

## Secrets of Soul Winning

Rev. Samuel Chadwick

So far as I have been able to learn the secret of success, from my own experience and the observation of others. I have come to the following conclusions:

1. Soul winning must be **the one aim of your life**. In my own case, it seemed as if everything turned upon my aim in the work. In my days of barrenness I never expected conversions. I prayed that men might be saved, but when the light of God burst in on my heart, I saw that my eye was not single. But when I broke the idol, and gave myself to live and pray and work for this one end, "to save souls," God gave me my desire. I have known many successful soul-winners in various ranks of life, and in every case the prime factor in their success has been their devotion to this one thing. Of one man it was said, "Wherever you see him, he has only one thought, 'How can I get men to Christ?'" True, they call him narrow; but, narrow or not, he sought **one thing**, and got one, the power to win souls. And that godly man was by no means eloquent, but he was worth any other twenty men in bringing souls one by one to Christ.

If preachers and Sunday-school teachers would stop and ask themselves in the presence of God, "What am I aiming at?" they would often lay their hands at once upon the secret of their failure.

2. After singleness of aim **there must be faith**. The man of doubt never inspires or persuades. There must be faith (1) in God; (2) in our message; (3) in our mission; (4) in the possibility of salvation for those we seek. Without these success is impossible. "This is the victory that overcometh," in this as in everything else, "even our faith."

I have more than once spent an hour in private prayer with some of the most successful soul-winners of our time. What has always impressed me is their mighty faith. How real God was to them! How near! How unreservedly they believed their message to be God-given! It was not something to be argued about. God had spoken. It was His message received direct from Him. How confident they were that they were sent! I have heard them say again and again, "Thou who didst send Moses and Isaiah, the apostles, and Paul, dost send **me**. I go at thy bidding." Let any man whatever his abilities, go forth with that conviction burning in his soul, and he must succeed. Having been with God in the mount, they come down among their fellows clothed with infinite power to declare and to persuade. Faith is a tremendous force in every department of life, but in this it is omnipotent. It can remove mountains. If you would win souls, "Have faith in God."

3. Another essential condition of success in winning souls is **sympathy**. It is sympathy (love that suffers with others) that saves. Dogmas, creeds, and all other soulless forms of truth never saved anybody. It is when truth throbs with emotion that it lays hold of the heart and conscience. **Souls are to be won, not driven**. It is pre-eminently heart-work. The names of the great soul-winners of the past come before me: Whitefield, Smith, Stoner, Collins; and I am sure it was the bigness of their hearts that made them the giants that they were. Thomas Champness said to me years ago, "There is only one way to win

souls, and that is by loving them. If you would win, **you must love**." This also comes through that close fellowship with Christ which makes us like Him, loving even as He loved.

I need scarcely add that in all this we need **the Holy Spirit**. This is the root of the whole matter. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." It is He who converts from sin and renews the heart. He endues with power from on high. The men in all ages of the church who have been signally owned of God in the conversion of men have been men much alone with God, men fired with one aim, consumed with one purpose; their convictions have been deep; their faith in God has been strong; they have felt the constraining power of Christ's love within them going out to their fellows in a yearning, passionate desire to save them. They have been men "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost."

Let it ever be borne in mind that this is no little work, and it can never be the work of a man with a divided heart. It can only be done by God's power, and that power is only fully bestowed upon those whose hearts are perfect towards Him.

### GO. LABOUR ON

Go, labour on; spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will;  
It is the way the Master went;  
Should not the servant tread it still?

Go, labour on; 'tis not for nought;  
Thy earthly loss is heavenly gain;  
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not;  
The Master praises, what are men?

Men die in darkness at your side,  
Without a hope to cheer the tomb;  
Take up the torch and wave it wide,  
The torch that lights Time's thickest gloom.

Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray!  
Be wise the erring soul to win;  
Go forth into the world's highway,  
Compel the wanderer to come in.

Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice;  
For toil comes rest, for exile home;  
Soon shalt thou hear the Bridegroom's voice,  
The midnight cry, "Behold, I come!"

—Dr. H. Bonar.

The soul-winner, then, must once and for all abandon himself to the Lord and to the Lord's work, and, having put his hand to the plough, must not look back if he would succeed in this mighty business. He must love his Lord and love his work and stick to it through all difficulties, perplexities and discouragements, and not be given to change; for there is no discharge in this war.

Then if God has set you to win souls, O my brother, "make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Burn the bridges behind you. Remember Paul's words to Timothy: "Give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." Let your eye be single, make no plan for retreat, allow no thought of it. Remember Paul's "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." Like Jesus, set your face steadfastly toward Jerusalem, your cross, your kingdom, your glory, when, having turned many to righteousness, you "shall shine \* \* \* as the stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12:3).—The Flame (England).

## Mary Begins at Home

Her mother was in prison and her father was on probation. So Mary, being the oldest of five children, became mother, housekeeper and student at the age of thirteen.

I met her in a small church in a small town in New York. She was attending Sunday School regularly, but that was all. Services were not held in the church for there was no pastor. There was very little enthusiasm and no evangelism. Nobody seemed to care about Mary and her problems.

Then evening services began and Mary became interested, attended each service faithfully, and sang in the youth choir that was organized. The Gospel messages seemed to fill the empty void in her life, and one night she accepted Christ as her personal Saviour.

"I'm so very happy," she confessed, "and there is such a deep peace in my soul."

But Mary was not content with mere happiness and peace for herself. She craved it for her family. Fervently she prayed; patiently and sweetly she endured terrific hardships and persecution at home. Due to severe poverty the whole family lived in the kitchen to conserve heat. Privacy was at a minimum, and Mary wanted privacy to be alone with God. In spite of it, she spent hours at a time in prayer and reading God's Word, which she learned to love avidly.

One day she had a thrilling answer to prayer. Three of her brothers and sisters accepted Christ as their Saviour. She was more elated than if she had been given a new dress. Day by day she testified faithfully at home and to her mother in prison. But Mary's interest and zeal did not stop at home. During her junior years in high school, she carried her Bible with her school books and lived an exemplary life.

"Why do you carry your Bible to school?" a classmate asked one day.

"For two reasons," she replied. "First, it is the textbook in my life. Second, I want to reveal that I belong to its Author."

"You're a Christian then?" he queried.

"Yes," replied Mary, "are you?"

Answering in a bright affirmative, he responded, "So am I, but you make me feel ashamed of myself."

The next day he carried his Bible—on top of his algebra, Latin and English textbooks.

God has graciously honoured that simple beginning, and recently Mary wrote:

"I'm so happy I can hardly contain myself. Thirty-five of us in this high school are now meeting during our noon hour and studying God's Word. I had to take lots of scorn when I first carried my Bible to school, but it has paid far above my expectations."

Mary wants to be a missionary. But she's not waiting until she crosses the ocean!—Power.

Supernatural Religion—Natural religion depends on the energy of the flesh. Supernatural religion depends on the energy of the Spirit of God, which comes down from above. It is quite possible to be perfectly right in the forms of our service, and yet destitute of divine power.—Rev. George F. Pentecost, D.D.

The Church is fairly well supplied with conductors. It shows a shortage of engineers, but an over-supply of brakemen.—Watchman-Examiner.