

Lesson 15

Spirit-led Soul Winning

Opening Verse: **Luke 19:10**

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Introduction:

Soul Winning is the heartbeat of God for that was His mission and purpose. As the body of Christ on earth, how can our purpose be any different from His? The goal of this lesson is to equip us, as His laborers, to be led by the Spirit in becoming a witness of His Truth to the lost world.

God's Need for Laborers

Matthew 9:35–37 ³⁵ *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.* ³⁶ *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;***

*There is not a lack of souls that need to be saved but there is a lack of laborers that would go and harvest them.

Matt. 9:38 (KJV) *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will **send forth** labourers into his harvest.*

(AMPC) *So pray to the Lord of the harvest to **force out and thrust** laborers into His harvest.*

(WUEST) *Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to **thrust out** workers into His harvest.*

- **PRAYER** is the REMEDY offered by Jesus on the crisis for the lack of laborers in the field.
- We need to pray for laborers to be sent forth and for ourselves to be ready to become His laborers.
- **Send forth** = to eject, thrust out; force them out as from urgent necessity.

NOTES

There are times when God has to literally push or force us into ministry, when we resist our known duty.

The **LABORERS' JOB** is to **GO** out in the **FIELDS** and to **SOW** the seed of God's Word.

Mark 16:15 *And he said unto them, **Go** ye into all the world, and **preach** the gospel to every creature.*

GO = to traverse; to travel (literal, not figurative); to move from the place where one is; an imperative command

FIELD = the world (*Matthew 13:38*)

SOWING = is preaching the gospel to every creature

- Preaching is not sermonizing but is proclaiming or witnessing to others about the Word of God.

Types of Soil: Conditions of the heart of men (Mark 4:3-8)

1. **Wayside** – will not produce anything; these are the ones who will reject you.
2. **Stony Ground** – will produce quickly but won't have the depth and root to survive; rocks of offense, etc.
3. **Thorny Ground** – will last long but its fruit is never going to get ripe enough because it's going to be choked out by the love of riches, love of pleasures and the cares of this life.
4. **Good Ground** – will produce good fruit and multiply.

Our responsibility is to sow the seed to whoever the Lord leads us to. We can't choose the type of soil, that's God's choice. This is called, "**broadcasting** the seed," which is an indiscriminate scattering of the seed.

Process of Seeking & Saving Souls:

TO SEEK = to look for, to go for, to strive to find.

- A **purposeful, intentional looking for the lost**.
- It is not an accidental or coincidental event.

TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Our God, the source of life, is **working in both ways** - in them (**lost souls**) and in us (**conduits**). As He is preparing the souls, we need to be attentive upon His leading, always being ready so that we can be at the right place and at the right time to minister to the souls.

TO BE SPIRIT-LED:

We are not supposed to be the ones seeking for the souls but it is the Spirit of God that will do the seeking for us. Therefore, we need to be: (1) willing to be led by the Spirit of the Lord; and (2) sensitive to the leading of the Spirit.

Romans 8:14 *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

As **Sons of God**, we are expected to be led by the Spirit, wherein your life is being GOVERNED by the Spirit of God. Being born-again does not make you “spiritual” but this involves a daily walk of submission to the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:5-6 ⁵*For they that are after the flesh do mind (LISTEN TO and OBEY) the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit (mind) the things of the Spirit.* ⁶*For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

- SPIRITUALITY = being led by the Spirit
- CARNALITY = attempting to do the things of God through the flesh and NOT by means of the Spirit!

Galatians 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT = to mind the things of the spirit and not the flesh, to be subjective to the spirit and not to the flesh; it is progressive, walking one step at a time.

TO DIE OUT TO OUR FLESH = not allowing our flesh to rule

Galatians 5:24-25 *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ²⁵*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

TO HIDE GOD'S WORD IN OUR HEARTS = to study the Word as our foundation for hearing the voice of God. (2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 119:11; 1 John 4:1)

TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD (RHEMA) and SPEAK IT

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

- The ministry of the Spirit and the Word is what gives life to the souls!

NOTES

(See Lesson 7 for review and additional reference)

(See Lesson 6 for review and additional reference)

Key to Soul Winning:

Being at the Right Place at the Right Time

- It's about PRINCIPLE not methodology
- It's about learning how to be SENSITIVE to the leading of the Spirit
- It is not influenced by any human means - logic, intellect, personality, pressure of men, etc.
- It is either by HEARING and OBEYING the voice of God (His thoughts that provide direction) or by FOLLOWING your PEACE (impression or feeling of peace)

EXAMPLES of Spirit-led Soul Winning:

1. Jesus and the Woman at the Well (*John 4:4-30*)

Jesus was witnessing to a soul who was an outcast and who did not seem to be hungry for what He was offering her, since she was questioning and arguing with him. But the Lord kept his focus on the mission and did not let her negative ways to distract him. He was gentle with her and dealt with her EMPTINESS. And then he gave her a word of knowledge about her sinful life, which caused her to believe that He was the Messiah. Then she became a powerful witness to her city about the Lord.

Application: As God leads you to witness to souls

1. **Don't get distracted**, don't argue or don't get intimidated by their initial reaction.
2. **Address their emptiness.**
No matter how people may look or react, we were all created with this (eternal) **EMPTINESS** in our soul that only God can satisfy. (*Eccles. 3:11 NKJV*)
3. **Proclaim to them that there is HOPE.**
4. **Tell them that their Source of hope is in Christ.**
5. **Minister to them as God leads you.**
Expect God to use you in the gifts of the Spirit.
6. **Expect God to confirm His Word.** (*Mark 16:17*)
God will always confirm His Word with signs.

NOTES

Scripture Commentary:

The scriptures portray that Jesus had a divine appointment in Samaria at the city of Sychar. He was at the well at noon – the right time and the right place.

Jesus said in *John 14:12* ***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.***

We are just as capable of knowing about “this woman and her past” as Jesus did. And we are just as capable of “being led to the well at noon” as Jesus was.

Jesus said so!

2. Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus was a hungry soul, looking for Jesus. He was also a backslider. When the Lord encountered Zacchaeus for the first time, he called him by his name. The Spirit of the Father must have revealed that to the Man Christ Jesus while he was in prayer. Jesus did not judge Zacchaeus for his past sins and as he repented, He proclaimed salvation upon him and his household.

Application:

- It Is God's will for us to reach out to backsliders so that they can be restored (*James 5:19-20*).
- God will need to **lead us to the backsliders** because it is harder for them to come back on their own.
- We need to cover them in **prayer** for their restoration (binding spirits of condemnation, fear, etc.).
- There are those who have the **gift** to win backsliders.

3. Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-38)

God led Philip to witness to a soul who was hungry for the Word but could not understand it.

Acts 8:29-31 *Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. ³⁰And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?** ³¹And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*

Then Philip began at the SAME scripture and preached unto Him Jesus. Philip linked what the Eunuch already knew to salvation (*verse 35*). He did not deny his past experience and his past faith but he took him from where he was into New Testament Salvation.

Application:

- These are the souls that have been "**conceived**" with a "seed of Truth" - they have received some revelation in scripture and have responded to it by faith - but their revelation is not enough for them to be born-again.

NOTES

Scripture Commentary:

Are we to believe that Jesus was just coincidentally passing by the same tree that Zacchaeus had climbed. The fact that Jesus knew him by name proves that this was no "random" encounter. We can be used the same exact way.

Scripture Commentary:

Philip was directed by God to leave a great move of God in Samaria and to go to the desert. This is not a very specific direction, but it got Philip moving. Sometimes God has to get us moving to give us further directions. **Only after Philip started moving did the Spirit of God give him further instructions.** We will usually not be directed by the Spirit of God when we are sitting still. We must be sensitive to the instructions to "get moving." **The Spirit of the Lord will give us "turn-by-turn" directions, if we will trust Him to.**

- **Related Principle:** An infant is conceived in the womb of its mother and then it takes about nine months before it is fully formed and ready to be born. These are the souls that have been spiritually conceived and are somewhere **within** that “nine-month” process.
- When dealing with these souls, **we can’t discount** what they already know or the particular revelation that they have received, no matter how small it is.
- So we need to **start with “what they already know”** in scripture and **bridge that to NT Salvation**.
- This might take a longer process than expected as you follow God’s leading on what to speak to them, depending upon their spiritual readiness and hunger.
- Thus, it is very important for these souls to be **covered in prayer** - removing any hindrances of blindness, false doctrine or religious tradition.
- When they’re ready - they will respond to the Rhema.
- We need to **KNOW enough of the Word of God** (by studying and hiding it in our hearts) so that we can be skillful teachers by the grace of God, enabling them to receive their salvation.

4. Aquila & Priscilla instructed Apollos (Acts 18:24-26)

Apollos was described as “mighty in the scriptures” but he only knew the baptism of John. He was a teacher who was discipled in the doctrine of Jesus Christ but didn’t realize that his NT doctrine was incomplete or inaccurate. Aquila & Priscilla were gifted teachers and when they heard Apollos, they expounded unto him the way of the Lord more accurately.

Application:

- Be sensitive to where these souls are at in their revelation of the Word of God and God will lead us on how to **instruct them more accurately**.
- Whenever God leads you to convert or disciple a teacher, this opens the door for the conversion of **many** other souls!
- The gift of teaching can be used both for discipleship and for winning souls.

5. Peter and Cornelius & his Household (Acts 10:1-22)

The supernatural was working on “**both ends**” of this story at the same time. The Spirit of the Lord prepared both parties to be able to respond to His directions. **Peter** received God’s instructions when he fell into a trance during his hour of prayer while **Cornelius** saw a vision of an angel who told him what he needed to do. The result was that a whole household was saved!

Application:

- God will be able to specifically **direct us to the hungry** souls when we are connected with Him in prayer.
- We must also believe that God is **dealing with the hungry souls** to draw them to us.
- God is no respecter of persons! If this happened for Peter and Cornelius, it will happen for us – if we are seeking God and are sensitive and responsive to the Lord’s Spirit.

Spirit-led Door Knocking / Outreach Guide:

(if it’s your first time, this is a good starter guide)

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Tell them that you want to give them an invitation to come to our services.
3. Take the lead in the conversation and ask this question before they respond to your invitation:
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?
4. However they respond (*yes* or *no*), let the Holy Ghost direct you on what to tell them afterwards.

There are multiple ways on HOW you can respond.

For example, you can start with this: ***You should come and try us out! You will have a very powerful experience!*** Then you can share your personal **testimony** or a healing testimony of someone in the Church. You can also **share a verse** about the Spirit of God or about the Day of Pentecost. This is a great way to **SOW THE SEED!**

5. Be ready to **minister** to them as they might share their need with you (or God might reveal to you their need), then you can **pray for them**.

Without the foundation of prayer, our efforts would be futile because we would not be connected to nor directed by the Source.

SOUL WINNER'S PRAYER:

LORD, LEAD ME TO THE HUNGRY, LEAD THE HUNGRY TO ME, GIVE ME THE SENSITIVITY TO RECOGNIZE THE PERSON THAT YOU HAVE CONNECTED ME WITH.

We can also **pray for God's BOLDNESS and for His LOVE to flow through us**, so that we will not be afraid of rejection and so that we would not hesitate to minister to any soul that God leads us to.

Conclusion:

A soulwinner is always on alert for the voice of the Spirit directing them to a soul — no matter where or when.

We must believe that the Spirit of the Lord is working on both ends: leading us and dealing with the hungry.

When the Lord is able to bring both of us together in His time at the place of His choosing, then great things can happen!