

# Vineyard Labourer Bible College

## Practical Exercises Module 5

“Among the first things to be aimed at should be a correct position, both in sitting and in standing. God made man upright, and He desires him to possess not only the physical but the mental and moral benefit, the grace and dignity and self-possession, the courage and self-reliance, which an erect bearing so greatly tends to promote.” Child Guidance page 364 para 3.

“... lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!” Isaiah 40:9

“Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.” Psalm 98:4.

“Voice culture is a subject that has much to do with the health of students. The youth should be taught how to breathe properly and how to read in such a way that no unnatural strain shall come on the throat and lungs, but that the work shall be shared by the abdominal muscles.” Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students page 297 para 2.

“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” Genesis 2:15.

“In the cultivation of the soil the thoughtful worker will find that treasures little dreamed of are opening up before him. No one can succeed in agriculture or gardening without attention to the laws involved. The special needs of every variety of plant must be studied. Different varieties require different soil and cultivation, and compliance with the laws governing each is the condition of success.” Adventist Home page 142 para 3.

“There is a wide field of service for women as well as for men. The efficient cook, the seamstress, the nurse-- the help of all is needed. Let the members of poor households be taught how to cook, how to make and mend their own clothing, how to nurse the sick, how to care properly for the home.” Adventist Home page 485 para 2.

“Cooking schools should be established, and house-to-house instruction should be given in the art of cooking wholesome food. Old and young should learn how to cook more simply.” Testimonies for the Church vol. 9, page 161.

“Enoch walked with God, and he bore a message of warning to the inhabitants of the old world. . . . As Enoch was, so are we to be. Personal piety is to be blended with the most earnest and energetic warnings and appeals.” Christ Triumphant page 46 para 5.

“Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.” Steps to Christ by E. White, page 91 para 1.

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***Vineyard Labourer Bible College Training for the Christian Walk***

## 5a - Evangelism

Modules 5 and 6 will be covering the different aspects of evangelism from receiving the Holy Spirit, personal witnessing, sermon preparation, outreach programs, and much more.

**As you read through these collection of studies remember that they are given as practical exercises, so don't just read them - put the knowledge that you gain from them into practical everyday use.**

### CHRIST'S PARTING COMMISSION AND GIFT TO THE CHURCH

The last command Jesus gave His disciples before returning to heaven was instructions as to what He expected them to do. They were to go to the entire world teaching, performing miracles, observing all that Christ had commended them, and they were to baptise new converts to the faith (Matt. 28:18 - 20; Mark 16:15 - 18).

"He told them that they were to be the executors of the will in which He bequeathed to the world the treasures of eternal life. You have been witnesses of My life of sacrifice in behalf of the world, He said to them. You have seen My labors for Israel. And although My people would not come to Me that they might have life, although priests and rulers have done unto Me as they listed, although they have rejected Me, they shall have still another opportunity of accepting the Son of God. You have seen that all who come to Me confessing their sins, I freely receive. Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out. To you, My disciples, I commit this message of mercy. It is to be given to both Jews and Gentiles--to Israel, first, and then to all nations, tongues, and peoples. All who believe are to be gathered into one church." A. A. p. 27 para. 2.

"Christ did not tell His disciples that their work would be easy. He showed them the vast confederacy of evil arrayed against them. They would have to fight 'against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' Ephesians 6:12. But they would not be left to fight alone. He assured them that He would be with them; and that if they would go forth in faith, they should move under the shield of Omnipotence. He bade them be brave and strong; for One mightier than angels would be in their ranks--the General of the armies of heaven. He made full provision for the prosecution of their work and took upon Himself the responsibility of its success. So long as they obeyed His word, and worked in connection with Him, they could not fail. Go to all nations, He bade them. Go to the farthest part of the habitable globe and be assured that My presence will be with you even there. Labor in faith and confidence; for the time will never come when I will forsake you. I will be with you always, helping you to perform your duty, guiding, comforting, sanctifying, sustaining you, giving you success in speaking words that shall draw the attention of others to heaven." A. A. p. 29 para. 1.

This great commission brings reconciliation between those who accept it's message of salvation and God. Yet some people think that because this great commission which was given to Christ's disciples who were the leaders of the church of that day, that it only applies to the leaders of the Christian church today. However, this is not the case. All who become new creatures in Christ Jesus are to be ministers of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:17, 18).

"The commission given to the disciples is given also to us. Today, as then, a crucified and risen Saviour is to be uplifted before those who are without God and without hope in the world. The Lord calls for pastors, teachers, and evangelists. From door to door His servants are to proclaim the

message of salvation. To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people the tidings of pardon through Christ are to be carried. Not with tame, lifeless utterances is the message to be given, but with clear, decided, stirring utterances. Hundreds are waiting for the warning to escape for their lives. The world needs to see in Christians an evidence of the power of Christianity. Not merely in a few places, but throughout the world, messages of mercy are needed." Ch. S. p. 23 para. 3.

"The disciples were not to wait for the people to come to them. They were to go to the people, hunting for sinners as a shepherd hunts for lost sheep. Christ opened the world before them as their field of labor. They were to go 'into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' Mark 16:15. It was of the Saviour that they were to preach, of His life of unselfish service, His death of shame, His unparalleled, unchanging love. His name was to be their watchword, their band of union. In His name they were to subdue the strongholds of sin. Faith in His name was to mark them as Christians." T. 8 p. 14 para. 4.

"Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver. The grace of Christ in the soul is like a spring in the desert, welling up to refresh all, and making those who are ready to perish eager to drink of the water of life." D. A. p. 195 para. 2.

"God expects personal service from every one to whom He has intrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can be home missionaries in their families and neighborhoods." T. 9 p. 30 para. 1.

This great commission is to be the life work of every true Christian from the time of Christ's ascension to His second coming. We are not to leave it or delegate it to certain individuals or organisations.

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul. Christ commits to His followers an individual work,--a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel." M. H. p. 147 para. 3.

Before the disciples could proceed with this great commission, they were to wait for power from above (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8.). This power from above was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a quantity that this world had not seen before. This outpouring was prophesied in the Old Testament under the symbol of the former rain. Now if there is a former, it is only logical that there must also be a latter and Scripture confirms this (Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23; Zech. 10:1.)

"The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Spirit awaits our demand and reception. Christ is again to be revealed in His fulness by the Holy Spirit's power. Men will discern the value of the precious pearl, and with the apostle Paul they will say, 'What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.' Phil. 3:7, 8." C. O. L. p. 121 para. 1.

"The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the Day of Pentecost

to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service. To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace. The men and women who through the long centuries of persecution and trial enjoyed a large measure of the presence of the Spirit in their lives, have stood as signs and wonders in the world. Before angels and men they have revealed the transforming power of redeeming love." A. A. p. 49 para. 2.

We know from Scripture that after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, they fearlessly preached Christ and thousands were converted every day. If this is what the former rain can do, imagine what the latter more abundant rain can do.

But who will receive the latter outpouring of the Holy Spirit and when?

"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action. We should therefore be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that preparation necessary to enable us to stand in the battle in the day of the Lord." E. W. 71 para. 2.

"It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost." T. 5 p. 214 para. 2.

"The latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement." 1 S. M. p. 191 para. 3.

"When we have entire, wholehearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure; ..." Ev. p. 699 para. 2.

"Not until through faith and prayer the disciples had surrendered themselves fully for His working was the outpouring of the Spirit received." C. O. L. p. 327 para. 2.

"Let there be a work of reformation and repentance. Let all seek for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As with the disciples after the ascension of Christ, it may require several days of earnestly seeking God and putting away of sin." M. L. p. 58 para. 3.

"Before the work is closed up and the sealing of God's people is finished, we shall receive the outpouring of the Spirit of God." 1 S. M. p. 111 para. 3.

"The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it." Ev. p. 701 para. 2 - written 1895.

What if we don't do our part of removing every defilement from our character?

"I was shown that if God's people make no efforts on their part, but wait for the refreshing to come upon them and remove their wrongs and correct their errors; if they depend upon that to cleanse them from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and fit them to engage in the loud cry of the third angel, they will be found wanting." T. 1 p. 619 para. 1.

"Only those who are living up to the light they have will receive greater light. Unless we are daily advancing in the exemplification of the active Christian virtues, we shall not recognize the

manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. It may be falling on hearts all around us, but we shall not discern or receive it." T. M. p. 507 para. 1 - written 1897.

Although the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon all true followers of Jesus Christ, just like at the time of the apostles, there will be diversity of gifts and administrations. Paul brings this out very clearly in 1 Corinthians 12:-

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.  
And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.  
And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.  
But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.  
For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;  
To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;  
To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:  
But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.  
For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. . . .  
Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.  
And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."  
1 Cor. 12:4-12; 27, 28.

The Holy Spirit certainly provides for every necessity that may arise in the preaching of the gospel. Among the wonderful gifts - which is something that is bestowed voluntarily, not learned - are wisdom, knowledge, faith, the ability to bring healing to the sick, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits to know truth from error, the ability to speak and interpret other languages, apostles, teaching, helps, and governments. What more could we ask for?

In Ephesians Paul again speaks of the gifts promised by Christ at His ascension and tells us why they are given:-

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;  
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:  
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:  
That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;  
But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"  
Eph. 4:11-15.

All of the gifts of the Spirit are not given for self-glory, nor for gaining money. No, they are given freely to be shared freely with the entire church. They are to help perfect the saints, till all the church comes into unity of faith, until they reflect Jesus Christ fully and completely.

Yet, we are warned not to believe every spirit because there will be false prophets:-

Matt. 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravaging wolves."

Matt. 24:24 "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

If we are to try the spirits, how are we to do this? There are two very simple ways. The first is according to Isaiah 8:20, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Secondly, if someone has received a gift of the Spirit they will have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. If they have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them they will produce appropriate fruits. Matthew 7:20 tells us, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." So what sort of fruits will we be looking for:-

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:19 - 23.

**Now that we have learned a bit about the latter rain are you ready for it? Are you preparing and praying for it? Note these quotes and apply them to your daily life:-**

"We may have had a measure of the Spirit of God, but by prayer and faith we are continually to seek more of the Spirit. It will never do to cease our efforts. If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, we shall lose our souls, and the responsibility will lie at our own door." T. M. p. 507 para. 2.

"We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the Day of Pentecost. If they needed it at that time, we need it more today." T. 5 p. 158 para. 1 - written 1882.

"The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future, but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it." Ev. p. 701 para. 2 - written 1895.

"The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us." R. H. May 5, 1896, para. 1.

"We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne." F. E. p. 537 para. 4. (1909).

## 5b - Evangelism

### WINNING FRIENDS FOR CHRIST

**As you read through this study remember that it is a practical exercise, so don't just read it - put the knowledge that you gain from it into practical everyday use.**

Jesus Christ in our example in all things. Especially when it comes to spreading the gospel message. Jesus loved people and never failed to help them (Matt. 14:14; Mark 1:41; 6:34.), and we should do likewise. We need Christ's love in us that radiates warmth, kindness, compassion, and genuine love to everyone we meet. That does not mean we will not abhor sin. No, but we will love the sinner so much that we will want to lead him/her to a better way of life.

Does that mean we have to mix with all kinds of people? Yes, Jesus did. He befriended and ate with sinners and publicans (Mark 2:15; Matt. 9:11; 11:19.). Jesus also showed an interest in everyone He met and tried to give them spiritual help (John 3:1, 2; 4:7.) His mission in life was to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10.)

To accomplish this work, "He went from place to place, that those in the highways and byways might hear the words of truth. By the sea, on the mountainside, in the streets of the city, in the synagogue, His voice was heard explaining the Scriptures. Often He taught in the outer court of the temple, that the Gentiles might hear His words." G. W. p. 43 para. 4.

But how do you make friends with people? The wisest man, Solomon, tell us:-

Prov. 18:24 "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

Be friendly to people where ever and whenever you meet them:-

- on the road.
- in a bus.
- at the market.
- in the city, town or village.
- at a shop, supermarket, or store.
- while waiting for medical treatment.

As you go about your daily business be friends:-

- wear a smile and see who smiles back.
- say hello to someone who looks lonely, this could brighten someone's lonely dreary day.
- talk to people - start with something you are both experiencing like the weather, long waiting time in a shop, anything that is happening around you.
- inquire about their family showing you are interested in them personally.
- share food with someone that you meet.
- give help if needed, even if that help is only the lending of an ear, picking up something that has been dropped or accidentally left behind, or anything else that you might see that you can help with.

Always keep in mind Christ words, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. Many Christian often think that if they lived in Christ's day they would do all sorts of things for Him, yet He is all around us in the poor, sick, lonely, hungry, stranger, prisoners, etc. The way that we treat these people today is the way we would have treated Jesus in His day. How do you treat these people?

We should also make opportunities to meet people and offer friendship and help. There are quite a variety of ways for us to offer help and friendship:-

- when we hear that someone is sick we can visit them, maybe taking a gift or card.
- when there is a death of a relative or friend we can offer sympathy.
- when new neighbours move into the area we can be friendly, sometimes even helping them move in.
- we can visit people who are in prison and tell them that there is someone who loves them and of a better way of life.
- going to visit a widow with a food parcel or a meal.
- by taking time to listen to the stories of old people and learning from them the vast knowledge they have gained over their lives.
- by helping a neighbour build a new shed, fence, or something else.
- by making a new garden either vegetable or flowers, and sharing the produce with others.

"My brethren and sisters, give yourselves to the Lord for service. Allow no opportunity to pass unimproved. Visit the sick and suffering, and show a kindly interest in them. If possible, do something to make them more comfortable. Through this means you can reach their hearts and speak a word for Christ."

"Eternity alone will reveal how far-reaching such a line of labor can be. Other lines of usefulness will open before those who are willing to do the duty nearest them. It is not learned, eloquent speakers that are needed now, but humble, Christlike men and women, who have learned from Jesus of Nazareth to be meek and lowly, and who, trusting in His strength, will go forth into the highways and hedges to give the invitation: "Come; for all things are now ready." Verse 17." T. 9 p. 36 para. 2 & 3.

"Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart expression of Christlike sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ." T. 9 p. 30 para. 1.

Opportunities for helping others to come to Jesus exist all around us. Keep your eyes open and pray that you will notice these opportunities and use them.

"We are not to wait for souls to come to us; we must seek them out where they are. When the word has been preached in the pulpit, the work has but just begun. There are multitudes who will never be reached by the gospel unless it is carried to them." C. O. L. p. 229 para. 3.

"There are many things that persons may do if they only have a mind to work. There are many who will not go to church to hear the truth preached. By personal efforts in simplicity and wisdom these might be persuaded to turn their feet to the house of God. Conviction may fasten upon their minds the first time they hear a discourse upon present truth. Should your solicitations be refused, do not be discouraged. Persevere till success crowns your efforts." R. H., June 10, 1880 par. 8.

By helping others, by showing sympathy and love, you can reach other's hearts for Christ.



"The sowers of the seed have a work to do in preparing hearts to receive the gospel. In the ministry of the word there is too much sermonizing, and too little of real heart-to-heart work. There is need of personal labor for the souls of the lost. In Christlike sympathy we should come close to men individually, and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root." C. O. L. p. 57 para. 1.

"Consecrate yourselves wholly to the work of God. He is your strength, and He will be at your right hand, helping you to carry on His merciful designs. By personal labor reach those around you. Become acquainted with them. Preaching will not do the work that needs to be done. Angels of God attend you to the dwellings of those you visit. This work cannot be done by proxy. Money lent or given will not accomplish it. Sermons will not do it. By visiting the people, talking, praying, sympathizing with them, you will win hearts. This is the highest missionary work that you can do. To do it, you will need resolute, persevering faith, unwearying patience, and a deep love for souls." T. 9 p. 41 para. 2.

"Deeds, as well as words, of sympathy are needed. Christ prefaced the giving of His message by deeds of love and benevolence. Let these workers go from house to house, helping where help is needed, and, as opportunity offers, telling the story of the cross. Christ is to be their text. They need not dwell upon doctrinal subjects; let them speak of the work and sacrifice of Christ. Let them hold up His righteousness, in their lives revealing His purity.

"The true missionary must be armed with the mind of Christ. His heart must be filled with Christlike love; and he must be true and steadfast to principle." T. 7 p. 227 para. 4 & 228 para. 1.

"Go to your neighbors one by one, and come close to them till their hearts are warmed by your unselfish interest and love. Sympathize with them, pray for them, watch for opportunities to do them good, and as you can, gather a few together and open the word of God to their darkened minds. Keep watching, as he who must render an account for the souls of men, and make the most of the privileges that God gives you of laboring with him in his moral vineyard. Do not neglect speaking to your neighbors, and doing them all the kindness in your power, that you 'by all means may save some.' We need to seek for the spirit that constrained the apostle Paul to go from house to house, pleading with tears, and teaching 'repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.'" R. H., March 13, 1888 par. 8.

"My brethren and sisters, visit those who live near you, and by sympathy and kindness seek to reach their hearts. Be sure to work in a way that will remove prejudice instead of creating it. And remember that those who know the truth for this time and yet confine their efforts to their own churches, refusing to work for their unconverted neighbors, will be called to account for unfulfilled duties." T. 9 p. 34 para. 3.

"To all who are working with Christ I would say, Wherever you can gain access to the people by the fireside, improve your opportunity. Take your Bible, and open before them its great truths. Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourse. The presentation of Christ in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in winning souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches." G. W. p. 193 para. 2.

As you make friends with people, they will learn to trust you and then you can lead them to Jesus.

## 5c - Evangelism

### PERSONAL WITNESSING

**As you read through this study remember that it is a practical exercise, so don't just read it - put the knowledge that you gain from it into practical everyday use.**

The best way to share Jesus Christ with other is to tell them what He has done in your life. The apostles shared what they had seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears (2 Peter 1:16, 18.) They were witnesses to the things that had happened as they walked and talked with Jesus and they shared it with others both verbally and in writing (1 John 1:1-3.).

"As witnesses for Christ, we are to tell what we know, what we ourselves have seen and heard and felt. If we have been following Jesus step by step, we shall have something right to the point to tell concerning the way in which He has led us. We can tell how we have tested His promise, and found the promise true. We can bear witness to what we have known of the grace of Christ. This is the witness for which our Lord calls, and for want of which the world is perishing." D. A. p. 340 para. 1.

The apostles are not the only ones that we have record of in Scripture that witnessed personally of what they had seen and heard of Christ. There are also:-

1. The demon possessed man of Gadarenes who was healed (Luke 8:26-40) -
  - this man had been possessed for many years and lived in the tombs.
  - through the power of the demons he had broken the chains and fetters that he had been bound with.
  - Christ commanded the demons to leave this man, and they obeyed.
  - The man now in his right mind, sat at Jesus feet listening to Him.
  - The people of the area were afraid of Jesus and asked Him to leave.
  - The delivered man besought Jesus to let him go with Him.
  - Jesus refused, telling him to go to his own home, and show what God had done for him.
  - When Jesus returned to the area many people gladly received him.

How much time this man had with Jesus we are not told, but it was less than a full day. Yet this man was to witness for Christ by telling others what God had done for him, and many believed.

2. The Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-39) -
  - Jesus was resting at Jacob's well when a woman from the city of Sychar of Samaria, came to draw water.
  - Jesus asked for a drink something a Jew would never ask a Samaritan.
  - Then He offered her living water.
  - Jesus then asked her to get her husband and bring him to also receive the living water.
  - The woman replied honestly that she had not husband, and Christ told her other things about herself.
  - Christ informed this woman that He was the prophesied Messiah.
  - She ran back to the city without her water pot to tell others that she had found the Messiah who had told her all she had ever done.
  - Many people came out of the city to hear what Christ had to say.

- Many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

Again we see that in only a short time Christ had won the heart of this sin sick soul, showed her things in her life that were not right, and showed her a better way. She being full of love and wanting to share with others gave personal witness the results of which was the believing of many Samaritans in Jesus Christ.

3. Paul whose writings ended up composing most of the New Testament (Acts 22:1-23) –
4. Paul commences this long address with a short statement clearly stating that he used to persecute unto death Christ's followers (verse 2 & 3).
5. He then goes on into detail about his conversion (verses 4-16).
6. Then he concludes this address by relating a vision he had (verses 17 - 23).

This conversion is very different from the other two. Paul had known of Christ and his followers for years and believed them to be the enemy of God and persecuted them to death. But God had a different plan for Paul, and when the time was right God touched his heart and Paul submitted to His loving, cleansing influence. After his conversion Paul became one of the most powerful men for witnessing for Christ. What a difference God can make to a life.

There are three parts to witnessing for Christ:-

1. Tell about the unhappiness and hopelessness of your life before you accepted Jesus. Acknowledge that you like everyone else, were and are a sinner in need of a Saviour.
2. Tell how Jesus changed your life.
3. Tell of the new hope and direction that Jesus has given to your life now that you live for Him.

"Tell them how you found Jesus, and how blessed you have been since you gained an experience in His service. Tell them what blessing comes to you as you sit at the feet of Jesus, and learn precious lessons from His Word. Tell them of the gladness and joy that there is in the Christian life. Your warm, fervent words will convince them that you have found the pearl of great price. Let your cheerful, encouraging words show that you have certainly found the higher way. This is genuine missionary work, and as it is done, many will awake as from a dream." Ev. p. 485 para. 4.

"There are numbers of families who will never be reached by the truth of God's Word unless the stewards of the manifold grace of Christ enter their homes, and by earnest ministry, sanctified by the endorsement of the Holy Spirit, break down the barriers and enter the hearts of the people. As the people see that these workers are messengers of mercy, the ministers of grace, they are ready to listen to the words spoken by them. But the hearts of those who do this work must throb in unison with the heart of Christ. They must be wholly consecrated to the service of God, ready to do His bidding, to go wheresoever His providence leads them, and speak the words He gives them. And if they are what God desires they shall be, if they are imbued with His Holy Spirit, they co-operate with the heavenly agencies and are indeed 'laborers together with God.'" Ev. p. 158 para. 5.

"A great work can be done by presenting to the people the Bible just as it reads. Carry the Word of God to every man's door, urge its plain statements upon every man's conscience, repeat to all the Saviour's command, 'Search the Scriptures.' Admonish them to take the Bible as it is, to implore the divine enlightenment, and then, when the light shines, to gladly accept each precious ray, and fearlessly abide the consequences." Ev. p. 434 para. 2.

"All who can, should do personal labor. As they go from house to house, explaining the Scriptures to the people in a clear, simple manner, God makes the truth powerful to save. The Saviour blesses those who do this work." Ev. p. 442 para. 1.

"There are many souls yearning unutterably for light, for assurance and strength beyond what they have been able to grasp. They need to be sought out and labored for patiently, perseveringly. Beseech the Lord in fervent prayer for help. Present Jesus because you know Him as your personal Saviour. Let His melting love, His rich grace, flow forth from human lips. You need not present doctrinal points unless questioned. But take the Word, and with tender, yearning love for souls, show them the precious righteousness of Christ, to whom you and they must come to be saved." Ev. p. 442 para. 2.

"Much depends upon the manner in which you meet those whom you visit. You can take hold of a person's hand in greeting in such a way as to gain his confidence at once, or in so cold a manner that he will think you have no interest in him." Ev. p. 444 para. 2.

As you tell your story, people will see your happiness and will want the same happiness for themselves. As you tell what Jesus has done for you do not boast of your past sins as this bring glory to Satan. Do not criticise other people or churches as criticising is not part of Christ's character which is what you are trying to show the person. Let your main theme be Jesus Christ, lift him up as the one who has helped you and changed you (John 12:32).

"Do not utter one despondent word: for such words please Satan. Talk of Christ's goodness and tell of his power. Words of hope and trust and courage are as easily spoken as words of complaint. 'Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.'" R. H., April 7, 1904 par. 19.

As you meet people, look for opportunities to tell your story. The following people provide these opportunities :-

- worried people.
- frightened people.
- sad people.
- sick people.
- grieving people.
- sin-heavy people.
- lonely people.
- people in your city, town, or village.

Most people today are more interested in finding personal happiness and peace of mind than they are in the doctrines of the church. They think they can find this in worldly pleasures and money, but even these often leave them empty and hollow. Show them how Jesus gave you happiness. Introduce them first to the Saviour. Help them to trust Him and accept Him as their Lord and Friend. Once they have learned to trust Jesus, they will then be ready to accept His doctrines.

## 5d - Evangelism

### GIVING BIBLE STUDIES

**As you read through this study remember that it is a practical exercise, so don't just read it - put the knowledge that you gain from it into practical everyday use.**

When preparing and giving Bible studies there are several aspects that need careful consideration.

1. Personal preparation before preparing and giving a Bible study is vital.

Before every major event in His ministry, Jesus prayed for guidance and help (Mark 1:35; Luke 9:18, 28, 29) and we need to do the same. We are admonished by James that if we lack wisdom we should ask God for it as He giveth it liberally (James 1:5). Paul tells us that we are to come boldly unto the throne of grace and there receive mercy and grace to help in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

"Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given." S. C. p. 91 para. 1.

Christ promised all His disciples that when the Spirit of truth was come He would guide us into all truth, and He would show us things to come (John 16:13). What a wonderful promise. There are so many people who claim to have truth today, that many others are confused and don't know which way to turn. Yet, here is a concrete promise that if we ask Him the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth - not just some, not most, but all truth!

2. Choosing a topic for the study.

There are many subjects which will interest most people interested in Bible study like Signs of the Times, The Second Coming, How to be Saved, God's Holy Law, etc. However, sometimes as you get to know people a particular subject may be brought up. These may be as diverse as Are Jesus and Satan Brothers, Was Christ Crucified on Wednesday, Who Changed the Sabbath, or Health Reform.

No matter who you are going to study with choose a topic to meet the needs of the hearers. Make sure that the topic centers around Jesus Christ as learning about Jesus and His will for our lives is the object of all the Bible and should be the object of all our study.

Introduce a person to Jesus first. Once they have found peace and forgiveness through His sacrifice and learned to love and trust Him, then they will find it easier to make changes in their lives when they learn of His will for them in Scripture.

Also, follow a correct order of topics. When doing a study on the mark of the beast, you first need to identify what a beast is, who is the beast, etc. before presenting God's fearful warning again those who receive the mark of the beast. The same can be said of the Three Angels Messages. They must be presented in order. It is no good presenting the Third to the

person has never heard the First or the Second. "Let all things be done decently and in order." 1 Cor. 14:40.

### 3. Preparing a Bible study outline.

A Bible study should have three main parts:-

- Introduction -  
to awaken the interest of the hearers. It must be sincerely honest in its claims. The introduction should be brief and yet lay a good foundation for the rest of the study. It should meet the need and mental capacity of the reader. A strong text or two may also open the mind to Bible-directed thinking before the main points are built up in a more thorough way. Once an interest has been gained, then you are ready to move on, investigating the evidence.
- 
- Body -  
this should include a series of questions which can be asked, and the Bible texts which give a clear, precise answer. As Jesus was ready with a 'Thus saith the Lord,' so should we. These questions and answers need to be arranged in a logical order so that the main theme of the Bible study is understood by the hearer. Then tie together with bands of sound logic the clear points of truth.

Always keep in mind:-

"The word of God is plain in itself; and if there appear any obscurity in one place, the Holy Ghost, which is never contrary to Himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but unto such as obstinately remain ignorant." G. C. p. 251 para. 2.

"The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed." G. C. p. 598 para. 3.

"Be sure that the evidence of truth is in the Scripture itself." F. E. p. 390 para. 2.

"The apostle says, 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' The Bible is its own expositor. One passage will prove to be a key that will unlock other passages, and in this way light will be shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident." F. E. p. 187 para. 2.

"All should feel the importance of the scheme of educating the youth to understand the Scriptures. Let the work be taken hold of in the very simplicity of the truth itself. Lead the minds of the youth from truth to truth, up higher and higher, showing them how scripture interprets scripture, one passage being the key to other passages. Thus the Scripture itself will be the educating power, holding the thoughts in captivity to Christ." Ev. p. 581 para. 1.

"The deep meaning of the truths of God's word is unfolded to our minds by His Spirit." T. 8 p. 157 para. 1.

- Conclusion - the ending or closing of the Bible study suggest a summarising, clinching, appealing, or forecasting - depending on the study. Now is the time of guiding the hearer into a committal regarding the point or points of truth revealed from the Scripture. Guard against using pressure or embarrassing the hearer which may put the hearer off from accepting truth then and in the future. Gently appeal to them that God only asks us to do what is best for us. He never asks us to give up anything that is good for us, only that which will do us harm. Inform them that God truly loves them despite what they might have done in the past, that He will forgive them, that at the time of ignorance God winks at but now that they know He expects us to act (Acts 17:30), and to return His love by loving and obeying Him.

#### 4. Presenting the Bible study.

- Bible studies may be given to one person or several people together. However, if too many people are present at a Bible study, it may be hard for them to make a personal decision about the truth presented because they are embarrassed to speak out in front of others. Between one and five persons is the best number.
- Begin each and every Bible study with a word of prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide all present into all truth as Jesus promised He would.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- A Bible study is not a sermon. Do not preach at people, but read and discuss what you read.
- Read each Bible text carefully. You have God's Word in your hands so always handle it with respect and reverence.
- Encourage your hearers to participate in the study.
- Ask them questions about the texts you are reading, and highlight point of interest.
- Encourage them to ask you questions and let the Bible answer them.
- If you do not know the answer off hand, tell them so and study the question out and next time you meet give them the Bible answer to their question.
- Ask them to read Bible texts.
- Encourage discussion.
- Do not hurry through the Bible study. Make each point clear before you move on to the next point. Ask your hearers if they have understood what you have said.
- Use visual aids such as picture rolls, pictorial aids, charts, or blackboards, to make your presentation clear.
- Use stories to help present your message, but keep them short and to the point. Stories can be like windows that let in light and fresh air.

- In closing pray for each of your listeners. Ask God's blessing on each one. Mention their names in your prayer.

#### 5. Dangers to avoid in your presentation.

- Do not try to give too much information at each Bible study, 10 - 15 texts are sufficient. 30 - 40 minutes is long enough for each Bible study.
- Do not preach, lecture, shout, or point at your listeners. Help them to feel at ease.
- Never argue with your listeners. Do not get angry. Calmly state what God's Word says and let the Holy Spirit convict hearts. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, but the Christian's opinion should be what Scripture clearly states.
- Keep to the topic you are presenting. If questions are asked about another topic, tell your listeners you will give them a fully study at a later date on that subject.
- Do not criticise or speak disrespectfully about other people or churches. Uphold God's truth and it will expose the error of false teachings.
- After the Bible study is over, do not stay on too long. Leave while the appeal of God's Word is still in the minds of your listeners.

"Often, as you seek to present the truth, opposition will be aroused; but if you seek to meet the opposition with argument, you will only multiply it, and this you cannot afford to do. Hold to the affirmative. Angels of God are watching you, and they understand how to impress those whose opposition you refuse to meet with arguments. Dwell not on the negative points of questions that arise, but gather to your minds affirmative truths, and fasten them there by much study, earnest prayer, and heart consecration. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, and let bright rays shine forth, that men, beholding your good works, may be led to glorify your Father who is in heaven." G. W. p. 358 para. 1.



## **5e - Evangelism**

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**As you read through this study remember that it is a practical exercise, so don't just read it - put the knowledge that you gain from it into practical everyday use.**

"The human voice is a precious gift of God; it is a power for good, and the Lord wants His servants to preserve its pathos and melody." Ev. p. 667 para. 3.

"Let the voices of the followers of Christ be trained so that instead of crowding words together in a thick, indistinct way, their words will be clear, forcible, and edifying. Do not let the voice fall after each word, but keep it up so that every sentence will be full and complete. The voice of thanksgiving, praise, and rejoicing is heard in heaven. The voices of the children of God unite with the voices of the angels of heaven, as they ascribe honor and glory and praise unto God and to the Lamb for the great salvation he has provided." C. E. p. 131 para. 1.

"God has given us the gift of speech that we may recite to others the dealing of God with us, that his love and compassion may touch their hearts, and that praise may also arise from their souls to him who hath called them out of darkness into his marvelous light. The Lord has said, 'Ye are my witnesses.' [ISA. 43:10.] But all who are called to be witnesses for Christ must learn of him, that they maybe efficient witnesses. As children of the heavenly King, you should educate yourselves to bear testimony in a clear, distinct voice, and in such a manner that no one may have the impression that you are reluctant to speak of the mercies of the Lord." C. E. p. 129 para. 1.

"The gift of speech has been greatly abused and widely perverted from its intended purpose; but let those who claim to be children of the heavenly King awake to their responsibility, and make the most of this talent." C. T. p. 245 para. 4.

"In all our work more attention should be given to the culture of the voice. We may have knowledge, but unless we know how to use the voice correctly, our work will be a failure. Unless we can clothe our ideas in appropriate language, of what avail is our education? Knowledge will be of little advantage to us unless we cultivate the talent of speech; but it is a wonderful power when combined with the ability to speak wise, helpful words, and to speak them in a way that will command attention." T. 6 p. 380 para. 1.

Teaching is performed mainly through the use of our voices. Therefore, we need to pay close attention as to how we speak so that others can clearly hear us and understand what we say.

#### **Jesus as a public speaker.**

Jesus did a lot of public speaking during His ministry. He spoke on mountain sides, by the sea shore, along the roadside, and in the temple courtyard. His voice was always clear so that all could hear, and He spoke as one with authority (Matt. 7:28, 29; John 7:46).

"His language was pure, refined, and clear as a running stream. His voice was as music to those who had listened to the monotonous tones of the rabbis. But while His teaching was simple,

He spoke as one having authority. This characteristic set His teaching in contrast with that of all others. The rabbis spoke with doubt and hesitancy, as if the Scriptures might be interpreted to mean one thing or exactly the opposite. The hearers were daily involved in greater uncertainty. But Jesus taught the Scriptures as of unquestionable authority. Whatever His subject, it was presented with power, as if His words could not be controverted." D. A. p. 253 para. 5.

"The Saviour's voice was a music to the ears of those who had been accustomed to the monotonous, spiritless preaching of the scribes and Pharisees. He spoke slowly and impressively, emphasizing those words to which He wished His hearers to give special heed." C. T. p. 240 para. 1.

Study carefully the methods Jesus our great example in all thing, used to teach His hearers eternal truths. Notice and copy how He held their interest:-

- His preaching was preceded by prayer.
- His preaching was based on Scripture.
- He used many illustrations from nature.
- He kept it simple so that children could understand, while there was a deeper meaning for the adults too.
- He used simple parables to teach important truths.
- His preaching was aimed at meeting the needs of the people.
- He visited and talked with all kinds of people. This helped Him to understand what to preach about.

## **Public speaking for us.**

It is extremely important for all public speakers to know how to prepare interesting material and how to present that material in an interesting way. However, it is even more important for them to learn how to speak clearly so that they can present their carefully prepared material in words that can be heard and understood. Any public speaker who neglects the development of his voice is doing discredit to the cause of God.

Just before Peter betrayed His Lord, it was said of him that his speech betrayed that He was a follower of Jesus (Matt. 26:73; Mark 14:70). When Paul was writing to Titus, he encouraged him to be of 'sound speech, that cannot be condemned' (Titus 2:8). He also admonished the Colossians, "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6.

As for his own preaching, Paul, wrote to the Corinthians that he came not with excellency of speech or wisdom, but declaring the testimony of God. He did not use enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. (1 Cor. 2:1-5.)

In Nehemiah's day they, "So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Nehemiah 8:8. When we speak publicly we should seek to make the meaning of God's Word clear so that the people can understand.

"Ministers of the gospel should know how to speak with power and expression, making the words of eternal life so expressive and impressive that the hearers cannot but feel their weight. I am pained as I hear the defective voices of many of our ministers. Such ministers rob God of the glory He might have if they had trained themselves to speak the word with power. "No man should regard himself as qualified to enter the ministry until by persevering effort he has overcome every defect in his utterance. If he attempts to speak to the people without knowing how

to use the talent of speech, half his influence is lost, for he has little power to hold the attention of a congregation." T. 6 p. 381 para. 1 & 2.

"The culture and right use of the voice are greatly neglected, even by persons of intelligence and Christian activity. There are many who read or speak in so low or so rapid a manner that they cannot be readily understood. Some have a thick, indistinct utterance; others speak in a high key, in sharp, shrill tones, that are painful to the hearers. Texts, hymns, and the reports and other papers presented before public assemblies are sometimes read in such a way that they are not understood and often so that their force and impressiveness are destroyed.

"This is an evil that can and should be corrected. On this point the Bible gives instruction. Of the Levites who read the Scriptures to the people in the days of Ezra, it is said, 'They read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.' Neh. 8:8.

"By diligent effort all may acquire the power to read intelligibly, and to speak in a full, clear, round tone, in a distinct and impressive manner. By doing this we may greatly increase our efficiency as workers for Christ." C. O. L. p. 335 para. 3 - 5.