (Matthew 11:12). Who is going to obey God's word and really do God's work and lay hold of His kingdom?

PREACH A SALVATION MESSAGE

There is no point preaching everywhere if our message is not in line with what God wants us to say. Therefore, we have to know what we should be preaching. The true preaching of the gospel will enable people to encounter the true living God. One problem today is that many people think they are okay when they are not. We have to warn them of their danger so they will change their lives. The serious nature of sin in the sight of God has to grip their hearts so they will cry out, "What must I do to be saved?" The message we preach should lead people to do this.

Whenever you preach you need to seek the Lord's face so that you can bring a message to the world from the Lord's heart. Cry out to God for a message from Heaven that will convert people from their corrupt ways. To seek and save the lost we need to appeal to the audience to confess their sin and crown Christ as their King. Here are some things to keep in mind when calling people to follow Jesus:

1) The Difference Between Good And Evil – *'The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law'* (Galatians 5:19-23).

People need to be warned about what sin is because if they pursue a certain type of lifestyle they will not inherit the kingdom of God. People need to know the importance of righteousness so they will allow the Holy Spirit to change their character. Godly virtues have to be outworked in our lives.

2) No Forgiveness Without Repentance – *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire"* (Matthew 3:8-10).

'He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48).

God examines our lives to see what kind of character we are developing. The problem is that many people think they are God's children while still producing bad fruit. There is no

forgiveness without repentance. Are you willing to let God change your life?

3) The Message Of The Cross – *‘You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! (Romans 5:6-9)*

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name” (Acts 10:39-43).

The hope of eternal life can be presented to everyone because Jesus has paid the full price for our salvation. The love of God is available for whoever is willing to open their heart and receive it. Faith in Jesus is what opens the door to a right relationship with God. A simple salvation message reveals the lost state of sinners and draws them to the loving Saviour who shed His blood to deliver them from sin. We should love Jesus wholeheartedly because of what He has done to save us. Do you love Jesus?

4) The Necessity Of Following Christ – *‘Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet*

forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels" (Mark 8:34-38).

'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart' (Hebrews 12:1-3).

God has called us to be saved, but we are warned that sin can easily entangle us and cause us to stray from the path. This is why it is necessary for us to fix our eyes upon Jesus and follow Him wholeheartedly. Will you grow weary and lose heart or will you follow Jesus and enter through the gates of Heaven? It doesn't matter who you are. You may have once been a great evangelist and a soul winner, but if you start denying Jesus you will bring swift destruction upon yourself (2 Peter 2:1). It is absolutely necessary to follow Jesus and to continue following Him without turning back.

5) The Day Of Judgment – *'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad' (2 Corinthians 5:10).*

'Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and

Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire' (Revelation 20:11-15).

The reality of eternal judgment should grip our hearts. Are you saved or lost? How will you stand before the Lord when you have to give an account for what you have done with your life? Man's accountability has to be clearly understood. There is a reward for righteousness and a punishment for wickedness. Whoever follows Jesus will be saved and forgiven. Whoever rejects Christ will be lost and condemned. Are you living for yourself or are you really living for God?

6) Make Your Choice – *“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:14-15).*

“He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters” (Luke 11:23).

Many are called but few are chosen because they refuse to surrender their lives to Christ and live for Him. Are you a friend or are you an enemy of Jesus? Are you for Christ or against Him? There is no middle ground. Jesus has called you and you need to respond. Today could be the day where your eternal destiny is sealed either for Heaven or for Hell. At the end of our message we must bring an appeal for people to be saved by giving their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE TIME TO PREACH IS NOW!

What has been on my heart has been those words “preached everywhere.” The disciples went out and “preached everywhere.” Every place needs the preaching of God's word and we are the ones who must declare the simple truths that

lead to salvation. We have to preach the right message and not ignore the strong warnings of God's word. People need to feel the urgency of getting saved. The evidence that shows a person has been forgiven of their sins is a changed life. Being involved in the work of evangelism is like being a doctor with a cure to cancer. We've got the cure to the affects of sin but what are we going to do with it?

Many Christians would like to preach but they are sitting in churches doing nothing because they haven't been trained to witness or motivated to go forth in Jesus' name. Hear the voice of Jesus calling you to "preach everywhere." You have to step out and go. Many Christians, while at one time were on fire for God, lose their enthusiasm for witnessing and stray from the calling to share the gospel with the lost multitudes. Focusing upon the lost state of the world and the love of Christ to save us should keep the fire of evangelism aflame. We need to train missionaries, evangelists, Bible College students, etc, to be filled with an extreme burden for the lost. We need more evangelists. God needs you!

Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15). I feel the call of God to boldly preach the gospel. What about you? We have to take the words of eternal life to those who are dying in their sins. We have to reach them before it is forever too late. Have you ever asked God for a passion for souls? There is no lack of opportunity to preach the gospel. There is only a lack of boldness. When the apostle Paul called Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, he said to him, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). Time is short. Take action today! The time to preach the gospel is now!

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile' (Romans 1:16).

LIVE FOR JESUS WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE!

5

IS THE LORD CALLING YOU TO THE MINISTRY?

“Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord” (Colossians 4:17).

THE LIFE OF ARCHIPPUS

We don't know much about Archippus from the Scriptures. What we do know is that the apostle Paul had to give a forceful word to make sure he was on track. Archippus was one of the ministers at Colosse. He had obviously been distracted in some way from fulfilling the call of God upon his life. He needed a word from God and Paul sent it to him. Archippus had been given a specific work from the Lord, yet he had not completed it. He was therefore warned to be diligent, careful and to persevere so that he would hit the mark of the high calling in Christ.

We don't know what Archippus did with this word that came to him. Was he in the meeting when Paul's letter was read out to the believers? The leaders of the church had a responsibility to make sure he got the message. They were to tell him. Maybe you're in ministry unaware of what God wants to tell you. God wants to speak to you so that you get on the right path to complete the work He has for you. It's better to be warned now that to stand before Christ on the Judgment Day and only be left with ashes (1 Corinthians 3:10-15). A lot of fine looking ministries are going to go up in smoke on that Day because they did not complete the work that Christ had preordained for them.

Right now I presume Archippus is in Heaven but what kind of reception did he get when he got there? Paul knew what was in store for those who are faithful. He could say with confidence that there was a crown of righteousness awaiting him and that he had an eternal reward (2 Timothy 4:7-8). The prophet Daniel was guaranteed a heavenly inheritance because of his faithfulness to God (Daniel 12:13). Did Archippus finish his race? Did he win the crown of righteousness which the Lord will give to those who long for His appearing?

Archippus had a good start in the ministry. He was part of the church that met in Philemon's home. When Paul was in prison for the sake of the gospel he called Archippus one of his fellow soldiers and encouraged him along with Philemon and a Christian sister called Apphia to be active in sharing their faith, so that they would have a full understanding of every good thing they had in Christ (Philemon 1-6).

Archippus was a soldier for Jesus. Paul advised his workers to have that mentality. 'Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs – he wants to please his commanding officer' (2 Timothy 2:3-4). Jesus Christ is our commander. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords – the Master whom we must obey. To serve on the battlefield for souls we cannot let ourselves be distracted. The affairs of this world are secondary. While we certainly do need to have a certain amount of balance and wisdom in all areas of life, our focus has to remain on preaching the gospel.

According to the 4th century Apostolic Constitutions (7.46), Archippus was the first bishop of Laodicea in Phrygia (now part of Turkey). The Laodicean church was warned by Jesus to repent of being lukewarm (Revelation 3:14-22). Another tradition states that he was one of the 72 disciples appointed by Jesus Christ (Luke 10:1). Whether this was true or not, we don't know, because so little is recorded of him in Scripture. One possibility is that Archippus was actually Philemon's son. The lesson we learn from his life is simple and yet powerful – make sure you complete the work Jesus has given you to do.

GOD HAS A WORK FOR YOU TO DO

When I was still in my teenage years, I was at a combined church meeting when the guest preacher began to call various people forward for prayer. After praying for a number of different issues with people, he then gave a call for anyone who felt they were called to fulltime ministry to come forward. I was the only person who went up in response to the call that day. I knew that the Lord wanted me to preach the gospel and I had been preparing myself in response to that call.

After I had been touched by the power of God I thought I was going to convert the world. God was so real and close to me that I was sure nationwide revival was about to break out at any moment. Little did I know the hard work that was ahead of me. When God calls you to the ministry success doesn't necessarily fall from the sky, yet for some it does seem to. Mostly we have to work and toil and sacrifice and persevere and overcome. We have to share the gospel and witness to people even if the ground of their hearts seems hard. The promise of God's word is that at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9).

The Bible says that we are to remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously (2 Corinthians 9:6). Well, for me it seemed that I was sowing a lot more into evangelism than I was reaping. From when I was about seventeen years old I got into the habit of sharing the gospel outside the nightclubs most weekends with another Christian brother who had the call to be an evangelist. When he wasn't around I still continued to hit the streets late in the night with tracts, gospel cassette tapes and the word of my testimony.

One Friday evening my street evangelism wasn't going well and I was too tired to walk home, so I phoned up my father to come and pick me up. I felt defeated. Sharing the gospel was hard going and there was little encouragement. When we got back to the house and were still sitting in the car, my father said something to me that I have never forgotten. He said, "One day people will wonder how you're leading so many

people to the Lord and it will be because of the seed you're sowing now." It encouraged me to press on.

The Lord knows our deeds and remembers our witness for Him. In due time the faithful witnesses for Christ will be acknowledged before the throne of Heaven (Revelation 2:13). Do not despise the day of small beginnings (Zechariah 4:10). Maybe your attempts in evangelistic service for the Lord are struggling at the moment and not producing the fruit you would like to see. My advice for you to breakthrough those times would be to focus on prayer, read good Christian books that stir you up, and whatever you do, don't give up witnessing to unbelievers and sharing the gospel with them. Keep the fire burning and the light shining.

I was willing to witness to people all night and sleep on the streets if need be. I was willing to spend my last dollar on printing gospel tracts. I was willing to go to the other side of the world just to win one convert. I was willing to sacrifice my life for the sake of the gospel because I believed that dying in one's sin and going to Hell for eternity is the fate of those who don't know Christ. I believed what the Bible said about Heaven and Hell. I was willing to plead with people to open their hearts to God, even if they turned me away and mocked me to my face, because I believed that a lost sinner can come to his senses and realize the error of his ways. When we sow the seed of the gospel we never know who might repent later in life and we will have the joy of meeting them in Heaven.

STAND WITH THOSE WHO PREACH GOD'S WORD

The Lord will call some who read this book into full-time ministry. I encourage you to receive a burden for the lost and enter fully into evangelistic work. Churches have got to realize the seriousness of taking the gospel out to those who have no interest in being saved. Those who are blinded by the devil enjoy their sin and resist their own salvation. The job of the evangelist is to make sure people are trained, equipped and sent out to proclaim God's word and effectively share their faith even in places that are tough. The church has a

responsibility to release workers to the mission field (Acts 13:2-3).

Hudson Taylor, the missionary who sought to evangelize the whole of China, wrote, 'Over the centuries, our biggest problem has not been so much getting people to listen to the gospel as mobilizing believers to proclaim it.' It's been hard to get people to do God's work because often there has been a lack of support for those who seek to go to unreached areas with the words of eternal life. The apostle Paul called the church to stand with those who contend for the cause of the gospel (Philippians 4:3). Paul himself had times when he was deserted and times when people came to his support (Philippians 4:10-20). Yet no matter what happened Paul knew that Jesus was standing at his side (2 Timothy 4:16-18).

One thing Christians need to realize is the tremendous importance of standing beside and assisting those who are doing the work of missions and evangelism. Is there someone you can stand with and support in their evangelistic efforts to save the world? Jesus calls us to use worldly wealth for the purpose of making eternal friends (Luke 16:9). By making sacrifices and using our money to win the lost we will find a multitude of people will be waiting to welcome us into Heaven and thank us for the part we played in leading them to the Lord. What we do with our resources will determine whether we had treasures on earth that will pass away or treasures in Heaven that will last forever (Matthew 6:19-21).

Jesus is enthusiastic about evangelism and those who invest in it because He loves people. When we have that same love we will also be enthusiastic about sharing the gospel with others. Let Jesus put His zeal into your heart so that you receive a new passion to share your faith. There are many evangelists who have been sidetracked and are not presently doing what they should be doing. Get back to seeking and saving the lost. Get back to witnessing and preaching to unbelievers, even if it is hard going and there doesn't seem to be much response. Never, never, never give up! Don't quit. Don't be sidetracked by the things of this world. Get out there and do the hard work of evangelism.

Are you going to be a people pleaser or a God pleaser? If you are called to preach the gospel and don't do it, people will die in their sins and go to Hell. If evangelists are not enlisting, preparing, motivating, equipping and releasing members of the body of Christ, then who will? Evangelists are needed in the church, not only for preaching the gospel, but for stirring up passion, concern, focus, activity, prayer and evangelism towards the harvest. If you pressed into God you could lead someone to Jesus. Always remember that one person doing evangelism could result in millions of people being saved. Witness for Christ! Let this solemn point sink deep into your heart: If you are called to preach the gospel and don't do it, people will die in their sins and go to Hell.

ARE EVANGELISTS BEING RAISED UP IN YOUR CHURCH?

One of the big challenges evangelists face these days is finding an open door in the church to motivate the believers to do something that is boldly evangelistic. Instead of acknowledging the importance evangelists have in preparing other believers for the work of ministry, some churches allow no input from evangelists in their congregations. The evangelist's job is to stir up vision for the lost, stir up prayer for the lost and stir up missions for the lost. Sometimes this is not well received, so perseverance is needed.

Someone with the call and gift of an evangelist needs to simply go out and start winning people to Jesus and bring them into the fellowship for discipling. They should take a less mature person with them to teach and mentor. If you have been called into the ministry of an evangelist then you must yoke yourself to such activity and not be distracted. As you get more training and experience it will unlock the calling and this will lead to more opportunities. Those who are called to evangelism need to continue to increase their skills. They need to learn how to function with other churches, how to keep on fire for reaching the lost, how to develop their ministry, how to

increase their fruitfulness and how to equip others. Yes, there is a lot to learn.

The benefit of having an evangelistic church doesn't come unless church leaders work through the issues related to recognizing and releasing the evangelist. Church leaders have to give an account before God for the spiritual development of the call of God upon people's lives within our congregations (Hebrews 13:17). Churches need to take up the challenge of releasing the awesome potential in their evangelists. Find out who they are and encourage them to be trained by other evangelists. There needs to be the equipping of evangelists in leadership positions in order to mobilize the whole army of God.

Get alongside evangelists who can input into your life from their experience. Go to their meetings, listen to their sermons, see how they pray for people and minister so that you can sharpen your own skills. Evangelists should be training and releasing other evangelists. You can do this by looking for the people who have a concern for the lost. Spend time with them and you could be instrumental in encouraging and inspiring the next nation shaker for God. Ask the Lord to give you eyes to recognize fellow harvesters that you can build up and encourage.

As time goes on you can produce evangelism training materials which could be used to train evangelists around the world. Many churches are hungry for simple and effective training for their people. Evangelists who apply themselves to the perfecting and equipping of the saints for works of ministry can multiply their impact. The most important work in the world is preaching the gospel. Here are some points to consider:

1) What evangelism initiatives could you promote in your church?

2) How many people do you see in your congregation as being active or potential evangelists?

3) When was the last time you attended a seminar to do with evangelism and when will the next time be?

- 4) What evangelistic training steps could your church take in the future?
- 5) How can you equip more labourers for the mission field?

IS YOUR CHURCH SERIOUS ABOUT THE WORK OF GOD?

Ray Comfort is an evangelist who has spent a large portion of his ministry training and equipping believers how to share the gospel. Here are some of his comments: ‘Over the years, I have asked churches, “How many of you can say before God that you have witnessed verbally to more than 12 people over the past 12 months? That is, at least every 30 days or so someone who is sitting in the shadow of death has heard the Gospel of everlasting life from your lips?” I have found that only 8-12 percent raise their hands. Where is the zeal?’

‘I was horrified to find that not only did few Christians share their faith, but I found that 95%-100% of the congregations in our “Gospel outreach” services were made up of Christians. It seemed that much seed was being sown in the barn... This is called “inreach.” The Church was “preaching to the converted” (How To Win Souls And Influence People, by Ray Comfort. p5-6,27,). This is the serious issue that the church board needs to really sit down and discuss. Are we actually going to raise up churches that preach the gospel to unbelievers or are we going to be content to merely preach to ourselves?’

We don’t want the church to become like the Dead Sea, which is dead because there is no outlet for the water to flow. The world’s saltiest oceans are only 3 to 6 percent, yet the saline level of the Dead Sea is between 28 and 35 percent. Being completely landlocked, any water that flows into it is trapped, until it evaporates. Evaporation happens quickly because that portion of the world is extremely hot. When the water evaporates, the salty minerals are left behind, causing the remaining water to become more and more concentrated with salt.

We as Christians are called to be the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its saltiness then it is no longer good for anything,

except to be thrown out and trampled by men (Matthew 5:13). We cannot forget that salt has to be shaken out of the shaker. We're not to complain about the sins of the world, but rather confront the world with the gospel and bring change. When evangelism is not released from the church and there is no flow of the Spirit, we need to repent and renew our first love for Jesus. Otherwise Jesus says to us, "If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place" (Revelation 2:5).

Ministries crumble because they lose their first love for Jesus and they compromise. They become like the survivors of the Titanic who were singing songs on the lifeboats while there was still room for many who were drowning around them. The problem is that many who claim to believe don't actually believe that the unrepentant soul is utterly lost. Therefore they don't speak out to warn people and don't esteem winning souls. We should continually contemplate the fate of those around us who will soon enter either everlasting happiness or everlasting misery. If you really believe the Bible you will understand why a passion for saving souls has to be stirred up in every believer.

Concern for the lost is what moves the church to do something radical for the kingdom of God. We should weep at the sight of multitudes in the valley of decision who are passing through life unsaved, unwarned and uncared for. Apathy sets in and builds barriers to revival. Is it really worth inconveniencing ourselves and making sacrifices to save souls? If only we could comprehend the value of a soul. The words of Jesus should be kept in mind: "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-37). People are very, very precious.

Jesus was willing to exchange the shining glory of Heaven for the opportunity to come to Earth to win souls. He was willing to embrace poverty, shame, suffering and rejection all in the hope that sinners would be saved. The precious blood of Jesus makes it worthwhile attempting to save the meanest person. Rather than waiting for non-believers to come to us,

Jesus specifically commanded us to go to them (Mark 16:15). We have to take the initiative and be proactive. If we all restrict our evangelism to people we know, the Great Commission will never be fulfilled. To evangelize the whole world we need to speak to strangers. Churches that are only looking inwards and not outwards need to be lifted up to the Lord in prayer and awakened to the reality of our responsibility.

Imagine if churches actually started to make it their goal to be sure that everyone in their neighbourhood and town heard the gospel. Many churches strategically plan to evangelize no one! The supreme task of the modern day church is to take the good news to those who have not heard it. Evangelism must once again become a top priority. How is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ going to be fulfilled? It won't happen unless the whole church is equipped and mobilized for personal evangelism. One man like the apostle Paul is phenomenal, yet what we need is every believer to preach the word wherever they go so that we can have a whole army of functioning apostles, prophets and evangelists (Acts 8:4).

We need to call the whole church to seek a breakthrough in evangelism. We should set some goals for the local church because there are serious consequences for not evangelizing. If we are ashamed of Christ before men, Jesus will be ashamed of us when He comes in His glory (Luke 9:26; 12:8-9). If the local church does not outreach to their local community then God will have to look for someone else who will. We need to put strategies in place that will help us to win the battle for souls. We have to go looking for the lost and never stop actually doing evangelism.

THE URGENCY OF THE HOUR

We need to be constantly crying out to God, asking Him how this generation can be saved. What can we do in a practical way to reach people for the kingdom of God? We need to run towards our evangelistic responsibility like Philip ran to share with the Ethiopian, otherwise opportunities are lost (Acts 8:29-30). If you knew that this was the last year your

entire church had to live for the Lord and warn the lost of their impending doom, would you step up your evangelistic programme or could you in good conscience carry on just as you are?

The devil's main work is to keep people from hearing and understanding the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). His best way of achieving this is to hinder and put off Christians from proclaiming it (1 Thessalonians 2:18). One of the devil's main weapons is fear because the fear of man is a snare (Proverbs 29:25). If you let fear dominate you and dictate your actions you will not make much progress in seeking to save the lost. The devil seeks to hinder Christians from starting to evangelize and he continues to bring all kinds of pressure to cause them to stop. Evangelism is at the forefront of our spiritual battle against the kingdom of darkness.

One problem is that many who have been trained in evangelism have not persevered or kept up a regular form of outreach and have therefore lost the fire of God. We need to look for and create opportunities for ministry. A number of potential evangelists have become discouraged by their initial lack of results in comparison to all the effort they put in. Jesus says in such circumstances, "Do not be silent" (Acts 18:9). We are called to pray for open doors (Colossians 4:3) and as we continue in ministry we will receive opportunities to witness to those who are "ripe for harvest." In due time God will lead us to people who are ready to receive Christ and we will see the fruit of our labours.

In the early days of my evangelism work it didn't appear as if I was very fruitful. I was doing street evangelism all the time, having lots of good conversations and giving out a lot of gospel material, but when I invited people to come to church they wouldn't come. But ten, fifteen years later, I began to see people in churches that I had witnessed to when they didn't believe. People who were in brawls outside nightclubs were in church. People who had threatened to kill me for preaching were in church. People I had witnessed to when it was tough had received the word of God into their hearts like a small seed. It took some years to grow but in due time they were

saved. The work that God does when we preach the gospel is greater than what we can see with the natural eye.

God wants to encourage you to step out in faith and preach His word. He wants you to trust Him and believe Him. To do evangelism there are times when you have to take risks. The apostle Paul was bold and fearless when he needed to be, even though he admitted that he was not an elegant or professional speaker (2 Corinthians 11:6). Paul was not a superhuman. He had many weaknesses (1 Corinthians 2:3), yet because he feared the Lord he sought to persuade unbelievers to follow Christ (2 Corinthians 5:11). The apostle Paul understood the urgency of the hour and he knew the extreme importance of preaching God's word.

UNDERSTAND THE NEED

What factors can create an effective evangelistic church? In the churches that are reaching out you will find a leader who has a passion for reaching the lost. Leaders have the potential to mobilize or immobilize their congregation in personal evangelism. The shepherd of the flock must lead the way or designate areas of responsibility to those who can. To help mobilize the church for evangelism we ought to preach the truth concerning the utterly lost state of people outside Christ. The best way to mobilize a church for evangelistic work is to equip them to do it with training, resources and prayer, and then to set times and ways where they can actually go out and do it.

Pastors should understand the need of enlisting gifted evangelists to equip and mobilize the entire congregation for winning souls. My home country of New Zealand has a relatively small population of slightly above four million. If there were 200,000 genuine Christians sharing their faith, we could personally share the gospel with every unbeliever in this nation in twenty weeks just by sharing with one non-believer every week. This is why it is so important to train and equip every Christian to personally share their faith. In a very short time

whole nations can be evangelized if the believers are actually walking as Jesus has called us to walk.

To re-ignite the spiritual fire of any church you have to start doing evangelism again. Sad to say, many churches have no real outreach goals apart from their own in-house regular services or youth programme. The call to evangelize should always encourage the church to go deeper in prayer. Ask the Lord to speak to you about where you should be fishing for men. Many have toiled all night and caught nothing, yet one word from Jesus can make all the difference (John 21:3-6). We need the Lord to tell us where to fish. If your heart is breaking at the thought of anyone going to Hell then your cry to the Lord will lead to open doors and opportunities to share the word of God.

Teaching keys in evangelism to others through home groups is a great way of training believers. Each person can practice sharing their testimony in a home group setting and learn how to lead someone to the Lord. You can pray for one another and share advice. Practice sharing the gospel. Many believers have no confidence and skill to share the gospel with non-believers because they have not been challenged or given the opportunity to learn. If most people in church don't feel they can confidently share the gospel, how are we ever going to fulfil the Great Commission? I urge you to do what you can to see your church supplied with good evangelism resources and training. It will make a difference.

Every Bible School that is preparing pastors and ministers should impart to its students a fire for seeking and saving the lost and prepare them to train others how to be effective in evangelistic work. Have a discussion with them on this subject: "If people without Christ are headed for Hell, why aren't we doing more about getting our message out to those who are lost and warning them to be saved? Why is most of our energy, finance and time going into "in-house" church activities and not into reaching the unbelievers?" This subject can be looked at from different angles and points of view with the aim of doing something practical for the strengthening of the church and for enlarging our witness.

Due to the fact that many Christians don't know how to share their faith, on-going serious training in personal evangelism needs to be happening in every church. We need to explore, develop and promote new evangelistic strategies. How are we going to win this world for Jesus? We should be talking about this all the time. God wants Heaven to be full and His servants are commissioned to go out and call the people to come (Luke 14:23). We are partners with Jesus in making sure that everyone in the world has an opportunity to hear and understand the gospel. We have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). God is making His appeal to the lost people of the world through us. What a privilege and what a responsibility!

KEEP LEARNING AND SET GOALS TO WITNESS FOR JESUS!

If Jesus is calling you to the ministry you need to set yourself apart and get yourself prepared. To be an evangelist you get your qualifications by going out and doing the work. God can still transform whole countries, so we have to believe that He can do it through us. God can increase the harvest, but He needs workers who walk in unity with Him. We must know God in order to make Him known, yet we must also make Him known in order to walk with God and get to know Him better. Being involved in evangelistic outreach enables believers to get closer to God.

When you meet Jesus face to face, imagine your joy for having reached multitudes of people with the gospel. Even those closest to Jesus in Heaven wish they had done more to serve the Lord while on the earth. Jesus is glorified whenever an unbeliever hears the true message of salvation. Churches in parts of the world like Africa and Asia are crying out for good evangelism resources and training. We need to do what we can to supply them with this kind of training material. Do you sense that God is calling you to help mobilize the church? While the church in the West is wondering why unbelievers won't come, God is wondering why the church won't go.

Jesus is calling us to serve Him and each of us needs to think seriously about how we respond to that call. Most believers are called to be a witness for the Lord right in the midst of their secular employment, like Joseph and Daniel. Other are called into fulltime ministry, like the Levites who were set apart for fulltime service. Paul did a little bit of tent making, but most of the time he was a fulltime proclaimer of the gospel. The apostles delegated tasks so they could devote themselves to prayer and to preaching (Acts 6:2-4). We need to focus on preaching the gospel to the multitudes out of love for Christ and not be distracted by secondary things.

When it comes to evangelism we need to set goals. Churches as well as individual ministers need a clear, specific set of goals written down with a plan of achieving those goals (Habakkuk 2:2). We need to reach out for a harvest of souls beyond what anyone thought possible. Boldness of action can cause whole cities to give heed to the gospel. God is calling us to further the cause of Christ. Opportunities are taken by those who step out with faith in God. Those who risk nothing, gain nothing. Preach and pray with boldness and conviction. Develop your faith in God by believing Him and by aiming to do more to save souls than ever before. A church that has a passion for souls will search for the most effective ways to evangelize.

Are there things in your life that need to be changed so that you have time to proclaim the gospel? Is God calling you to fulltime ministry? Is God calling you to the mission field? There can be times and seasons in our lives. Maybe today is a new day for you to take another step in fulfilling the call of God upon your life. Seek the Lord about it. Get some godly advice from those who have walked intimately with the Lord. You only have one life, so live for God while you have the chance. We must remain focused on fulfilling the dream that God has placed within our hearts. See to it that you complete the work that God has given you to do, so that at the end of your life you can declare in a similar way as to the words of the apostle Paul:

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing' (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

**COMPLETE THE WORK THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU
AND YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT!**

CONCLUSION

'My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins' (James 5:19-20).

GOD BLESS THOSE WHO STEP OUT IN FAITH TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

Thank you for taking the time to study this evangelism course for reaching out to the lost. If one more soul enters the kingdom of God then it is worth the sacrifice of your time and energy. If a backslider (a person who once knew the Lord but has fallen away) is restored then we can rejoice that they have been saved from the second death. People need daily spiritual food and we need to give it to those who are lost and perishing if we are to change their thinking and save them. Too often we as Christians are just pew warmers, coming to church and sitting there week after week, yet not going out to preach the gospel. We need to be provoked to action because we have a tremendous responsibility to preach the salvation message faithfully.

Go over this booklet a few times if you need to and think how to incorporate some of these evangelistic principles into your own life and witness. You haven't learnt something sufficiently until you can teach it to someone else. The time to take action in reaching people with the gospel is now. Millions of lost people could come into God's kingdom if we followed the example of Christ and gave our lives to seek and to save the lost. Millions of people could be in painful torment forever if we don't do what God commands of us. Let the things that matter the most concern you most. Increase your zeal for the kingdom of God. Find a lost sinner (you don't have to go far) and practice sharing the gospel with him or her.

Remember to keep the fate of those without Christ before your mind as you pray about what God wants you to do. If you

really believe that people without Christ are perishing, nothing on earth would matter to you so much as doing God's bidding to rescue lost souls and to snatch people from the flames. The spiritual blindness of those without Christ reinforces our need to walk in God's light. Once again we need a passion to make the gospel of the risen Christ known to the whole world. Our responsibility is similar to that of Noah – to warn of the approaching judgment and to point to the way of escape. Millions wait to hear of Jesus and only a few arise to tell them. Equipping Christians for evangelism is a necessity of the church.

We must call believers to commit themselves to a lifetime in the service of God as missionaries and evangelists. The early missionaries lived and laboured with a sense of urgency. Amy Carmichael had a dream of souls pouring over a precipice while the Christians who were quite unconcerned made daisy chains nearby. Hudson Taylor groaned and agonized in prayer because he knew that a million a month in China were passing to a Christless eternity (today that figure is far higher). Samuel Zwemer, a missionary to Muslims, said: "It is now or never in reaching men with the Gospel. We pass this way only once. Every hour we stand at the crossroads."

Today you stand at a crossroads. If Jesus matters more to you than anything else, what difference does it make that there are tens of thousands and even millions of people who still do not know Him? Many Christians don't love Jesus enough to make any major sacrifice for the gospel. The church cannot sleep while the world is drowning. We need to urge believers to lay aside every weight that is hindering them from serving the Lord. Lukewarm Christians don't care much about the salvation of the lost because they are hardly saved themselves. Being a Christian is all about letting Jesus transform you into His image and make you into a soul winner – a fisher of men (Luke 5:4-11).

William Carey, missionary to India, said that "if it be the duty of all men to believe the Gospel... then it be the duty of those who are entrusted with the Gospel to endeavor to make it known among all nations." He influenced a hesitating church to

take steps for the evangelizing of the world. Many who are called to the ministry just need some extra encouragement to enter wholly into evangelistic work. The person with the ministry gift of an evangelist should be training church members to get out and personally win people to Jesus Christ. What we need is zealous missionaries going into the nations of the world with evangelism as their priority.

Too often there is no spiritual fire and no urgency to achieve things for God, yet the Lord is earnestly searching for skillful workers to send into His harvest field (Isaiah 6:8). Look at congregations in the churches throughout the land and you will see people who could work for Him far more than they ever do. There are more than enough Christians in the world who could evangelize large areas if only they were awakened to do it. Potential workers do little beyond faithfully attending meetings that have been arranged for them, while doing very little to increase their skills in evangelism. This has to change and I hope that your thinking is already being transformed into that of a soul-winner.

Churches need to go all-out in soul winning by using all available means and resources. We need to turn cold and formal churches into soul winning agencies. We need to raise up the world's greatest soul winners and those who are sold out for Christ. You probably know as much about the call of God as I do. You shouldn't need more arguments to convince you of that call. Arguments are not what you need. What you need to do is go to your room, get down on your knees, and stay there until you get direction from the Lord so that your heart is set on doing what God has commanded you. Let the salvation of souls become the burden of your heart. Consecrate your life anew to the Lord for the task of preaching the gospel.

Now that we are nearing the end of this book, I hope that you are filled with the fire of God for the salvation of the lost and that you are going to share the gospel more effectively and put what you have learnt into practice. I hope that this has challenged you to do something to raise up the needed

workers for the neglected harvest fields of the world today. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, you can receive boldness to share your faith. We all need to pray that God will lay His hand upon us and give us a clear commission to go forth for Him. It is our duty to respond to mankind's need and Christ's command.

Thank you for taking the time to learn how to save souls and win this world for Jesus. God will always be with you as you take the gospel to this lost and dying world. What we do for Christ has tremendous eternal impact. God saves those who believe His word and He uses those who believe to save others. Are you a believer? Have you been challenged to let God send you? Are you willing to pray the following prayer? Please pray:

“Lord, what can I do today to spread the gospel throughout the world?”

GOD WILL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO!

APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1) Are you a strong or a weak Christian?
- 2) As a believer do you feel that you have a moral responsibility to share the gospel with others?
- 3) Do you pray for the salvation of your unsaved friends, relatives or neighbours?
- 4) How important do you consider the work of witnessing and evangelism?
- 5) Do you share your faith regularly?
- 6) Have you shared your faith with family members or relatives?
- 7) Do you find it easy to share your faith with your neighbours?
- 8) Do you go out of your way to share God's word with strangers?
- 9) What is the biggest reason you don't share your faith more often?
- 10) Do you feel well-equipped to share your faith, or do you need more training?
- 11) What is your attitude towards those who don't know the Lord Jesus? Do you care or do you not even think about their eternal destiny?

12) Are you concerned that the lost will be punished for their sins?

13) Who do you know that is living an extremely sinful life and is in danger of being cast into the lake of fire? Do you have any desire to see them saved?

14) Do you think that every Christian has a moral responsibility to reach out to the lost?

15) Who are the people whose salvation you are most concerned about? What are you doing about it?

16) Who do you know in your family, at school, or at work who isn't saved? What are you doing to reach them?

17) Have you had any discouraging experiences when attempting to share your faith?

18) How does it make you feel when you fail to witness to someone when you know that you should?

19) Do you think that well-written gospel tracts can help you to share your faith? If so, do you use them? If not, why not?

20) Do you believe that the power of the Holy Spirit is with you when you witness for Christ?

21) Do you believe that miracles can happen today through your witnessing?

22) Are you willing for God to call you as a missionary or an evangelist?

Maybe Jesus will ask us some of these questions on the Day of Judgment. It is better to be challenged now, so that we can be prepared to serve God better.

APPENDIX 2

THE LOST CONDITION OF MAN

The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation and that anyone outside Christ is in danger of being eternally lost. As Christians we should contemplate the passages of Scripture that show the condition of lost sinners. Take some time to sit and think about what you are reading. Then think about those whom you love who don't know the Lord. Think about your family, friends, relatives, neighbours, community, nation and the nations of this world. Let your heart be burdened for the salvation of souls.

1) On The Wrong Path – ‘Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it’ (Matthew 7:13-14).

2) Spiritually Bankrupt – “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God” (Luke 12:20-21).

3) Condemned Already – ‘Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son’ (John 3:18).

4) Under God’s Wrath – ‘Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him’ (John 3:36).

5) In Need Of Hearing The Gospel – ‘...for “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:13-15)

6) Blinded By The Devil – ‘And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God’ (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

7) Dead In Sin – ‘As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath’ (Ephesians 2:1-3).

8) Without Hope And Without God – ‘Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (that done in the body by the hands of men) – remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world’ (Ephesians 2:11-12).

9) Earthly Minded – ‘For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things’ (Philippians 3:18-19).

10) Very Hard For The Ungodly To Be Saved – ‘For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” (1 Peter 4:17-18)

Are those who don't believe in Jesus lost? Yes, they are, and it is our responsibility to take the gospel to them. People are perishing. We have an obligation to keep warning them to be saved. Christians need to let the reality of this sink into their hearts and minds so they pray and intercede for God's mercy, give financially towards missions and evangelism, and go into the whole world and preach the good news of Christ's redeeming death and resurrection to all people. Without Jesus there is no hope.

THE LOST ARE EXTREMELY LOST!

APPENDIX 3

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO ENTER GOD'S KINGDOM

TAKEN FROM THE WORDS OF JESUS

1) Walk In Righteousness – ‘For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven’ (Matthew 5:20).

2) Humble Yourself And Change – ‘And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3).

3) Forgive Others From Your Heart – ‘In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart’ (Matthew 18:34-35).

4) Be Ready For The Return Of Christ – ‘So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him’ (Matthew 24:44).

5) Turn Away From Your Sins – Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish” (Luke 13:2-5).

6) Receive Spiritual New Birth – ‘In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again... You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again’” (John 3:3,7).

7) Partake Of Christ – Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:53-54).

8) Acknowledge The Divinity Of Christ – ‘I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins’ (John 8:24).

9) Believe In The True And Only Way To God – ‘Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

10) Follow Jesus – Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me” (John 21:22).

**YOU MUST FOLLOW JESUS IN ORDER TO ENTER
GOD’S KINGDOM**

APPENDIX 4

ARE YOU A GOOD PERSON?

(TRACT VERSION)

'Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right' (Proverbs 20:11).

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1) DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A GOOD PERSON?

If you consider yourself to be a good person then please explain what makes you think that you are good. If you consider yourself to be bad then what makes you feel that way?

2) DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE KEPT GOD'S COMMANDMENTS?

Examine your own heart and judge yourself as we go through the Ten Commandments. They are the standard of God's goodness:

Have you ever told a lie? How many lies does it take to become a liar? Most people are unwilling to admit that they are a liar, but it only takes one lie to be a liar.

Have you ever stolen something and taken that which did not belong to you? If you have taken something wrongly then you are a thief. Do you realize that when you steal you have sinned against God?

Have you ever looked at someone with lust? Lust is simply pornography of the mind and Jesus said that this makes you an adulterer in heart (Matthew 5:27-28). Marriage was created by God and the marriage bed must be kept holy. Faithfulness is a godly virtue.

Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain or casually used God's name to express anger? This makes you a blasphemer in heart. You cannot dishonour God's name and call yourself a good person.

Have you ever hated someone? This makes you a murderer in heart. We cannot expect God to forgive us of our sins if we are unwilling to forgive other people. Is there someone you need to forgive?

Have you always honoured your parents and treated them in a way that is pleasing to the Lord? Are you having good communication with your parents and do you have a right attitude towards them?

Have you jealously wanted something that did not belong to you? Are you driven by selfish ambition and greed?

Have you always put God first in your life? God our Creator commands that we have no other gods before Him and that we live for Him. Do you glorify God by the way you live your life?

Have you ever made an idol, a god to suit yourself? Have you made money into your idol? Do you love money more than your own life? Many have destroyed themselves in the pursuit of money because it is their idol. Man-made gods are not gods at all.

Have you honoured God by setting aside the Lord's Day to rest from work, so that you have time to worship and learn more about Him? A main reason why people are lost in

their sins is because they don't want to live for God. They want to live only for themselves.

3) WHEN GOD JUDGES YOU BY HIS COMMANDMENTS ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT, WILL YOU BE INNOCENT OR GUILTY?

Do you feel that you are accountable to God for your sins? How would it make you feel if the whole world were to see your every sin openly displayed? Would you be embarrassed and ashamed? How will you stand before God?

The Bible says that the law of God is perfect (Psalm 19:7). If you have broken God's commandments in just one area then you have fallen short of God's perfection and holiness. It therefore only takes one sin to become a lost sinner. Most people do not realize how much they are going to be held accountable for. Man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

4) WILL YOU GO TO HEAVEN OR TO HELL?

If you admit that you would go to Hell in some kind of joking way, do you know what Hell is like? Hell is a place of punishment for sin, worse than any prison that can be found on this earth. It is an eternal punishment; no chance of escape. Jesus spoke of it as being a place of tormenting fire (Matthew 25:41,46; Mark 9:42-48).

If you admit that you have sinned and are guilty before God, do you think that God would let you into Heaven no matter what you do? A judge would be guilty of injustice if he did not sentence a persistent criminal. When a person says they don't believe in Hell, it is like trying to say to the judge that you don't believe in prisons.

5) ARE YOU WILLING TO REPENT OF YOUR SINS AND BE SAVED?

The law of God shows us that we have sinned. The Day of Judgment shows us that we are held accountable for that sin. The reality of Heaven and Hell shows us that we can either be saved or lost forever. Do you know how to obtain peace with God and the assurance of eternal life?

Salvation is all about having a Saviour. Only Jesus can wash away your sins and make you clean and pure in the sight of God. For that reason He came from Heaven to earth to die for you. On the third day He rose from the dead in order to conquer the effects of sin.

To enter the kingdom of God you have to be convicted, humbled and broken because of your sins. Then you have to look up and see that Jesus Christ carried your sins to the cross. We broke the law but Jesus paid the fine. Faith in Jesus allows God to wipe away your sins so that on the Day of Judgment when your court case comes up before God, He can say that your case is dismissed through lack of evidence.

Jesus is the only one who could be the sacrifice that would fulfil the demands of eternal justice. It is due to God's infinite love and mercy that He has made the way of salvation possible. I know that God longs for people to be saved, but He won't save you unless you choose to follow Him.

Do what the Bible says you need to do for salvation – replace sin with righteousness and put your trust in Jesus Christ today. Would you like to make peace with God and receive eternal life right now?

'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8).

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9).

Please realize that if you haven't surrendered your heart to Almighty God, you are not a good person.

DO YOU RECEIVE OR REJECT GOD'S LOVE?

**I have decided to follow Jesus
all the days of my life!**

Yes

No

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever (your name) _____ believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Date of birthday into God's family: _____
(The day you accepted Jesus as your Saviour)

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

APPENDIX 5

ARE YOU SAVED?

(TRACT VERSION)

“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul” (Mark 8:36-37).

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING SAVED AND BEING LOST

What does it mean to save someone or even to save yourself? The word “save” can mean to bail someone out, come to someone’s rescue, deliver, free, liberate, recover, redeem, salvage, guard, keep safe, look after, preserve, protect, safeguard, shield, take care of, etc.

In referring to the salvation of one’s soul we are referring to the promise of God to believers that they are granted the gift of eternal life. The goal or end result of the Christian faith is to receive the salvation of your soul (1 Peter 1:9). There are many other things as well, but your salvation is of prime concern and importance.

The opposite of being saved is being lost. The word “lost” can mean that you are adrift, astray, off-course, off-track, clueless, confused, helpless, ignorant, destroyed, perishing, ruined, wasted, wrecked, misdirected, squandered, corrupt, damned, fallen, etc. Unfortunately people can do this to their own lives and to their very inner being. People destroy themselves by their own lifestyle and by remaining in spiritual darkness.

ARE YOU AWARE OF THE DANGER OF LOSING YOUR SOUL?

The problem is that most people don't realize the seriousness or the extreme danger of losing their own soul, which is their very self (Luke 9:25). The warning about forfeiting or throwing away your own soul comes from the lips of the One who came to save us, Jesus Christ. People often hold their material possessions and worldly wealth in higher esteem to that which is most important. They ignore and forget their very own eternal salvation. Jesus therefore gave repeated warnings of mankind's danger.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

In this world there is a Highway to Hell and a Stairway to Heaven. One is wide and the other is narrow. Which path are you on? Mankind needs to be warned of the broad road that leads to destruction because the majority of people travel through life like those who are blind walking to the edge of a cliff. Little do they realize how close they are to the edge of eternity.

SAVE YOURSELF

“With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation” (Acts 2:40).

The apostle Peter pleaded with the people to be saved. What we need to understand is the corruption of the world, the corruption of our own hearts and of those who have influenced us to remain ignorant of the deeper truths of God. Then we need to understand how we can save ourselves.

There is a sense in which we cannot save ourselves at all and a sense in which we can. We cannot save ourselves by trying to be good or by thinking that our good deeds will somehow outweigh our bad deeds. We have to come to God

on His terms and not our own. Yet by submitting to God's requirements for salvation we do in fact save ourselves. We urgently need to know what God's requirements for salvation really are, rather than mere religious traditions of men.

We need to be saved from the corruption found within our own hearts. The heart of man is deceitfully wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Out of the heart of man come the things that make us unclean. To be saved you have to wash evil from your heart and refuse to hold onto wicked thoughts (Jeremiah 4:14). Check your own inner being and see if you are allowing these evil things to come from within you:

“For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'” (Mark 7:21-23).

To have a good and productive garden you need to keep removing the weeds. If you allow evil to grow within you it will choke out that which could produce good fruit. The fruit of God's Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). These are the godly characteristics which God is looking for. The nature of Christ must be developed within our hearts. You have the choice between good or evil – things that make you unclean or the fruit of righteousness.

There are many people who believe in God but sad to say, they are not at all close to Him because they are not listening to His voice (John 10:27). They believe but don't obey. Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-46). The difference between the two is that the sheep listen to Jesus' voice and obey Him while the goats do their own thing. Okay, you may believe in Jesus but do you obey Him? Is Jesus the Shepherd of your soul? Are you one of His sheep? Are you a true Christian?

THE WAY TO BE SAVED

Jesus Christ is the righteousness of God. Jesus lived without sin and because He was faultless He could lay down His life and die for the sins of the world. When mankind first turned away from God and sinned it brought death to this world. In order to save us Jesus had to therefore die for our sins and rise from the dead. The death and resurrection of Christ is what grants eternal life to those who believe and then obey the gospel. Jesus is alive and you can know Him personally. Open your heart to Him so that your heart can be filled with God's presence.

‘That 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’ (Romans 10:9).

*‘I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith**. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God’ (Ephesians 3:16-19).*

I know that God longs for people to be saved, but He won't save you unless you choose to follow Him. Do what the Bible says you need to do for salvation – replace sin with righteousness and put your trust in Jesus Christ today. Open your heart to the Lord and let Him fill your heart with God's love. Would you like to make peace with God and receive eternal life right now?

‘God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us’ (Romans 5:8).

‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9).

Please realize that if you haven't surrendered your heart to Almighty God, you are not saved. You are a lost soul and your

only hope of salvation is to acknowledge this and then open your heart to the love of God and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord, Saviour, Master and King. Jesus calls out to each of us:

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:20).

DO YOU RECEIVE OR REJECT GOD’S LOVE?

**I have decided to follow Jesus
all the days of my life!**

Yes

No

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever (your name) _____ believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Date of birthday into God’s family: _____
(The day you accepted Jesus as your Saviour)

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you are born of God’s Spirit (John 1:12-13; 3:1-21; 1 Peter 1:23-2:3). The old life is gone and you enter the new life (2 Corinthians 5:17).

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Matthew Needham is an international evangelist called by God at the age of 16 to begin an evangelistic ministry. He stepped out by faith in 1991 to travel through his home country of New Zealand, witnessing on the streets and working through whichever churches gave him opportunity.

After six years of doing street evangelism he went on his first overseas missions trip to Fiji in 1997, but returned home feeling unprepared. A call to the mission field came a second time in 1999, which led him into evangelism among Muslims in Africa. The third time the Lord called him to leave everything and go at once was in 2003 to preach the gospel to the Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists of India and Nepal.

His testimony booklets have been translated into many languages and over 220,000 copies were given out in street witnessing to share the gospel with those who have never heard the good news of salvation. Thousands of copies of his books have also been distributed to reach unbelievers and to strengthen the church in the work that Christ has given us to do.

In 2009 Matthew went on his first and second mission to Pakistan. Then he had some time in Nigeria and Kenya in 2010. While in Kenya miracles of healing and deliverance took place to confirm the preaching of the gospel.

Matthew's passion is to reveal the glory of the Lord Jesus to those who are living in spiritual darkness and to press ahead to reach the fullness of Christ for the ministry of the evangelist. This is an evangelistic, literature, crusade ministry, doing large and small outreach meetings, leader's seminars, Bible College teaching and constant street evangelism and witnessing. His love for the Lord and for the salvation of lost souls is bringing many into the kingdom of God.

BOOKS BY MATTHEW G. NEEDHAM

Make Sure Of Your Salvation (2007)

The Awesome Magnificence Of Jesus Christ (2009)

Walking In God's Power (2010)

The Church That Might Save The World (2010)

How The Devil Destroyed The Youth Group (2010)

Muslims Touched By The Love Of Jesus (2010)

What Should I Do For Jesus? (2011)

The End Of The World (2011)