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The Soul-Winning Teacher

By Dr. Walter L. Wilson

The Sunday school teacher has two kinds of work to do in the class. She is to win the lost for Christ and teach Christians the Word of God and the ways of God.

In order to accomplish these two things, the teacher must meet certain requirements. The student will look at her life for evidence of the power of the message she presents. He will watch her manner of life, her dress, her conversation, and will be impressed either positively or negatively by what he sees in her. She should be a good advertisement for the ministry she gives.

1. The soul-winning teacher must be spiritually minded. She must depend upon the Holy Spirit for the material and the method of presenting it. The Scripture speaks of some who so spake that many believed. It is also possible so to speak that no one will believe.

2. The soul-winning teacher must be resourceful. She must look to the Spirit of God for the ability to say the right things in the right way so that each member of the class will get some portion for his heart. This may be illustrated by the dining table. The mother fixes food for the baby, food for the children, and food for the old grandmother. There is hard food and soft food, sweet and sour, food for the weak and food for the strong. The soul-winning teacher must prepare a spiritual feast for all the members of her class in the same way.

3. The soul-winning teacher must be earnest. If the scholars see that the teacher is not much interested in the lesson but is teaching as a matter of routine or as a sideline, they will not be attentive or show any interest in what is being said.

4. The soul-winning teacher must make the lesson interesting, so that it will be impressive and easily understood. The use of illustrations is especially valuable for holding interest.

5. The soul-winning teacher must make the lesson clear and plain. She must have no doubts about the pupils understanding what she has taught. The only way to be sure of this is to ask questions which cannot be answered by "yes" or "no." Ask questions which require careful thought and intelligent answers.

6. The soul-winning teacher must diagnose each case and find the right medicine, for no two individuals are alike. There must be a thorough understanding of the individual's mind and heart so that the proper message may be taken from the precious Word of God and applied to that soul. The diagnosis can best be effected by careful personal work. Deal with each student individually. Perhaps it must be done during the week. The teacher should visit in the home in order to see what

the surroundings and influences are there. This will help her to know what remedy to apply in a particular case.

The story is told of a young woman who had a class of eight girls about twenty years of age. None of them were saved. The teacher was quite discouraged. She said to her brother, "Sam, I am going to give up my girls." He replied, "Elizabeth, do not give up the class until you have spent one night with God over each one of them. Tell him all that you know about each one and then plead with him for each one personally."

She did as her brother had suggested. The next Sunday as she gave the message two or three girls accepted the Saviour. During the next few weeks all had accepted him. A deep desire to win each one worked wonders in that class. It will work in every class.

7. The soul-winning teacher must learn to apply the right Scripture in each case. Just as there is such a thing as making the wrong diagnosis, so there is a possibility of giving the wrong medicine. All pupils will not be saved through that beautiful verse, John 3:16. Some will be saved through very unusual passages of Scripture. The teacher under the guidance of the Spirit must apply the Scripture carefully.

8. The soul-winning teacher must expect definite results. Her prayer should not be, "Lord, won't you, won't you," but rather, "Lord, I am expecting you to work in this life, just as you have promised you would."

God grant that each teacher will have the blessed experience of being a soul-winning teacher, earnestly desiring the salvation of each unsaved one and longing to see the saved one grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—The Soul-winner.

"I am also deepened in my conviction, that if we are to be instruments in such a work we must be purified from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. Oh, cry for personal holiness, constant nearness to God by the blood of the Lamb! Bask in His beams; lie back in the arms of His love; be filled with his Spirit; or all successes in the ministry will only be to your own everlasting confusion. . . . Oh to have Brainerd's heart for perfect holiness; to be holy as God is holy, pure as Christ is pure, perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect! . . . How much more useful might we be, if we were only more free from pride, self conceit, personal vanity, or some secret sin that our heart knows. Oh hateful sins, that destroy our peace and ruin souls! . . . Go on, dear brother; but an inch of time remains, and then eternal ages roll on for ever; but an inch on which we can stand and preach the way of salvation to a perishing world. May He count us faithful, keeping us in the ministry!"

McChylene.

Return Unto The Lord

By Rev. Andrew Murray

"Come and let us return unto the Lord . . . he hath smitten, and he will bind us up . . . he (will) revive us . . . and we shall live in his sight" (Hosea 6:1-2).

If there is to be a divine awakening it will be born in the wholeheartedness of our prayer and faith for it.

Let no Christian think himself too weak to help, or imagine his prayers are not needed. Let every Christian stir up the gift that is in him and begin to pray every day, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?" (Psalm 85:6).

Every revival has come as Pentecost came, as the fruit of united, continued prayer. An increase of secret and united prayer on the part of ministers and members of our churches will be a sure harbinger of blessing.

Every revival has had its root in a deep confession of sin. Until those who lead the church in the path of revival bear fruitful testimony against the sins of the church, there is no breaking up the fallow ground, no seeking of the Lord till He comes and rains righteousness upon us.

Revive Thy Work, O Lord!

"Come and let us return unto the Lord; for he hath torn, and he will heal us: he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. . . . he (will) revive us: . . . and we shall live in his sight" (Hosea 6:1, 2). It is as we return to the Lord that revival will come. O let us return, in the surrender of a dependence and a devotion which has no measure, but the absolute claim of Him who is the Lord!

Let us return to the Lord with our whole heart that He may make us wholly His. Let us turn to the God of Pentecost, and the God of Pentecost will turn to us.

Plead With God

It is for this returning to the Lord that the great work of intercession is needed. It is here the coming revival will find its strength. Let us begin as individuals in secret to plead with God, confessing whatever we know of sin or hindrance in ourselves or others. Let us seek to foster the spirit of confession and supplication and intercession in those around us.

Let us help to encourage those who think themselves too feeble. Let us lift up our voice and proclaim that revival is brought down from above by prayer, and that revival comes to the humble and contrite ones.

Among God's people everywhere let there be "great searchings of heart" as to whether they are willing to deny themselves, and give the time and strength that the Lord requires to praying through for revival. Let every minister and

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