

I Want to Be a Soul Winner



by

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“A Soul Winner for Jesus”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Verses one and two of this song says: “I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day, He does so much for me; I want to aid the lost sinner to leave his erring way, And be from bondage free. I want to be a soul winner and bring the lost to Christ, That they His grace may know; I want to live for Christ ever, and do His blessed will, Because He loves me so.”
- B. This thought gets to the very **heart** of personal evangelism.
 - 1. Without creating in one that desire (“I want to be”) the “soul winner for Jesus” will never be.
 - 2. Thus, before we discuss methods or programs we need to talk about the heart that is needed for one to be effective in teaching the lost.

I. A SPIRIT OF LOVE.

- A. Love for others.
 - 1. Because of his love for others, a man will do extraordinary things to save others.
 - a. Why would a man run into a burning building to save a child?
 - b. Why do men go off to fight in wars?
 - 2. How do you know the following individuals had a love for people who were lost?
 - a. Moses (Ex. 32:30-32).
 - b. David (Psa. 119:136).
 - c. Jeremiah (Jer. 9:1).
 - d. Paul (Rom. 9:1-5).
 - 3. I am to love my neighbor as myself (Rom. 13:8-10).
 - a. The question then becomes “Do I want to be saved?”
 - b. If I want to be saved and I love my neighbor as myself what will I do for my neighbor?
- B. Love for God.
 - 1. If we truly love God, what will we do (1 Jno. 5:3)?
 - 2. If we truly love God and Christ we will seek to imitate them (cf. Jno. 3:16; Rom. 5:6-8).

II. A SPIRIT OF MERCY.

- A. How important is mercy (Matt. 23:23)?
- B. How is Stephen an example of one who was merciful (Ac. 7:60)?
- C. What is the promise to the merciful (Matt. 5:7)?

III. A SPIRIT OF DEBT.

- A. To whom was Paul indebted (Rom. 1:14-15)?
- B. What obligation did the famished lepers feel once they found the bounty of the deserted Syrian camp (2 Kgs. 7:9)?

IV. A SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE.

- A. What type of sacrifice do we make to God today (Rom. 12:1-2)?
- B. What are some things we may have to give up to be an effective soul winner?

V. A SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE.

- A. Confident of God's help.
 - 1. What promise is connected with the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20)?
 - 2. How did God encourage Paul in his labors at Corinth (Ac. 18:9-10)?
- B. Confident of God's reaping.
 - 1. What promise did God make through Isaiah concerning His word (Isa. 55:10-11)?
 - 2. What assurance comes from the Psalmist (Psa. 126:5-6)?
 - 3. What reason is given for us to be "always abounding in the work of the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58)?

VI. A SPIRIT OF PATIENCE.

- A. Why would Paul encourage Timothy to be patient (2 Tim. 2:24-25)?
- B. What lesson can we learn from the farmer (Jas. 5:7-8)?

VII. A SPIRIT OF FEAR.

- A. "We must go to the world or go to hell. It is still 'go' (Mark. 16:15) or 'woe' (1 Cor. 9:16). We've got either to reach out or fade out." Wendell Winkler, "Leading Wise Men to the Savior," *Gospel Advocate*: May 25, 1967, p. 332.
- B. How did Paul connect fear and evangelism in 2 Cor. 5:9-11?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Why is it important that the heart be properly prepared before we engage in anything (Prov. 23:7)?

- B. Can you truly sing, "I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day?"

“Into Our Hands”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Notice especially verses two and three of this song: “Millions are groping without the gospel, Quickly they’ll reach eternity’s night; Shall we sit idly as they rush onward? Haste, let us hold up Christ the true light. Souls that are precious, souls that are dying, While we rejoice our sins are forgiv’n; Did He not also die for these lost ones? Then let us point the way unto heav’n.”
- B. People are dying about us each day unprepared for eternity.
 - 1. What are we doing to prepare these people?
 - 2. Indeed, why do we need to be soul winners?

I. BECAUSE OF THE WORTH OF MAN.

- A. Psa. 8 describes the glory of man.
- B. How did Jesus show the importance of man in Matt. 12:9-12?
- C. How did Paul show the importance of man to the Athenians (Ac. 17:28)?

II. BECAUSE OF THE IMMORTALITY OF THE SOUL.

- A. We live in an age of disposables.
 - 1. Razors.
 - 2. Diapers.
 - 3. Bottles.
- B. Things that are lasting are of greater value.
 - 1. How long will the soul of man last (Lk. 20:37-38; 2 Cor. 5:1-8)?
 - 2. Of what value does that place on the soul (Matt. 16:26)?

III. BECAUSE OF THE WAGES OF SIN.

- A. “For the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23a). From the following passages describe what is in store for the sinner.
 - 1. Matt. 25:41,46.
 - 2. Mk. 9:43-48.
 - 3. Rom. 2:5-11.

4. 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

5. Rev. 14:9-11.

B. God has provided both the means (Jno. 3:16) and the message (Rom. 1:16) for the deliverance of every precious soul.

C. We are left to bring the two together.

IV. BECAUSE OUR SALVATION DEPENDS ON IT.

A. Timothy's faithfulness would result in whose salvation (1 Tim. 4:16)?

B. How do the following passages show our duty in evangelism?

1. Matt. 28:19-20.

2. Ac. 8:4.

3. 2 Tim. 2:2.

4. 1 Pet. 3:15.

C. Can we expect to find favor from God with the blood of innocent men on our hands (Ezek. 3:16-21; Ac. 20:26-27)?

V. BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER HOPE FOR A DYING WORLD.

A. What is the condition of the world without Christ (Eph. 2:12)?

B. Is there any other place where they can turn (Jno. 14:6; Ac. 4:12)?

CONCLUSION:

A. Yes, "Into our hands the gospel is given, Into our hands is given the light, Haste, let us carry God's precious message, Guiding the erring back to the right."

B. Can we not fill this city with His doctrine (Ac. 5:28)?

“O to Be Like Thee!”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Verse two of this song declares: “O to be like Thee! full of compassion, Loving, forgiving, tender and kind, Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, Seeking the wand’ring sinner to find.”
- B. While Jesus is our example in many other areas (cf. 1 Pet. 2:21), surely He is a noteworthy example when it comes to teaching others.
- C. He had the:

I. COMPASSIONATE HEART OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. How do the following passages show the compassion of Jesus for the lost?
 - 1. Matt. 9:36.
 - 2. Mk. 10:21.
 - 3. Lk. 19:41.
- B. Surely, His compassion can be seen in His supreme sacrifice (Jno. 15:13).
- C. We have got to learn to see the true condition of the sinner, and we can not help but be compassionate.

II. GOING FEET OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. The proper heart will act and so it was with Jesus.
- B. Notice where Jesus’ fee took Him.
 - 1. Jno. 4:4.
 - 2. Lk. 4:16,44.
 - 3. Lk. 5:29-32.
 - 4. Matt. 5:1-2.
 - 5. Lk. 8:1.
 - 6. Lk. 19:1-10.
- C. “Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding” (Matt. 22:9).

III. GIVING HANDS OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. What did Jesus give up to come to this earth (Phil. 2:5-8)?
- B. What were some things He gave up while He was here (Matt. 8:20)?
- C. Our sacrifices are meager when compared to His.

IV. SPEAKING TONGUE OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. He spoke what was needed. How did He tell the following what they need to hear?
 - 1. Nicodemus (Jno. 3:1-5).
 - 2. The Samaritan woman (Jno. 4:17-18).
 - 3. The scribes and Pharisees (Jno. 8:3-11).
 - 4. Peter (Matt. 16:21-23).
- B. May we also have a willing tongue to speak what is needed when it is needed and in the way which it is needed.

V. ALERT EYES OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. Jesus was always alert to see opportunities.
 - 1. How did Jesus turn the conversation at the well into an opportunity to discuss spiritual matters (Jno. 4:7-14)?
 - 2. What did Jesus place before saving the lost (Lk. 19:10)?
- B. Before we will be moved to compassion for the lost what must we do (Matt. 9:36)?

VI. LISTENING EAR TO THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. Even though Jesus knew the hearts of people (cf. Lk. 9:47), He was willing to still take time to listen to people. How is this thought illustrated in the following verses?
 - 1. Lk. 18:35-43.
 - 2. Lk. 10:25-29.
 - 3. Lk. 20:20-26.
- B. Are our ears attuned to the crying needs of those about us?

VII. PERSISTENT WILL OF THE SOUL WINNER.

- A. Jesus never gave up after just one try.

1. How is the persistence of Jesus seen in His dealing with the city of Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37)?
 2. How is Jesus' persistence seen in His dealings with Peter (Lk. 22:31-34)?
 3. How is Jesus' persistence seen in not being sidetracked in His conversation with the Samaritan woman (Jno. 4:11-12,17,19-20,25)?
- B. If God is longsuffering and persistent with us (2 Pet. 3:9), let us also be with our fellow man.

CONCLUSION:

- A. "O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art; Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness; Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart."
- B. We have a great example to follow; how do we measure up?

“You Never Mentioned Him to Me”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The sobering thought of verse one of this song says, “When in the better land before the bar we stand, How deeply grieved our souls may be; If any lost one there should cry in deep despair, ‘You never mentioned Him to me.’”
- B. We know we should be evangelistic, but we often do not get the job done.
 - 1. Why?
 - 2. Do we get in the habit of making excuses for ourselves (cf. Lk. 14:15-24)?
 - 3. Have you ever used one of the following as an excuse?

I. “I JUST CAN’T DO IT.”

- A. Does God demand the impossible (1 Jno. 5:3)?

- B. How would you answer this excuse?

II. “I DON’T KNOW HOW TO DO IT.”

- A. Did that keep you from:
 - 1. Cooking?
 - 2. Driving a car?
 - 3. Engaging in some sporting event?
- B. From the following verses tell what we have to help us to learn how?
 - 1. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

 - 2. Eph. 4:11-12.
- C. How would you answer this excuse?

III. “PEOPLE OF OUR DAY DON’T WANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE.”

- A. Says who?
- B. Would you have considered Saul of Tarsus a worthy prospect (1 Tim. 1:12-13)?

- C. How would you answer this excuse?

IV. “I JUST DON’T HAVE ENOUGH TIME.”

- A. Do we have time to:

1. Watch TV?
 2. Engage in some recreational activity?
 3. Pursue a hobby?
- B. What is to have priority in our lives (Matt. 6:33)?
- C. How would you answer this excuse?

V. "I'M AFRAID."

- A. Of failure.
1. Tell why the following people did not fail in their efforts to teach others even though it may have appeared so on the surface.
 - a. Noah (2 Pet. 2:5).
 - b. Lot (Gen. 19:14).
 - c. Stephen (Ac. 7:51-60).
 2. How would you answer this excuse?
- B. Of hurting another's feelings.
1. Why were the following not bothered by this problem?
 - a. Jesus (Matt. 15:12; 19:22).
 - b. Peter (Ac. 2:36-38).
 2. How would you answer this excuse?

VI. "I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE BIBLE."

- A. How much did you know to become a Christian?
- B. How was this a problem of the Hebrew Christians and what was the cure (Heb. 5:12-6:3)?
- C. How would you answer this excuse?

VII. "I JUST DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT KIND OF PERSONALITY FOR THAT KIND OF WORK."

- A. What saves (Rom. 1:16)?
- B. Is it possible for one to change his personality? Why or why not?

C. How would you answer this excuse?

VIII. "I TRIED IT AND IT DIDN'T GET ANYWHERE."

A. How will heeding Paul's advice in Gal. 6:9 help in this matter?

B. What lessons can we learn from the parable of the sower to help us overcome this problem (Lk. 8:5-15)?

C. What reward came from Peter's persistence (Ac. 2:40-41)?

D. How would you answer this excuse?

CONCLUSION:

A. Let's do away with excuse-making and "maintain good works" (Tit. 3:8).

B. May we never hear the words, "You never mentioned Him to me, You helped me not the light to see; You met me day by day and knew I was astray, Yet never mentioned Him to me."

“I Am Praying for You”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Surely every soul winner will be singing, “For you I am praying, For you I am praying, For you I am praying, I’m praying for you.”
- B. This thought mentions one of the “tools” that the soul winner will use in his work.
- C. In this lesson we will notice some of the equipment of the soul winner beginning with...

I. PRAYER.

- A. From a study of the verses below what are some things for which the soul winner will be praying?
 - 1. Col. 4:2-3.
 - 2. Rom. 10:1.
 - 3. Jas. 1:5.
 - 4. Ac. 4:29.
 - 5. Lk. 17:5.
- B. What assurance is given in the following verses regarding our prayers?
 - 1. Matt. 21:22.
 - 2. Jno. 14:13-14.
 - 3. 1 Jno. 5:14-15.

II. THE GOSPEL.

- A. What connection is made in the following verses between the word of God and the work of the soul winner?
 - 1. Lk. 8:11.
 - 2. Jno. 8:32.
 - 3. Ac. 20:32.
 - 4. Rom. 1:16.

5. Rom. 10:17.

6. Jas. 1:21.

B. No substitutes will take the place of the gospel (cf. Jno. 6:26-27).

C. Because of the connection between the gospel and salvation what does the soul winner need to be doing (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18)?

III. PROSPECTS.

A. How will the soul winner find his prospects (Jno. 4:35)?

B. What two main categories will serve as prospects?

1. Eph. 2:12.

2. Gal. 6:1; Jas. 5:19-20.

IV. WISDOM.

A. Explain Jesus statement in Matt. 10:16.

B. How does Paul connect wisdom and our speech (Col. 4:5-6)?

C. Why is wisdom needed in soul winning?

V. INFLUENTIAL LIFE.

A. The Christian is to be a light (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15-16). How does that help in his work of soul winning?

B. How does Peter illustrate the importance of an influential life (1 Pet. 3:1-2)?

C. What is the result of one who does not practice what he preaches (Rom. 2:21-24)?

CONCLUSION:

A. "When Christ has found you, tell others the story, That my loving Savior is your Savior too; Then pray that your Savior may bring them to glory, And pray'r will be answered—twas answered for you!"

B. Certainly with all the good equipment available to us there is no room for deception in our efforts. "Any personal work course or approach that is based on tactics of how to be evasive or unethical principles is doomed. God will not bless such efforts. The apostle Paul made it clear that we must provide things that are honest before all men (Cf. Romans 12:17). Jesus never tried to set up a Bible study or conduct a Bible study by

subterfuge. The biblical approach is to let your yes be yes and your no be no (Cf. James 5:12). 'Speaking the truth in love' is the major guideline in all personal work (Cf. Ephesians 4:15). The gospel is a message of confrontation. It demands that a person 'deny himself and take up his cross and follow Christ.' (Matthew 16:24). There is no middle ground. Sin is the problem and repentance is what is demanded. (Cf. Luke 13:3)" J.J. Turner, "Ethics and Personal Work," *Gospel Advocate* (Vol. 122, No. 17): Sept. 4, 1980, p. 557.

- C. How well equipped are you?

“Scattering Precious Seed”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Note verse two especially of this song: “Scattering precious seed for the growing, Scattering precious see, freely sowing; Scattering precious see, trusting, knowing, Surely the Lord will send it the rain.”
- B. A study of the work of the early Christians show a variety of methods used in preaching the gospel.
 - 1. Different size audiences.
 - a. Thousands (Ac. 2:5,41).
 - b. Smaller groups (Ac. 10:24).
 - c. One (Ac. 8:35).
 - 2. Different approaches in their speech.
 - a. Paul to the Jews (Ac. 13:16-47).
 - b. Paul to the Greeks (Ac. 17:22-31).
 - 3. Different styles.
 - a. Parables (Lk. 8:4).
 - b. Straight forward (Lk. 13:3).
- C. Many different types of methods have effectively been used.
 - 1. Let’s be open to try any and all scriptural methods to scatter the “precious seed.”
 - 2. In this lesson we will limit ourselves to just ten of the methods that can be used by individuals.

I. INVITATION TO CHURCH SERVICES.

- A. Sometimes we overlook the simple, but many have obeyed the truth because someone invited them to attend.
- B. Besides the regular weekly services, many special opportunities can be arranged for visitors.
 - 1. Gospel meetings.
 - 2. Vacation Bible schools.
 - 3. Special classes.
 - 4. One preacher set aside one Sunday evening a month to have a lesson devoted to first principles so the members could invite their friends and neighbors.
- C. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

II. TRACTS.

- A. Tracts do little good left in a tract rack.

- B. Ways to use tracts.
 1. Give to friends, fellow-workers, etc.
 2. Distribute in neighborhood.
 3. Have a good selection to be able to give to individuals who ask you a religious question.
 4. Leave in hospitals, doctor's offices. etc.
- C. Can you related information about someone converted from such an effort?

III. BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.

- A. Ways to use.
 1. Enroll yourself, and then tell your friends about it.
 2. Distribute the first lesson in your neighborhood.
- B. Some ways to advertise it.
 1. Newspaper ads.
 2. Radio or television spots.
 3. Business cards.
 4. Door hangers.
- C. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

IV. HOME BIBLE READINGS.

- A. Select a book of the Bible and invite friends or neighbors to a weekly reading of a couple of chapters.
 1. Comments are kept short.
 2. Any one is able to participate.
 3. Stirs an interest in the Word itself.
- B. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

V. HOME BIBLE STUDIES.

- A. An invitation either in your home or someone else's.
- B. A lot of various materials are available.
 1. Printed booklets and charts.
 2. Filmstrips or slides.
 3. VCR tapes.
- C. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

VI. DOOR-TO-DOOR CANVASSING.

- A. Some things that might be used in such:
 1. Religious surveys.
 2. Enrolling in Bible correspondence courses or home studies.

3. One lesson approach.
- B. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

VII. TELEPHONE SURVEYS.

- A. Basically the same thing as door-to-door canvassing.
1. Quicker.
 2. Less personal though.
- B. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

VIII. TAPES.

- A. Saving special lessons or studies from sermons preached which can later be shared with friends who have questions on that topic.
- B. Can be listened to together or separately and then get together to discuss later.
- C. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

IX. BULLETINS OR PUBLICATIONS.

- A. Papers designed especially for the alien sinner.
- B. While you might not be able to get into his home, this paper might.
- C. One can later question about some article or point made in the paper.
- D. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

X. NEWSPAPER ADS.

- A. Types.
1. Small ad advertising correspondence course, free tape, booklet, etc.
 2. Ads in the personal section requesting Bible study.
- B. Can you relate information about someone converted from such an effort?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Our talents may vary (1 Cor. 3:6-7).
1. Some may be better at planting, others at watering.
 2. But we all can do some planting and some watering.
- B. You may not think you could do some of the above, but there is something you can do.
1. Try several.
 2. Use what works best for you.
- C. The main question is, "Are you sowing the seed of the kingdom, brother?"

“He’ll Understand and Say ‘Well Done’”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. How encouraging are the words of the first verse of this song: “If when you give the best of your service, Telling the world that the Savior is come; Be not dismayed when men do not believe you, He understands; He’ll say, ‘Well done.’”
- B. The rewards of the soul winner are so great; why wouldn’t one want to be such?

I. AN ENJOYING MEMORY.

- A. Who are some that rejoice at a conversion?
 - 1. Ac. 8:39; 16:34.
 - 2. Lk. 15:10.
- B. Until one sees a person he has taught being baptized, he doesn’t know what joy is!
- C. What thrilled John (2 Jno. 4; 3 Jno. 4)?

II. AN EASED MIND.

- A. What kind of peace is God able to give (Phil. 4:6-7)?
- B. What happens when we know we are not doing the will of God (1 Jno. 3:19-21)?
- C. How good it is that we know that we have done the will of God.

III. AN ENDURING MEMORIAL.

- A. Many men have had memorials.
 - 1. Monuments to political leaders.
 - 2. Monuments to soldiers.
- B. No doubt many have had monuments that have long perished.
- C. To see one you had a part in converting living faithful to the Lord is most reassuring.
 - 1. Most things you do in life will not endure (2 Pet. 3:10).
 - 2. But here is a task that will last into eternity.
- D. How do you suppose Andrew felt knowing the good that his brother did (Jno. 1:40-42)?
- E. What did Paul have to say about his reward in this matter (1 Cor. 3:12-15)?

IV. AN ETERNAL MANSION.

- A. What will the faithful servant hear at the day of accounting (Matt. 25:21)?
- B. What promise is made to the one who sows righteousness (Prov. 11:18)?
- C. What promise is made to the one who turns many to righteousness (Dan. 12:3)?
- D. Heaven! What more needs to be said?

CONCLUSION:

- A. No wonder the wise man said that "he who wins souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30b).
- B. At the end of our lives will we be able to say what the apostle Paul said (2 Tim. 4:6-8)?