

Lesson 9: Personal Evangelism (Part 2)

INTRODUCTION

During the first part of this lesson, we learned that personal soul-winning is both a responsibility and a privilege of every child of God. The Lord compares the task of soul-winning to a great harvest where every Christian is employed as a laborer in His field. Those who will faithfully labor for the Master will surely be rewarded.

In Matthew 4:19, the Lord Jesus Christ also compares soul-winning to fishing. He said *“follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”*. In effect, a Christian who never goes fishing for men is also the one who never follows the Lord.

Like fishing, soul-winning requires a system of approach and an effective use of available equipments. In this lesson, we will focus on some effective tools or guide in communicating the gospel to the lost.

OUTLINE

III. USEFUL TOOLS IN SOUL-WINNING

The following are three examples of effective Soul-winning Guides:

1. The Roman Road

The Roman Road is perhaps the most widely-used approach in soul-winning. It is named as such because the verses used in sharing God's plan of salvation are all from the Book of Romans:

- a. Romans 3:23 – *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”*
We all have sin in our hearts. We all were born with sin. We were born under the power of sin's control.
- b. Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*
Sin has an ending. It results in death. We all face physical death, which is a result of sin. But a worse death is spiritual death that alienates us from God, and will last for all eternity. The Bible teaches that there is a place called the Lake of Fire where lost people will be in torment forever. It is the place where people who are spiritually dead will remain.
- c. Romans 5:8 – *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*
When Jesus died on the cross, He paid sin's penalty. He paid the price for all sin, and when He took all the sins of the world on Himself on the cross, He bought us out of slavery to sin and death! The only condition is that we believe in Him and what He has done for us, understanding that we are now joined with Him, and that he is our life. He did all this because He loved us and gave Himself for us!
- d. Romans 10:13 – *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*
Call out to God in the name of Jesus.
- e. Romans 10:9-10 – *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

- f. Revelation 3:20 – *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*

If you know that God is knocking on your heart’s door, ask Him to come into your heart. Believe in Him. Ask Him to come into your heart by faith, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you.

2. The Bridge Illustration

Another effective way to share God’s plan of salvation is through the use of illustrations:



Step 1 - God's Love and His plan

God created us in His own image to be His friend and to experience a full life assured of his love, abundant and eternal.

Jesus said, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (Romans 10:10b).

"...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Since God planned for us to have peace and abundant life right now, why are most people not having this experience?



Step 2 - Our Problem: Separation from God

God created us in His own image to have abundant (meaningful) life. He did not make us robots to automatically love and obey him, but he gave us a will and a freedom of choice.

We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"...your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

On our own, there's no way we can attain the perfection needed to bridge the gap to God. Through the ages, individuals have tried many ways...without success.

Good works won't do it...or religion...or money...or morality...or philosophy...

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)



Step 3 - God's Remedy: The Cross

Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem. He died on the cross and rose from the grave, paying the penalty for our sin and bridging the gap between God and people.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:" (I Peter 3:18)

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" (I Timothy 2:5)

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)



Step 4 - Our Response

Believing means trust and commitment - acknowledging our sinfulness, trusting Christ's forgiveness and letting Him control our life. Eternal, abundant life is a gift for us to receive.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24)

Is there any reason why you shouldn't cross over to God's side and be certain of eternal life?

How to receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave.

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit (Receive Him as Lord and Savior of your life).

WHAT TO PRAY:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as the Lord and Savior of my life. In Your name. Amen.

God's assurance of eternal life

If you've prayed this prayer and are trusting Christ, then the Bible says that you can be sure you have eternal life.

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:12-13)

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer...this is called regeneration or the "new birth."

What next?

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ.

To deepen this relationship you should:

1. Maintain regular intake of the Bible to know Christ better.
2. For more information see the Word Hand illustration.
3. Talk to God in prayer every day.
4. For more information see the Prayer Hand illustration.
5. Tell others about your new faith in Christ.
6. For help doing this, use the same illustration that is presented above. The important thing is that you let others know about your new faith in Christ.
7. Worship, fellowship and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
8. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

3. **The Four Steps to Salvation** (excerpts from Pastor ATG's lesson entitled "What Must I Do To Be Saved?")

STEP 1: ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER

Our need for God's salvation reveals our true spiritual condition -- that each of us is a SINNER before the Lord. The Bible says "for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That because of sin, we are separated from God and fall short of His requirement for holiness. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6).

This humble acknowledgement of sin is a necessary step to approaching God for salvation. Unless a person will come to realize his true sinful condition before God, he cannot truly believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

STEP 2: ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE A PENALTY TO PAY BECAUSE OF YOUR SIN

"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Some people think that our eternal destiny shall be decided by God the moment we die physically. The Bible, however, emphasizes that "as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12). Because of sin, we are condemned to death. This death includes eternal separation from God.

STEP 3: ACCEPT THAT CHRIST DIED IN YOUR PLACE TO PAY THE PENALTY OF YOUR SIN

In God's great love to you, He provided a way for you to get out of sin's penalty and condemnation. "But God commendeth (demonstrated) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Instead of you dying for your own sin, Christ took and bore our sins, died in our place on the cross of Calvary, was buried and resurrected to assure us of everlasting life if we call on Him as our Lord and Savior. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

STEP 4: ASK FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND RECEIVE CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). The Bible says that "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21) are inseparable requirements for a person to truly receive salvation in the name of God's only begotten Son.

Repentance is more than feeling sorry or being remorseful for your sins. True repentance is (1) fully accepting our guilt, (2) renouncing all claims to righteousness on our own, (3) humbly coming to God for mercy and (4) committing ourselves to abandon sin and pursue God.

Once the person understands that he is a sinner and believes in his heart that Christ came to save his dying soul, the soul-winner must lead him in a prayer of repentance and faith such as the one below:

"Father, I acknowledge that I am a sinner because I have disobeyed your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I repent of my sins and asking you to forgive me and help me to keep away from sin. I understand that your Son Jesus Christ died for my sins. I am now opening my heart and inviting the Lord Jesus to come into my life and rule in my heart from this day forward. I am receiving Him as my Lord and personal Savior. Thank you for your gift of eternal life. Help me to do your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."