

Fishing for Men

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19).

We are very much indebted to Dr. Jack Hyles and to the late Dr. John Rice for the tremendous contributions they have made to our ministry. We are especially grateful for Dr. Hyles’ booklet, “Let’s Go Soul Winning” and for the Spirit-inspired messages these men delivered at a Sword of the Lord Conference many years ago in Maryland.

We praise God for these men, for their challenge, and for their words of encouragement. They have inspired us to be soul-winners, and also to teach soul-winning wherever we go, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The late Dr. Bob Jones Sr., a great man of God, once said: “God is hard up. He can use even *you* to win souls!” Let’s take on the chal-

lence and, trusting the Lord, become skillful in the use of His Word, bringing many to righteousness.

Chapter One

WHY SHOULD WE GO
FISHING FOR MEN?

The Bible says “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and that the whole world is guilty before God (Romans 3:19). Men are lost to God as fish in dark waters are hid from men’s sight. Why should we go fishing for men? The first reason is that man has inherited a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5); he cannot save himself (Psalm 39:5*b*). All of his righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the sight of a holy and perfect God (Isaiah 64:6); therefore, man is condemned already (John 3:18).

How will they know unless they hear? And how will they hear unless we go?

We should go fishing for men through the Holy Spirit of God because a man is lost until he makes a personal decision for Christ; he is lost until he receives salvation by grace through faith

(Ephesians 2:8) in the form of a new birth (John 3:3-8). He must be born of the incorruptible Word (1 Peter 1:23) and regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5), so that he can become a child of God (John 1:12-13) and an adult son of the Father (Romans 8:14-15), hid in the family of God (Colossians 1:13).

When we use the word *lost*, we mean that a soul is lost to God, lost to heaven, lost to the very purpose for which the Lord created man; that is, we are to bring glory to God (Isaiah 43:7) by having dominion in life with God's purpose, and to reproduce in others the same life the Holy Spirit wrought in us (Genesis 1:28). It also means that in his experience, the unsaved man is lost to the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Although God's unspeakable gift has been purchased for every man, no one can know true unconditional love, joy unspeakable in the midst of adversity, or the peace that passes understanding, unless he is born again (John 3:7).

Illustration of the Four Lost Things

In Luke 19, God's purpose on earth is made clear: Jesus Christ came to seek and to save *all* manner of lost souls, not regarding the severity of one man's sins over another's. In God's eyes

we are all totally depraved and utterly lost. To illustrate for our limited minds the devastating reality of our condition and to convey the overwhelming desire of His Father's heart, Jesus often spoke in parables. In Luke 15, Jesus relates the parables of lost things: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost prodigal son, and the lost elder son. Each case reveals God's heart in action to recover that which is lost. With the parables, Jesus illustrates the principle of lost things: the principle of seeking until they are found and rejoicing after they are found.

God neither neglects nor forgets the lost ones. In Luke 15, as the Shepherd, He left the whole flock to go after the *one* who had gone astray. That sheep is a picture of a soul who is lost through ignorance. By nature, sheep will wander through any gap left open for them, even to their own destruction. Many people simply ignore the warning signs on the road of life and are lost because they took a way that *seemed* right, though the end was death (Proverbs 14:12). God has called us to go out to the hedges and the highways and to compel people to come in.

The coin was lost through the carelessness of others. Although it still existed quite nearby, it

had no purchasing power until it was found. Just like the woman with the candle who sought for the coin tirelessly, God sends out a light to shine in dark places, under layers of neglected refuse, seeking the lost (Matthew 5:14). Still, many people are lost through the carelessness of church-going Christians who, knowing how to win people to Christ, do not let their light shine unto men. They do not apply the grace, power, courage, or enthusiasm to go out and accomplish the great commission (Mark 16:15).

The prodigal son was lost through rebellion. Self-centered, he reacted against what he saw as restrictions and demands of his father. Many are lost because of rebellion toward God—judging God’s motives without knowing His heart. They know what they *should* do but refuse to do it. His heart broken, the father of the prodigal did not forsake his lost son, but stood waiting—with hope—for his son’s return.

Finally, God did not overlook the less obvious category: The prodigal’s brother, the elder son, was lost in covetousness and the self-righteousness of good works—works that could never be good enough to satisfy the demands of perfect righteousness. Many in the church have had a pre-salvation experience that never led to

a true conversion. They have smothered the Holy Spirit with the weight of “responsibility.” They do all their work in the flesh through a sense of duty with neither the joy of the Holy Spirit as their motivating power and strength (Nehemiah 8:10) nor the perfect peace of God. To this group, God demonstrates the free gift of grace and mercy through the message of the Finished Work (John 4:34; 17:4; 19:30). The father waited patiently for the elder son to realize that he had everything he could ever need, if he would only appropriate his provision.

Why should we go fishing for men? Because mankind is lost. Every adult, every teen-ager, every older person, every young person who has reached the age of accountability—everyone is lost until he comes to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. In order to be saved from the awful torment of hell, each soul must have a specific moment in his life when he makes a definite decision to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, by God’s grace and through the faith imparted by the Holy Spirit.

The last words in the book of James exhort: “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

There are tremendous rewards being stored up in heaven for the soul-winner (Daniel 12:3).

The Happy Church

Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost (Luke 19:10). When the lost things were found, the Word of God teaches in Luke 15 that in each case there was rejoicing and celebrating. Similarly, there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth (Luke 15:7).

This should be reason enough to make any church happy. Just think of it. One soul is worth more than all the world (Matthew 16:26)! No wonder churches today are unhappy, morbid, petty, and critical. They are unhappy because they are not winning souls. They do not have the joy of the Holy Spirit (John 15:11). They do not come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves (Psalm 126:6).

In Luke 15:9, when the woman found her lost coin, she called her neighbors together saying, "Rejoice with me!" When the prodigal came home to his father, a great feast was prepared. Is it any wonder that God says in John 13:17, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"?

If you want a happy church—a church that rejoices at all times, a church on fire and filled

with the Holy Spirit—get to know the Savior personally, like never before. Study the Word of God fervently. Ask God to give you His heart for the lost. Pray for souls specifically, then go out sowing the precious seed of the Gospel.

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).

By simply obeying this verse, believers will have a happy, wholesome, vigorous, enthusiastic, spiritual church.

Where Should We Go Fishing for Men?

Matthew 13:38 tells us that the field is the world. God gave His own Son for the sins of the whole world. “... And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). We need a vision for souls at home and abroad, for souls in our neighborhood and in faraway places.

We should cultivate this vision with much prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and with much compassion: “And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it” (Luke 19:41). When I pray, I love to look at pictures of our

missionaries. I love to think of the precious folks I've met whose lives have been transformed by the Savior—and all because some chose not to live unto themselves, but, as debtors, are giving their lives freely.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). Everything we have was given to us by God. Faithful stewardship means guarding the gift that is in us, then giving ourselves.

Where should we go? Wherever there are souls. That means anytime, anyplace. Go knowing that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), and that if we open our mouth, He will fill it (Psalm 81:10). Study the Word daily, always setting the Lord before your face. As you grow in your understanding of categorical doctrine, rightly dividing the Word of Truth, you will have tremendous insight, knowing how to answer and when to speak.

When Should We Go Fishing for Men?

Now is the accepted time, just as it was for the church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 6:2). Now is the accepted time for people to receive deliverance. I believe what the Word of God says in Proverbs 27:1, “Boast not thyself of to morrow;

for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Later may be too late.

I believe that we should redeem the time now, because the days are evil. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:16-17). Purpose in your heart to have specific times for soul-winning. Plan to go. Build time for soul-winning into your weekly schedule. And be ready, when it may not be convenient, to give an answer of the hope that is within you (1 Peter 3:15).

Pray for opportunities at home, at the factory, at school, in the office—wherever we can, sow the seed. "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days" (Ecclesiastes 11:1). God has promised us that when we give forth His Word, it will not return void, but shall accomplish what pleases God (Isaiah 55:11).

Chapter Two

WHAT SHOULD WE SAY OR DO WHEN WE GO FISHING FOR MEN?

In this chapter, we will discuss the practical aspects of soul-winning. Remember the principles that the great soul-winners of our day have taught us. It is important to be neat and clean. It is good to go out with another person (Mark 6:7). Be prepared to provide scriptural answers by carrying a small Bible. When people read for themselves the answers to their questions in the Word of God, it reinforces the Truth and overcomes false concepts. Avoid confrontational discussions that lead nowhere. Consider what Jesus said: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16).

Go out, regardless of the clouds, regardless of

the weather, regardless of the pressures and trials of our day (Ecclesiastes 11:4). Be very sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. While one person is talking, the other soul-winner can pray and deal with any distractions that may inhibit the person from receiving the Gospel. Pray for the key that will unlock his soul. The Holy Spirit will reveal the Savior through a yielded vessel who knows how to hear from God.

Practical Approaches in Soul-Winning

Here, we will present some simple methods for people who appear more prepared to hear the Gospel and be saved. God has allowed me to use these approaches in my personal ministry and I have found them effective when employed in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Also, make sure you are relaxed as you minister the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. If they ask any questions, write them down. Do not let that cause you to deviate from the plan. Explain that theirs is a good question, and you will answer it later.

The ABCD Plan

First, in the case of a person who has been prayed for and has heard the Gospel, and who

seems ready to receive Christ, it's good to use the "ABCD" plan.

Start with the Scripture, "For *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Ask the person you are speaking to, "What does the word *all* mean?" Ask him, "Does *all* include you?"

Next, you can say, "*Believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose again on the third day, and that He went to heaven and is coming back for us soon. *Believe* is a verb that expresses action and means to rely on, depend on, and trust in wholly. A person who believes this way will accept God's Word as Truth and start following Jesus Christ, first in his mental attitude and then in his outward behavior, as he is transformed by the mind of Christ from the inside out.

Ask the person you are witnessing to, "Do you believe this?" If he agrees, go on.

"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). "For whosoever shall *call* upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Man's part is to *confess* and to *call*. God's part is to fulfill the promise, "...thou shalt be saved." For how long is one saved? For eternity, because "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life" (John 3:36).

After a person has made a profession of faith, teach him the great principle of *depending* on the Lord and not himself, trusting in the Lord with all his heart (Proverbs 3:5-6). Explain the importance of his decision and build him up in his new identity.

The Romans Road Plan

Another plan used by many soul-winners is the Romans Road. The main verses used in this plan are taken from the book of Romans. It is much better for the person to read these verses for himself.

Begin with Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one." Ask him whether this verse includes him, then read Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Proceed to Romans 6:23, "For the wages of

sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” At this point, you can explain the meaning of *death*. Generally speaking, death means to be disconnected from your environment.

Explain that there are three kinds of death. First, there is *spiritual death*. Because of the Fall, every man is spiritually dead, disconnected from God’s life, until he accepts Christ. *Physical death* is when a man’s body dies and goes into the grave, cut off from loved ones and cherished things (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Finally, there is *eternal death* when a man who is not saved is cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever, where the conscience never dies (Revelation 14:11; 20:15).

After you have explained death, show him that man’s natural condition is that he is lost before God, because he is in sin and because he inherited at birth a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5). It is not the *sins*—the things he does—that make him lost, although he does them because of what he is by nature. It is the *sin nature* he possesses that is governing and controlling his life, whether it controls in a way that seems bad *or* good to him. Any natural goodness we have is only self-righteousness and filthy rags, in God’s viewpoint (Isaiah 64:6).

Move on to Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Give an illustration of the manner in which Christ died and paid for our sins. Use the example of paying for groceries for someone with whom you have not had a good relationship. Because he is sick and in need, you bring the groceries, knock at his door, and offer the gift. When he asks why you've done this, you answer, "It's because of love; I care for you." You've paid his bill in full. Now, with his free volition, he can either accept the groceries or reject them. Regardless of his response, it remains a free gift, something he did not earn or deserve.

Then, explain that Jesus Christ is offering us the supreme gift: Salvation by grace through faith, not of ourselves (Ephesians 2:8). To be saved, a person must be willing to accept and to receive the gift of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

The fourth point is Romans 10:9-13: If I confess Him with my mouth, *and* believe in my heart, Jesus says that I am saved. We are not saved by our feelings, and we are not saved by

someone's theory. Therefore, if God says we are saved, it is a fact: We are saved, and the Holy Spirit will bear witness of this truth in our hearts (John 16:13).

After a person has made a profession for Christ, the next step is to reinforce what he has done, by reviewing the Scriptures.

The Importance of Discipleship

Discipleship is the key to spiritual growth for the new believer. The Holy Spirit will impart a hunger for the Word, so make sure he has a Bible of his own. Always keep the Word of God as the focus. In our ministry, we are very fortunate to have doctrine booklets and tapes that address specific categories and can be used as a basis for Bible study.

Encourage him in understanding the importance of praying without ceasing, of starting the day by setting the Lord before his face. If he is from your area, you can invite him to attend church with you and introduce him to other members of the church. This will help him to experience the love and the life of the Body of Christ. This exposure to fellowship with other believers will help to cultivate healthy spiritual attitudes, to help him think with God.

Remember, spirituality is not measured according to the amount of time invested. The woman at the well was winning souls the same day she was saved (John 4:3-42)! Don't limit the new believer's expectations of his own potential for growth. Encourage him, pray for him—be a true friend.

Chapter Three

MEETING A CHALLENGE

In Luke 16, the rich man, tormented, lifted up his eyes in hell and begged God to send a messenger to his brothers so they would not suffer the same fate.

As much as we have received a supernatural call from above and a call from the world with all its natural needs, we have also received a call from below. Every person who ever died thinking he had no need for the Savior is calling to us to go and tell. There are more people in hell today who now believe the Truth than those who can be found on earth.

If someone does not believe in the Bible, you must approach him differently. This type of person is not rebellious or openly defiant; he simply does not know, or is not convinced, that the Bible is true because no one has ever taken the time to show him why he should believe in the Bible.

Begin by laying the foundation that every word of God is true (John 7:17) and that every word of God is pure (Proverbs 30:5). We have no right to add anything to God's Word or to remove anything from it (Revelation 22:17-19).

I proceed very tactfully and carefully, by giving my own testimony. Someone who does not happen to have this type of testimony can give the testimony of a person similar to myself. I was a Unitarian before I was saved and, consequently, was very skeptical of God's Word. I was reasonably successful in business and I did not give God any room in my heart. I had false concepts that everyone was going to go to heaven and that there was a heaven but no hell. I did not accept *all* of the Word of God, just parts of it. God spoke to me about receiving the totality of His Word. After a careful study of the whole counsel of God, I was broken—prepared to receive the truth of the Gospel.

When a person is skeptical, and does not wish to use the Bible as a foundation, you can use the five laws of education, principles in the art of learning. This is commonly referred to as the scientific method for objective observation.

First, we have the law of similarities which includes identifying a problem, such as a statement

of belief, that must be tested and proven. For our example, we recognize that one dog is like another dog, enabling us to label him *dog*.

Then there is the law of contrasts, by which we are able to distinguish one dog from another dog as having different qualities. By careful observation and recording data, that information becomes the basis for categorizing its attributes and further distinction from other animals.

Thirdly, we have the law of consistency. This is when the observable data is sifted and correlations, meaningful connections, and regularities are noted and categorized so we are able to arrive at a universally consistent definition of a dog and thus make him a valid subject for our study.

This is followed by the law of logic, by which we can form a hypothesis or generalization to explain existing data. So we are able to infer, through an educated guess, what causes dogs to behave the way they do and how we can use them practically for our own purposes.

Finally, there is the law of understanding, whereby we draw a conclusion and state it as fact, until proven otherwise. In this case we are able to make a statement about dogs in their relationship to the entire scheme of our experience.

Any defense of atheistic or theistic evolution must employ these five principles. A truly impartial jury would listen to the claims and investigate the evidence before reaching its decision on the matter.

Evolution claims that all living organisms evolved from one original cell and that the one cell multiplied and developed into a many-celled organism, which reproduced itself and evolved through chance mutations, natural selection, and survival of the fittest. Finally, there arose a complex being, like man, with many organs, functions, and faculties for life. In other words, that theory suggests that intelligent man evolved by purely unintelligent processes from an originally unintelligent blob of protoplasm.

When analyzed according to these five laws of education, the theory of atheistic evolution does not explain much about man; its flaws become readily apparent. Neither does a theistic variety of evolutionary theory change the picture essentially, for we immediately run up against the objection that God, in His only revelation to us, the Bible, has never told us that He made us this way. To accept a theory about God which is contrary to His own revelation is certainly not very intelligent either.

When witnessing to someone who is skeptical of the Biblical record, it can be useful to draw evidence from the realm of science that bears testimony to the truth of God's Word.

The Stars and the Earth

For example, in Genesis 15:5, God brought Abram outside his tent and said, "Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be" (See also Psalm 147:4 and Isaiah 40:26). The Bible declared the stars to be numberless long before astronomers became aware of this fact. One astronomer in the third century B.C. counted 675 fixed stars. One hundred years later, 1,028 stars were counted. As late as the 18th century, 3,000 stars had been cataloged. Then, in 1862, with the aid of telescopes, a European observatory cataloged 300,000 stars. Today we know that there are over 200 billion stars *in our galaxy alone*.

In Isaiah 40:22, God claims that the earth is round: "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers."

Though most of the ancients believed the earth to be flat, some daring astronomers, fol-

lowing Aristotle's surmise, believed it to be round.

Columbus, studying early maps—the first depicting a round earth—sailed across the Atlantic to discover the New World in 1492. Following him in 1519-1521, Magellan's crew was the first to circumnavigate the earth.

In Job 26:7, God claims that the earth is suspended in space: "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Ancient fables and stories commonly pictured the earth as supported on the backs of elephants, turtles, serpents, etc. It was not until modern times that the earth was found to be suspended in its orbit within the sun's gravitational field.

The Weather Patterns

God even tells us about the laws of meteorology: "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits" (Ecclesiastes 1:6). "He causeth the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth" (Psalm 135:7). "For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof" (Job 36:27).

Apart from the Bible, men had not discovered these facts until the basic laws of aerodynamics, thermodynamics, and hydrodynamics were formulated by a German physicist in 1888. Today we know that the air, with its currents affected by the earth's rotation, is cooled in the north and veers along the ground southward toward the equator where it is heated. The air then rises, returning northward through the upper atmosphere, and the water, evaporated from the earth's surface by the heat of the sun, rises upward to be condensed into clouds. It is later precipitated on the earth as rain and snow. Once again, science validated what God had already documented.

On the Human Body

In Leviticus 17:11, God claims that "the life of the flesh is in the blood." The event that marked the beginning of modern medicine was the discovery, in 1611, that the life of the body is carried through the circulation of the blood.

In Leviticus 13, God proclaimed that those afflicted with leprosy should be quarantined, set apart from the healthy congregation, until they could be pronounced "clean" by the priests. Centuries later, after disease spread uncon-

trolled throughout Europe killing millions, the Levitical quarantine principle was rediscovered. The quarantine principle is a medical standard today, and many diseases have virtually disappeared as a result.

Similarly, in Leviticus 15, God instructed Israel to bathe in water and to wash clothing and any contaminated surfaces in order to prevent the spread of infection. In the medical center of Vienna in 1840, one of every six women died in the maternity wards until a young doctor established the principle of sanitation. He ordered those under him to wash their hands in water before examining their patients. Later in 1860, Louis Pasteur demonstrated the bacterial origin of disease. In 1868, Lister developed antiseptic surgery. In 1876, Dr. William Park started the modern surgical practice of washing the hands in running water.

The Bible and Technology

Certain technological advances were also mentioned in the Bible. These prophecies and their fulfillment could also be used when confronting a skeptic.

For example, in Daniel 12:4, God claims that in the time of the end “many shall run to and fro,

and knowledge shall be increased." Modern times are principally characterized by modern travel and the unprecedented explosion of scientific discovery. Today, man's technical knowledge has enabled him to put men on the moon and travel across the ocean in a matter of minutes.

In Isaiah 40:31 and 60:8, God foretells of the invention of the airplane: "They shall mount up with wings as eagles." "Who are these that fly as a cloud?" In the year following the establishment of the independent State of Israel in May, 1948, over 240,000 Jews returned to their homeland—tens of thousands by airplane!

In Nahum 2:4, referring to the Assyrian war chariots, God tells of the automobiles that were to come: "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings." This is no doubt a picture of the traffic of automobiles along the streets and highways of our modern cities.

If the skeptical person seems to be at all impressed or convinced after you have presented these claims and evidences, ask him, "If God is telling the truth in one part of the Bible, must He not also be telling the truth in the rest of the Book? If His Word, the Bible, is right in all of its

claims about other matters, isn't it also right about man's sin and his need of redemption?"

If the listener seems open, go on to present the plan of salvation: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." Lead him to salvation by grace and through faith.

Chapter Four

SOME CONVERSATIONAL APPROACHES TO SOUL-WINNING

“I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt [the unsaved world]: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it” (Psalm 81:10).

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Be ready. Be willing. Be wise. By continuing to faithfully study the Word of God, falling in

love with its precepts, garnering the treasure it holds, and by continuing fervently in prayer for the lost, God will be faithful to fulfill His great commission through you. Consider the following:

If someone talks of the weather, lead him into the following Scripture: “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

If someone talks of false doctrine, lead him into 1 Timothy 4:1-2: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

If someone talks about sickness, lead him to Romans 7:24 and Romans 8:22: “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

If someone talks about a daughter getting married, bring up John 2:1-2: “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was

called, and his disciples, to the marriage.”

If someone talks about the trouble with young people, lead him to 2 Timothy 3:2-3 and Romans 3:10: “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection.” “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.”

If someone talks about losing a baby, lead him to Mark 10:14 and Matthew 18:10: “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”

If someone talks about death and dying, tell him that no man alive has ever been through death, so no one can fully identify. But Jesus Christ, who was God in a man, experienced in His humanity the most excruciating death, which included being forsaken and without comfort. Then, beautifully, you can bring in the fact that the One who died for his sins is the One who ever lives. Jesus wants to be his Savior, and promises to never leave him nor forsake him (Hebrews 13:5b), even unto death.

CONCLUSION

“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Jesus Christ promises to be our wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30), our peace (John 20:21), our joy (John 15:11), our strength (Psalm 27:1; Philippians 4:13), and our refuge (Psalm 46:1). He promises to do the convicting through the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-11), to draw all men unto Himself if we exalt Him (John 13:32), to do the regenerating (Titus 3:5), to keep us from falling (Jude 24), and to make us stand (Romans 14:4).

His grace is sufficient for us in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). His perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18). He will be with our mouth (Exodus 4:12) and His Spirit will speak through us (Luke 12:12; 21:15). His very presence will go with us (Exodus 33:14; Matthew 28:20).

Moreover, it is His Word that will do the work (Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11).

God does not look at people and circumstances from a limited, temporal, earthly point of view, but from a boundless, eternal, heavenly point of view. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). He accomplishes everything, just as He created the universe, by His Spirit (Psalm 104:30; Zechariah 4:6) through His Word (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:3).

Consider Isaiah 55:10-11, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower [the soul-winner], and bread to the eater [the hungry soul]: So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Here, God gives the soul-winner a threefold promise regarding His Word, like three comfortable chairs in which to rest spiritually and emotionally. The first chair represents the fact that the Word of God "shall not return unto me

void"; the second, "it shall accomplish that which I please"; and the third, "it shall prosper in the things whereto I sent it."

In other words, God promises that we can rest in Christ as the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). This means I never need to worry, fret, or be disturbed over the thought of soul-winning. God will do what He desires through me if I will trust in Him. The flesh would like to see results in the form of some visible manifestation of success, for the old man cannot trust God by faith (1 Corinthians 2:14), but I must walk by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). The person who walks in the Spirit by faith and not by sight *believes* the promises, *obeys* the command, then *rests* in Christ who is executing the Father's will in the believer through the power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16, 25; 2 Corinthians 5:7).

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 55:12-13).

You will go out, not in your natural ability under pressure of the command, but with the joy of the Lord as your strength. All the time you are out sowing the seed, you will be led by His peace, regardless of the results. God himself will bring the increase! So now, let's obey Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8):

“Go quickly, and tell” (Matthew 28:7)!