

Closing The Net

Preface

The Body of Christ is now experiencing a greater interest in evangelism than ever before. In fact it might be called an "Evangelism Explosion." Successful ministers are turning their eyes to the fields white to harvest and entering the evangelistic ministry. What is happening?-God is pouring out His Spirit and there is "Revival In The Air."

This book has been written to assist the ministers who desire to be "Fishers of Men," to know how to effectively close the net. It is written for those who are not satisfied to preach a good message with no visible results. It is written for those who are dissatisfied with a mediocre evangelistic ministry. It is written for those who will dare to be different. It is written for those ministers who will prepare themselves as best they can and believe God to use their abilities for His glory.

I will be the first to admit that this presentation is far from complete. This is, however, a booklet prepared to give briefly and simply, methods and techniques that may be used to extend an effective invitation. However, it does not stop with the invitation, but gives guidelines for altar workers and for new Christians. These guidelines may be taught by the evangelistic ministers which will in turn cause their ministry to be much more far reaching.

It is suggested that you read this book slowly, and study the various appeals. Meditate on these and other methods to successfully cause, men to respond to the 'invitation to accept Christ. Ask the Holy Ghost to inspire you for the right approach.

The harvest is plenteous. The laborers are few. The time is short. May the Lord of the harvest use this book to help ministers do the work of an evangelist, and make full proof of their ministry.-Elwood Matthews

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The INVITATION

Introduction

In evangelical churches and especially in Pentecostal circles the invitation is the climatic point of the evangelistic service. It is through this medium that the unsaved, burdened, or troubled soul is invited to accept and receive Christ. Not always, but in the majority of cases the person is invited to come to the front of the building, go to a prayer room, or to some specific place for counsel, prayer and instructions.

As important as the invitation is, it is without exception the most difficult part of the evangelistic message. The majority of ministers will quickly admit that the invitation poses a problem for them. A conscientious dedicated pastor was once heard to say, at the end of an invitation, "Oh God, I wish I knew how to give an invitation."

There are several reasons why the majority of ministers are unable to extend an effective invitation: (1) They do not realize the importance. (2) They do not prepare it as they do the message. (3) They are not sensitive to the Spirit. (4) They expect God to do it without their assistance. (5) They are more interested in producing a highly accepted message than in reaching souls. (6) They do not have a burden for the lost. (7) They do not know how. Many ministers put much time in study and preparation for the message. They pray, read, think, outline, and believe God for an anointed delivery. It is not uncommon for some ministers to spend from eight to forty hours in the preparation of one message. It is strange, however, that they would spend so much time in preparing the message and none on the invitation.

No one can tell another how to give an invitation any more than he can tell him how to preach. However, some guide lines and methods that have worked effectively for some successful evangelists might be helpful to you.

It must be understood that it is the drawing force of the Holy Spirit that brings people to Christ. It is His work to speak to hearts and to convict them. It is the

job of the minister to so challenge the hearer as to help him respond to the wooing and conviction of the Spirit.

This section emphasizes methods and techniques, however, these alone are not enough. These are ineffective without the working of the Spirit. The work of soul winning requires much prayer, faith, and dependence upon the word of God and the Holy Ghost. In no way is this intended to be a bag of tricks by which the insincere may report a large number of conversions. It is rather a compilation of thoughts, ideas, and suggestions from those whose burden for souls has caused them to search for more effective methods to reach the lost.

Invitations Are Vital

As the net is to the fisherman and the summation is to the lawyer, so is the invitation to the evangelistic message. It is through this medium that people are given opportunity to respond to the gospel.

Emotions aroused and stirred should be acted upon immediately. It is unfair to the congregation to hear a Holy Ghost anointed message and not be given an opportunity to respond. The Holy Ghost moves mightily upon men and arouses their very highest emotions, desires, and aspirations. They should be invited to respond to these immediately. Everything moves in a fast pace today. Therefore, it is necessary to reach people when the desire for Christ is aroused. If they wait and allow for private meditation and decision they may never come to Him. This old prover. "strike while the iron is hot" applies to giving an evangelistic invitation.

Many prepare the evangelistic message well, but give little thought to the invitation. As the lawyer studies how to present the summation of a case to the jury. and the fisher- man studies how to land the fish after the strike, so must the evangelist learn how to secure a sincere response to the message.

The manner in which the invitation is given will greatly affect the response of the hearers. Therefore, more spiritual energy and compassion are needed for the invitation than any other part of the service. When the evangelist enters into the invitation let him do it with force and power.

This is the time for him to be in complete command. It is no time for him to be timid, indifferent, or uncertain. As he displays courage, confidence, and authority, the people will respond more readily to his appeals. With this in mind the following general suggestions should prove valuable.

1. Be Positive. Let all appeals be in the affirmative. Help the congregation to make the right move by saying, "Yes Lord I will," "Yes Lord I'm coming," "Yes Lord tonight," "Do it, do it now," "You mean to receive Him sometime, why not now." Do not say, "Is there one that will come forward?" Say, "How many will come forward?" A good way to display a positive attitude is to come down from the pulpit or platform to the level of the people and invite them to meet you there. This indicates that you expect people to respond and also as you get nearer to the people it is easier for them to come.

2. Be Explicit. It is very easy to confuse the hearers when giving an invitation. It is one thing to invite people to come forward to accept Christ, yet it is something else to invite them to come to rededicate their lives. Make it absolutely clear what you are inviting them to do. There are several propositions that may be presented, however, be certain that you make it clear as to what you are asking them to respond to. Be it salvation, a deeper walk with the Lord, dedication, rededication, personal problem, and the list goes on. Do not stop too soon, particularly when you know there are those present that should make a move. However, the invitation should not be prolonged to the point as to "wear- out" the audience. Vary the appeals as to reach the different needs of your hearers. Take time enough to press each field, but not to bore the congregation. Impress upon the minds of the Christians the need of patience, quietness, and prayer during the invitation. Be more sensitive to the Spirit than to the clock.

3. Be Earnest. Speak as a dying preacher to dying sinners. The eternal destiny of your hearers hangs upon your invitation. Do not be embarrassed to weep over sinners that are lost and condemned under the wrath of God. Never allow the invitation to become professional. Plead for souls because you love them and have compassion for them. Yearning compassion cannot be imitated. All begging, crying, and pleading are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbal unless there is a real earnest compassion in the bosom of the minister. Plead for Christ with holy concern and a melting compassion.

4. Be Honest and Courteous. Do not embarrass people by making them conspicuous. Do not use tricks or deception. Do what you tell the people you will do. If you say you are only going to have one more verse of a song then stick to your word. If you indicate that you are going to ask people to only raise their hand, then be truthful. Be as good as your word. People judge ministers very severely concerning truthfulness. Do not give any occasion to be criticized for not being truthful in the invitation. It is not always wise to say, that you are only going to ask them to raise their hand or only have one other song, etc., for in the event that great conviction should seize the crowd you would feel pressed to continue the invitation. Therefore, it would be better just to ask people to raise their hands for prayer or while another verse of a song is being sung rather than indicating that this will be the end of the invitation.

5. Be Dependent upon the Holy Ghost. Do not try to do the work of the Holy Ghost. It is His work to convict men. Only He is able to show these sin blinded minds the value of the cross of Christ. Allow Him to work. Expect His presence. Cast aside all human boasting, pride, and theatrical tricks. Be prayerful and ask the Christians to silently pray for this all important part of the evangelistic service. Allow the Spirit to use the Word of God that you have proclaimed in the message.

6. Be Resourceful. Think over your invitation ahead of time and change your methods. Never let each one become a carbon copy of the other. If one type doesn't seem to be working then change to another kind. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and proceed according to His guidance.

7. Use the Scripture. Quote the Scriptures freely and rely upon them to accomplish the work. Use the Word in every form of appeal and invitation. Illustrations and actual happenings are good to bring the truth to a person, but nothing has the lasting affect as the powerful Word of God. It is sharper than a two-edged sword.

Invitations Are Logical And Biblical

Evangelistic sermons are for the expressed purpose of bringing people to Christ. The evangelist advertises, visits, prays, fasts, and makes special efforts to create a favorable atmosphere to reach the lost during evangelistic meetings. It is only

logical then that he should ask for an immediate response to the gospel of Christ. Strong inclinations to become a Christian may soon pass away if people leave the meeting without acting upon their feelings. Satan will soon snatch the Word away from their hearts and fill their minds with thoughts of other matters.

In our day of skilled and high pressure advertising and promotion, people are accustomed to all kind of appeals. Radio, television, and the newspaper keep before us a, "come-see-and-buy." advertising plan. The skilled salesman asks us to sign on the dotted line after he has presented his sales pitch. This generation is perhaps more invitation conscious than any before us. Therefore, is it not logical and reasonable that the evangelist should utilize this invitation consciousness to bring people to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Not only are invitations logical, but are also Biblical. Throughout the Scripture there are many appeals, exhortations, and pleadings for people to heed the calls from God. From God's searching question to Adam, "Where art thou" in Genesis 3, to the appeal of the Bride and Spirit in the last chapter of the Bible, God's Word continually invites lost humanity to turn to Him.

Examples of invitations are found in such passages as: Exodus 32:26, Moses said, "Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me." In Joshua 24:15, "... choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said, ". . . Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." In Matthew 9:9, He said to Matthew, "... Follow me. And he arose, and followed him." In 2 Corinthians 5:11, Paul said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. . . ." And in Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say. Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." The evangelist voices the invitation of the bride while the Spirit works within the heart of the lost sinner.

Timing Is Invaluable

In the majority of churches an invitation is extended only on Sunday evening or in special evangelistic meetings. There are some pastors, however, that extend an

invitation at the close of every sermon. Regardless whether the service is on Sunday morning or during the mid-week the time to give the invitation is when the Spirit moves.

Many preachers are not sensitive enough to the Spirit of the Lord to know when He is dealing with people's hearts. There have been instances of the Spirit convicting people while ministers were preaching and because they did not sense this move of the Spirit they continued their message and by the time they had finished conviction was no longer on the congregation. The Spirit may breathe upon a congregation at any time during the service. Be ready to thrust in the sickle at that moment.

The Spirit might move in the song service, during a special song, a testimony, during or at the end of the message. Let the Holy Ghost determine the time to move, and be sensitive enough to realize He is moving and move accordingly. Be certain to depend on and yield to the leading of the Spirit. The invitation will pose no great problem when an atmosphere of true revival prevails. When revival sweeps the community practically any kind of invitation will bring results. However, all evangelistic endeavors are not conducted in an atmosphere of genuine revival.

Invitational music should be arranged by the evangelists prior to their entering the pulpit. An inconspicuous signal should be given to the music director when the music or song is to begin. With this arrangement there is no wasted time and the ministers smoothly move from the message to the invitation without interruption.

Appeal To Various Motives

Each individual is different. God has so ordained it. The influences and motives that move some people will not affect others. Therefore, it is necessary that the effective evangelist appeal to various motives in order to reach them for Christ.

1. Salvation of the Soul. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). Man is lost and condemned to eternal damnation except he accept Christ. This is an appeal to fear and is frowned on by many. However, if this appeal can be the means of snatching people from an eternal hell, and starting them on the road of everlasting life, then, may it be used effectively to the glory of God. Death is prevalent and destruction is promised to the unbeliever. The "hell-fire- and-brimstone" type approach is the only appeal that will affect some people.

2. A Deeper Experience With God. In practically every congregation there will be those who have been saved but need to follow the Lord in sanctification and the baptism with the Spirit. Appeal to these that they are given the opportunity to obtain more of God. Impress upon their minds that it is not only their duty but a great privilege that has been afforded them that they should be able to receive deeper things of God.

3. Fellowship. Christian people are the best people on earth and fellowship with them is the nearest thing to heaven on earth. There is a loneliness in mankind and his heart cries out for fellowship with God and with mankind. One can find true friendship and fellowship only through Jesus Christ. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Appeal to the desire that man has for friendship and fellowship.

4. Become Instrumental In Reaching Others. Everyone has a desire to be of service and to influence others. All professions are for a time and the rewards will be gone. Providing Christian service and reaching others with the message of Christ is for eternity and the rewards are forever. Christ solicits your service and needs it.

He needs you to exercise influence over the lives of others. On your becoming a Christian you will have influence on those who know you. You might say that you couldn't influence anyone, but remember no man lives unto himself or dies unto himself. Think of your family, friends, relatives, and acquaintances. They will know your life now and you can have a great influence on helping them to follow Christ as you do. Set an influential example and provide a great service to the

kingdom of God through accepting and living for Christ. This appeal especially has an affect on those who desire to be leaders.

5. Be Logical and Reasonable. When the minister has presented an effective gospel message showing the fallacies of the flesh as compared to the infallibility of the spiritual life it is only logical and reasonable that a man should desire to live the higher life. Appeal to his logic in asking him to honestly investigate the difference in the joy, happiness, peace, and contentment of the Christian as compared to that of the infidel, skeptic, or atheist. God invites the sinner to come now and let us reason together. Therefore, the man who considers himself reasonable will be affected by this type of appeal.

6. Rededication. Practically every Christian has wandered farther from the Lord than he felt that he should. You may appeal to this person with the thought that he knows the joys of communion with the Lord which he is not enjoying at this time. Let this be a time of rededication and returning to that fellowship and communion once enjoyed.

7. Fear, Depression and Oppression. In every congregation you will have people who are troubled with nerves, fear, oppression, depression, and other bonds of the enemy. Many of these will have tried various methods to obtain deliverance without success. Since none of these have produced the desired results, an appeal for them to bring their cares to Jesus might very well move them to a closer relationship with Him.

8. Additional Suggestions For Appeals: Sense of sin-most people feel "out of tune" Lost Assurances (Luke 21:33)

- Anxiety
- Boredom
- Self-perplexity
- Fear of Death
- Loneliness
- Hunger for Truth
- Sense of "Something Missing"
- Mistrust of Life

- Inner Conflict
- Resentment of Material Domination
- Eagerness for a Better World
- Love of Home and Family
- the Appeal to Heroism
- the Attraction of Jesus Christ
- the Power of the Cross

Of course these are not all the areas of appeal that might be used. The list would almost be inexhaustible. However, these are some of the more prominent areas.

Methods To Employ

Invaluable assets of the evangelist are resourcefulness and variety. He must be careful not to fall into fixed and mechanical ways of conducting services.

Therefore, he should be acquainted with many ways in which invitations may be given as to keep the services interesting and varied. Everything must be done in decency and in order and in harmony with the dignity and truth of the gospel.

Every evangelist is not expected to use all of these invitational methods. These have been drawn from personal experiences and also experiences from successful soul winners. Use what you can use and ignore the rest. The only purpose for these being compiled is to assist the interested evangelist in becoming better equipped to give an effective invitation.

All sincere Christians are opposed to cheap methods of high pressure, deception, trickery, and sensationalism. Too often evangelism in general has been discredited and dishonored because of such tactics. Apparently too many preachers have been more interested in quantity rather than in quality of conversions. Be assured this is not the purpose of these methods.

No two preachers are alike. Each differ in training, mannerism, temperaments, and personalities. It is believed that every minister can utilize a percentage of the methods presented here.

Although congregations and situations differ, and some of the invitations here could not be used in some churches without being criticized, the main concern is to win as many people as possible. During the evangelistic service people may be ready to accept Christ if given an opportunity. You must do your best to give that opportunity in such a way as to bring about conversions. What a shame to let anyone leave unconverted because the invitation had not been presented properly.

The wise fishermen will take a wide selection of bait and plugs in their kit on a fishing trip. They are aware that different types of bait attracts different types of fish and that fish are extremely unpredictable. There are times when several changes of bait will be made before the fish begin to strike. Jesus said, ". . . and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Some only use the bait of enlistment evangelism. Others will use the rod and reel of personal evangelism. Still others will throw out the net of mass evangelism. To effectively cast and close this gospel net you should familiarize yourself with as many methods to employ as possible.

1. Raise Hands. At the conclusion of the message ask the congregation to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite those who need to be baptized with the Holy Ghost to raise their hand. Then, those who need to be sanctified. With heads still bowed and eyes closed invite those who are unsaved to raise their hands. Continue asking these people until you feel that you have gotten each person who is unsaved to raise their hands. Ask the entire congregation to stand and invite those who have raised their hands to come forward. This type of invitation can be carried further as the evangelist might feel. As the people's heads are bowed you might also ask those who have personal problems, are troubled by depression, fear, nerves, and any number of other problems to raise their hands. These also should be invited to come to the front in the same manner as the others.

This type invitation can take in any number of needs. However, the evangelist needs to be very specific in what he is asking the people to raise their hands for. This is especially effective when people are not responding too well to the simple invitation to come forward.

2. Christians Stand. Invite the Christians that are present to stand to their feet. While they are standing explain the joys, peace, and contentment, and happiness that these people experience in knowing Christ. Then invite the sinners to also stand with them. After they have stood invite them to come forward to a place of prayer.

3. Deeper Experience. In practically every congregation there will be those who have been converted but have a need of a deeper experience with the Lord. Invite them to come forward. Explain the deeper experiences to be obtained, and make the invitation very clear.

4. Christians and Friends Invite Sinners. Especially in evangelistic crusades, Christians will invite friends or relatives who are unsaved to the meeting. As the invitation is being given ask the Christians to invite these to come forward with them. Be certain to make it clear that the Christians are in no way to embarrass the visitors or to be discourteous to them. There are times when only a slight encouragement from a friend or relative will cause people to respond to the gospel.

5. Those Praying For Someone. Ask those who are praying for someone that is present to come to the front, and face the congregation. Invite those who know that one of these people are praying for them to come and join them at the front of the building. Impress upon the minds of the hearers that these people are interested enough in their souls that they are willing to spend time praying for them. Suggest to them that it might be because of the prayers of these people that they are well and able to be in the service tonight. Encourage them to show their appreciation for the prayers by coming forward and joining those who have been praying for them.

6. Silence. Ask the musicians and singers not to play or sing. Ask for a complete silence throughout the building. Before the silence, speak very softly suggesting that the people allow God to speak to them in a small quiet voice. Allow the silence to last from one to two minutes. If used correctly this will be very effective.

7. Invite Personally. Some evangelists have been effective in walking through the aisles and personally speaking to the unsaved and inviting them to the altar for prayer. This is no time to argue or embarrass, but just a quiet sincere invitation from an evangelist will, in many cases, help the person to make the move. Some evangelists grasp people by the hands and shake their hands as they invite them to accept Christ.

8. Speak to the Individual. While standing on the platform the evangelist might catch the eye of an individual and talk directly to him inviting him to come forward. Some evangelists have, on occasions, called the name of the individual and invited him. Be careful in doing this as not to embarrass or cause resentment. However, if God inspires it, it will have its results.

9. Motion for the Individual. Similar to the above the evangelist looks at the individual and motions him to come forward. He might also speak as above.

10. Eliminate the Sermon. There will be times in an evangelistic meeting when the congregation will be moved by a stirring testimony or song. The evangelist that is sensitive to the convicting spirit of the Lord will proceed immediately into an invitation rather than preaching a message.

11. Prepare To Meet Loved Ones. This is a very touching invitation and should be used carefully. The call should be directed to all those who have loved ones in heaven.

a. Ask those who know they are prepared to meet those who are in heaven to come to the front. While standing there ask what relatives they have in heaven. Then invite backsliders to come to Christ.

b. Next invite those who have never known the Lord to prepare to meet loved ones in heaven. Emphasize that heaven is a prepared place for a prepared person. An appropriate hymn for such a time as this would be, "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There," or "When the Saints Go Marching In."

12. Specific Groups Take the Lead. This type invitation may vary from time to time and the evangelist will ask for people of certain groups to come forward and stand at the front of the building. He then will ask the unsaved to follow their example. He must act on inspiration. Certain age groups that might be

asked to come to the front: Sunday School teachers, aged Christians, new converts, church leaders, Christian children, parents, and any other particular group that might be appropriate for a particular service. Of course, only one group of these should be used during any particular service unless there is a heavy inspiration concerning using the second group.

13. Last Night. "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jeremiah 8:20), is an effective scripture to use in the last night of a revival. Impress upon the heart and mind of the sinner that this is the last night of the revival, and could very easily be the last invitation that will be extended to him. "Why not make the move tonight? Today is the day of Salvation." You might say: "I will ask you one question. I cannot answer the question, you cannot answer the question, the devil himself cannot answer the question." The question, "How shall you escape if you neglect so great a salvation?" Speak as a dying preacher to dying people, for this could very easily be your last opportunity to reach them for Christ. If they do not move tonight it could mean that they will never receive Christ.

14. Pray at Seat. There will be times when no amount of pleading will bring the sinners to the front of the building. Therefore, suggest to those that have special needs from God to pray at their seats, or either to kneel there. This can be quite effective. After the prayer at the altar has ended ask those praying at their seats to testify as to what Christ has done for them.

15. Shake the Evangelist's Hand. Most of your energy and strength has been expended. You have done your best to get people to respond. Yet, there are those who need to come forward but will not make the move. Invite them to walk to the front and shake hands with you indicating that they desire your prayers in their behalf. If they so desire, they may return to their seats. On the other hand if they desire to remain at the front for prayer they may do so. Do not use trickery. Be honest in carrying through what you tell them you will do. If they come to the front to shake hands do not embarrass them by pressing them to stay if they show no desire to do so.

16. Thank God. The Bible has declared that in everything we should give thanks. Invite people to come to the front to give thanks to God for health, strength, life,

Christian home, and many other things that might be mentioned. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord" (Psalms 150:6). This includes everyone so give opportunity for everyone to do so. Some sinners will probably come in the group and receive Christ during this time of praise and thanksgiving.

17. Trumpet Sound. After preaching a message on the second coming of Christ have someone stationed either at the front of the church, at the back, or wherever you so desire. Let the congregation know what is about to happen or let it be a surprise, which ever you feel best. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). As you picture this glorious event have the person to blow the trumpet to impress on the minds of the hearers that this will actually be a reality in the future. Have the trumpeter to give several blasts. This has proven quite effective for some evangelists.

18. Parents. Ask parents whose children are all Christians to come forward and stand before the congregation. Then ask those parents who desire to be an example before their children and to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord to come and join these. This can be touching and very effective to those parents that are not Christians but have children that they desire to lead in a life of godliness.

19. Couples. In the event that there should be a young couple who has recently accepted Christ they could be asked to come to the front. Other couples who desire to accept Christ should be invited to join them. The theme of the service could be couples night, and a special emphasis be made to reach couples. Elderly couples who have lived for God for many years could also be the example as well as the young or middle aged.

20. Families. Similar to the above invitations could be that of entire families. Should there be families present that each member is a Christian they should be asked to come to the front and other families be invited to come and join them.

21. Life Lines. After a message has been preached on hell, Christian workers, ministers, or those chosen are given short pieces of rope. They will go through the congregation and place one end of the rope in the hands of sinners and hold to the other end inviting them to follow them to the place of prayer. While this invitation is being given an appropriate song would be, "Throw Out the Life Line." This could only be used once in an evangelistic crusade, but it should prove very effective.

22. Ready. Invite those who are ready at this moment to meet God to come forward. This may be revised to those not ready.

23. One-Two-Three. When there are those who are visibly convicted, but will not respond, this method has been effective for some evangelists. Explain that you are going to count to three and that the invitation will be closed. Impress the sinners with the thought that they might be allowing the door to heaven to be closed eternally for them. Say "one" and urge them to respond, "two" point out that in the next few seconds they may decide their eternal destiny. After urging with great force say "three" and close the invitation. This invitation might be classed by some as "high pressure" and is to be used with great care and wisdom. If the Spirit leads in such a manner it will be effective-otherwise it will be detrimental.

These, of course, are only a few methods that may be used during an invitation. The evangelist should familiarize himself with these and as many others as he can think of. Get these into his mind and go into the pulpit with three or four methods in mind that might be used in conjunction with his message. However, let him not be guilty of thinking that these methods will produce the desired results without the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Ghost. It is God through the Holy Ghost that brings people to Christ.

Of course, he can use any honorable method or technique, but let him be positive that he does not stoop to cheap trickery in dealing with man's everlasting soul. He should preach for a verdict just as a lawyer pleads with a jury for a decision in favor of his client. His preaching must change people's lives. Evangelistic preaching culminates in a fervent appeal for immediate action. Seek the blessing

and favor of God on your invitation just as you do on your message and let it all be used of God to give people life and life more abundantly through Jesus Christ.

If facilities are available, there are times when it is wise to separate the seekers. Have those desiring to be saved to come to a particular area. Those desiring sanctification, the Holy Ghost, healing, rededication, etc., should be instructed to go to a specific place. These places may be at the altar or in separate rooms.

After the evangelist has cast the gospel seine and has effectively closed the net around hungry souls, he has not finished. He must make certain that those who have come forward are properly cared for. Normally the pastor will have arranged for altar workers, but in some cases the evangelist will have to encourage the Christians to work with the seekers. He may have to remind them that someone prayed with them. There will be times when it is necessary for him to take the lead in praying in the altar though it is hard after preaching. At any rate, he must see it through. Getting them to an altar is not enough. They must find Christ or the help they desire.

Poems, gospel hymns and other materials may be quoted during the invitation. These are fine and will have a certain amount of affect. However, nothing is able to take the place of the Scripture. Quote it freely and forcefully to obtain results. It is the Word that pierces to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit. It is the Word that is quicker, more powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It is the Word that is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The following scriptures are good to use, and of course, there are many others that you may choose.

From The Old Testament

. . . and when I see the blood, I will pass over you (Exodus 12:13).

. . . Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me (Exodus 32:26).

... for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul (Leviticus 17:11).

. . . and be sure your sin will find you out (Numbers 32:23).

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life. that both thou and thy seed may live (Deuteronomy 30:19).

. . . choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).

... for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man lookekh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man. but the end thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs 14:12),

My son, give me thine heart . . . (Proverbs 23:26).

Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth (Proverbs 27:1).

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confessefch and forsaketh them shall have mercy (Proverbs 28:13).

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy (Proverbs 29:1).

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shall say, I have no pleasure in them (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool! (Isaiah 1:18).

I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee (Isaiah 44:22).

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:5-6)

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price (Isaiah 55:1)

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon (Isaiah 55:6-7).

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear (Isaiah 59:1-2).

. . . Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the Lord our God (Jeremiah 3:22).

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved (Jeremiah 8:20).

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord . . . (Jeremiah 29:13-14).

The soul that sinneth, it shall die (Ezekiel 18:4, 20).

TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting (Daniel 5:27).
... for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you (Hosea 10:12).

Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria . . .
(Amos 6:1).

The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked
. . . , (Nahum 1:3).

... the just shall live by his faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

... Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts (Zechariah
4:6).

. . . Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts . . . (Malachi
3:7).

Scriptures From The New Testament

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things
shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33).

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that
leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is
the gate. and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that
find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of
heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew
7:21).

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also
before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men,
him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 10:32-33).

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke .upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart:

and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30).

. . . Verily I say unto you. Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh (Matthew 24:44).

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mark 8:36).

. . . Follow me (Luke 5:27).

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Luke 5:32).

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord. and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46).

But God said unto him, Thou fool. this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? (Luke 12:20).

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:3, 5).

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance (Luke 15:7).

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one. and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (Luke 16:13).

. . . Except; a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3).

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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 1:11-12).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16-18).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (John 3:36).

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37).

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:36).

... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6).

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).

... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house (Acts 16:31).

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (Acts 17:30).

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Thai if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall 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).

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God (Romans 14:12).

Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate. saith the Lord. and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift (2 Corinthians 9:15).

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness ... (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30).

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of who I am chief (1 Timothy 1:15).

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation . . . (Hebrews 2:3).

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Hebrews 9:27).

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10:31).

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

For our God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all (James 2:10).

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded (James 4:7-8).

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. (1 Peter 1:24).

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (1 Peter 2:24).

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (1 Peter 4:18).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Revelation 3:20).

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20;12. 15).

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Revelation 21:8).

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17).

Counseling Guide for ALTAR WORKERS

INTRODUCTION

After people respond to the invitation it is imperative that those assisting the seekers be qualified. Therefore, this guide is being included to help the altar worker. Additional copies of this guide may be obtained from the Department of Evangelism.

Not only will it be useful with seekers at the altar, but many of the pointers, suggestions, and helpful hints can be applied in the wider field of witnessing and personal soul winning.

To those who are seeking God, the counselor can be the key they need to unlock the door to the experiences they seek. It is a very sad thing when a sinner feels the drawing power of God and turns it aside. But, in some ways, it is even sadder for one to come forward to the altar and leave without having his needs fulfilled.

Many such failures could be turned into victories with the right kind of guidance by someone who had prepared himself for that important function. A seeker might either be distracted from his concentration on his needs by ineffective, though well-intentioned efforts, of some wholly unqualified person or he may have received no help at all, feeling insecure and unsure without someone to guide him.

There are the two locks which can be corrected if enough persons make conscious and determined efforts to make themselves adequately qualified altar workers.

You Are a Key !

As a counselor to those who are seeking God, you can be the key they need to unlock the door to the experiences they seek. It is a very sad thing when a sinner feels the drawing power of God and turns it aside. But, in some ways, it is even

sadder for one to come forward to the altar and leave without having his needs fulfilled.

Many such failures could be turned into victories with the right kind of guidance by someone who had prepared himself for that important function. A seeker might either be distracted from his concentration on his needs by ineffective, though well-intentioned, efforts of some wholly unqualified person, or he may have received no help at all, feeling insecure and unsure without someone to guide him. These are the two locks which can be corrected if enough persons make conscious and determined efforts to make themselves adequately qualified altar workers.

A Counselors' Qualifications

Our setting for the qualities and qualifications of those who would counsel seekers after God may cause you, the prospective counselor, to become discouraged because you do not measure to the ideal in every respect. You may feel you can do nothing until you meet the standards this guide sets forth, and further that you will never be able to measure up to them.

However, you should not wait until you have mastered every standard, perfected every technique before you begin to do the work. This would be as self-defeating as the advice: "Don't go near the water until you learn to swim," for the skills are sharpened only with practice. Besides, you are needed now in the great harvest work. So do not wait, but with the helps of this guide in mind launch out immediately into this great work of leading others toward the fulfillment of their spiritual needs.

How's Your Own Heart? An altar counselor must, of course, be spiritual himself if he is to lead others into spiritual depths. So, at the outset, examine your own heart, making sure that there is nothing in your own life which might hinder you.

Do you have the experiences yourself into which you would lead others? Unless you have traveled that road yourself, you will not be able to effectively guide others. When you have felt the witness of salvation in your own heart the great

joy and the enabling grace of sanctification, and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost with all its evidences your own witnessing to others of these spiritual miracles will have the marvelous stamp of sincerity and truth. Your altar work begins at your own altar. Regular and fervent private devotions as well as in the worship services at church are vital to the requirements you will meet as an altar worker. These will give you a hidden reserve of spiritual power and insight which no amount of formal training could provide.

What's Your Motivation? There might be many good reasons why you wish to be an altar worker: Your pastor may have appealed to your sense of duty; you may feel that the need is great; you may be convinced that it is an important function; or it may be only a vague, unfocused desire to do something, anything, for God. While all these motives are worthy, they miss the most important factor of all—the altar worker must be overflowing with LOVE. If this service is not motivated by a genuine, sincere love for the individuals you try to serve, it will be stale flat powerless and unconvincing. So in your own "seeking" reach out to God for an abundant gift of His love.

A Counselor's Preparation

Your preparation for this service is already under way for it actually began when you yourself were led to Christ and has continued as you have grown in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. However, there are special acts of preparation which are consciously directed toward this chosen work for God.

A Study of God's Word. You need to know the Bible, not just in a factual way, but to the end that you may make it applicable to your own life and that of others. A broad general knowledge of the Bible, and what it teaches is an important foundation of your continuing preparation for work at the altar.

In addition to the general knowledge, the soul-winner should learn as much as he possibly can of those particular Scriptural areas relating directly to leading people toward their spiritual needs. Some have a knack for memorizing Scripture, while it is more difficult for others, but everyone can commit to memory a few basic verses in each area of need. And beyond this memorization, it is useful to

have a knowledge of how to quickly 'find in the Bible other verses or passages as the need arises.

A Knowledge of Seekers and Their Needs. Most of this knowledge comes as you actually work with those who come to the altar. Cultivate the habit of observation and of careful listening which will develop in you the insights that will help you to ascertain the needs and problems of the individual seeker and how best to meet them. You may also gain a great deal of this knowledge by talking with others who have had long experiences in this special gospel field. Never miss an opportunity to add to your store of information.

Some needs may be seen at once by observation and others may be discovered by simply asking: "What do you need from the Lord." But you must also be constantly alert to the possibility that the seeker may not know himself what his needs really are or he may be mistaken in his own ideas. In such cases discreet questioning and gentle leading may get you to the root of his real need.

In churches which teach the whole gospel, the assessment of needs is quite different from and exceeds those who limit their ministry to the experience of conversion. The needs you will encounter among those at the altar include: Salvation, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost, reclamation, help with life problems and even physical healing.

Only as you ascertain the real need of the seeker can you help guide him to its attainment.

A Counselor's Performance

After or even during your preparation there comes a time when you must put your new knowledge and direction to the test. While you must never enter your task lightly, casually or carelessly, neither should you hold back out of a feeling of inadequacy or of apprehension. Enter into it humbly but joyfully, knowing that no finer service could be performed. Enter into it prayerfully, seeking the guidance of the Holy Ghost, for only in His leading will you be truly effective regardless of your preparation.

A Counselor's Convictions. To perform well as a guide to seekers you must have a deep conviction of the needs of the one being counseled. You must believe that they REALLY NEED what they desire from God. Unless you feel his same agonizing desire and let that feeling of empathy be communicated to the seeker by what you say and do (and by how you say and do it), you will dampen his conviction. Work with him as though you yourself were in the agony of unfulfilled needs and were doing it for yourself.

What Is The Seeker's Knowledge? Some who come to the altar for a spiritual experience do so with a life-long background in and exposure to the full gospel. Their knowledge, while perhaps not based on personal experiences, enables them more easily to grasp the fundamentals of your guidance. Others come with no previous exposure at all to the principles of salvation and therefore must be guided on a different level. The effectiveness of your performance will, then, depend largely on your accurate assessment of the extent of his knowledge. Being constantly aware of this situation will enable you to ascertain his knowledge and give you clues as to the course your guidance should take.

Some Additional Pointers

Be very careful that you never, without even being aware of it, offend the seeker by bad breath or body odor. Such admonitions may seem to be unnecessary but all of us are subject to these things and due to the necessary closeness of the contact at the altar it requires an extra-special effort to avoid this offense- Eliminate anything which might come between the seeker and his need.

Avoid unnecessary screaming in the seeker's ear. Volume of sound does nothing to gain the desired ends but is distracting and wearing on the nerves. Speak softly and confidently, encouraging the seeker to believe that God is ready now to grant his desires.

Do not slap the seeker on the back or touch him constantly with your hands. An occasional gentle touch may give him added assurance, but anything beyond this will most certainly have a disconcerting effect.

A Guide To The Seeker's Needs

Persons come to the altar for a variety of reasons, whether in an evangelistic campaign, or in a regular church service. It is the work of the altar counselor first to ascertain the need and then to guide him step by step-if that is necessary-to attain that spiritual goal. While every experience with God involves the emotions-without which there is no real experience-yet that which is based on emotion alone is shallow, lacking the depth of a Scriptural foundation. In guiding the seeker call upon your memory of Scripture verses and have your Bible and other aids close at hand should additional Scripture be required. The following is only a partial analysis of the seekers' various needs and Scriptural guidance toward their attainment.

Remember, too, that although these experiences are dealt with separately, it is not unknown for some persons to be so yielded to the Spirit that they are saved, sanctified, baptized with the Holy Ghost all in one visit to the altar, Sometimes it occurs so quickly as to seem one continuous experience, but the counselor should be sure the seeker is fully aware of what has happened and of the separate works that have been performed in his life.

The Need For Salvation. In many meetings this will be the need of most of the seekers. This is the basic experience on which all others are founded. Some will come under great and overpowering conviction of their sin eager for and receptive to your guidance. Others will come still not completely convinced of their need or burdened down with doubts which stand between them and God. But in every case you should try to make sure that the seeker's experience, when he gains it, is resting on a solid Scriptural foundation.

All men have sinned and thus are in need of salvation. 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Un-repentant sins carry the sentence of death, which is eternal punishment and estrangement from God. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

As the last clause of the previous verse shows, there is a way out. He may obtain this gift of eternal life by repenting of his sins (turning from and forsaking them) and believing in Christ. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Emphasize the love of Christ, who gave Himself for our salvation (John 3:16). Show him that once he has repented he should believe that his sins are forgiven and that Christ has come into his heart (John 1:12).

With the use of these and other familiar verses (familiar to the counselor) you can lead him to an awareness that his new life as a child of God has a sure Scriptural foundation and is not based on emotionalism. But be sure to pray and counsel with the seeker until he is "satisfied that his sins are now forgiven and that he is a child of God. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16). "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). In certain cases, it may be valuable to give the new Christian a tract such as "A Gift For You" or "Plan of Salvation," or even "Sanctification, A Second Definite Work of Grace," leading him to the next step in the full plan of salvation.

The Need For Sanctification. The experience of conversion is the first important step but is only the foundation on which other and deeper experiences are to be erected. The new birth erases the guilt of a person's sins and makes him a child of God, but it does not eliminate the carnal nature which is an inclination to sin inherited through the fall of Adam. It is necessary, when it is known that the seeker has need of sanctification, to lead him into the truth that this sinful nature must be eradicated and that God has provided the way through sanctification.

Born again Christians are still carnal until they are sanctified. "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Romans 8:7, 8). "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1).

The experience of sanctification is as definite as conversion, occurring at the moment when the blood of Jesus is applied to the heart eradicating the Adam-ic

nature (also called the "old man," or the "flesh," meaning the fleshly mind), "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12). Also refer to 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7. Other verses which show that certain persons were sanctified and thus proof that it is a definite attainable experience are: Hebrews 10:10; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Jude 1:1.

To obtain the experience the seeker must exercise faith in God to the same degree as he did in conversion. When he fully believes that God will cleanse him of this "inbred sin," another miracle of grace will occur in his heart and he will instantaneously enter the state of sanctification, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2).

Continue praying and working with the believer until he has the evidence in his heart that the divine work is done. Use Scripture verses showing that the old corrupt nature has been removed and the new nature implanted: Romans 6:5-7; Colossians 3:9, 10; 2 Peter 1:14. According to Luke 24:50-52 and the testimony of millions of Christians, the receiving of this experience brings "great joy" because of the marvelous sense of victory over sin.

When the seeker has acknowledged the experience of sanctification, you should then encourage him to remain under Christ's cleansing blood, determining to maintain, with the Lord's help, a life of purity, renouncing all his wrong thoughts and deeds to devote himself henceforth to a life of service to God. It will also be wise to point out to the newly-sanctified that sanctification does not do everything - it does not guarantee the absence of temptation, or trials of his faith, of occasional battles with his own human nature. Sanctification is the indwelling POWER for victory over these and the seeker should be fortified with this knowledge so he will not be dismayed with them when they come or when he occasionally feels anger or some other purely human emotion. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Also refer to 1 Peter 4:12; James 1:12.

The sanctified believer must then be led to the knowledge that this cleansing of his temple (his body) has made him ready for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, guiding him toward this next experience and arousing in him a hunger to receive it. An appropriate tract on the Holy Ghost could be handed him to help him understand the next step in making him a fully-armored Christian, such as "The Holy Ghost and Fire" and "The Holy Ghost Evidence."

Need of the Baptism With the Holy Ghost. The baptism of the spirit is the capstone and seal of the believer's new life in Christ and is also the "endowment of power for service." When a person has been converted and sanctified, he is now eligible to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. He also has a great need for this experience if his Christian life is to have its full depth and power.

The apostles needed this wonderful experience, even though they were believers in Christ and were already born again, sanctified children of God. They were instructed to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Ghost which they, along with others, did on the day of Pentecost. Read Acts chapters 1, 2; also Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49.

Believers in Samaria were believers in Christ for some time before they received the Holy Ghost, but they saw the need of this great power which turned men into firebrands in the service of the cross. Acts 8:12, 14-17.

The seeker should be instructed that the initial evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Ghost is speaking in tongues as the Spirit prompts them to speak. Give them Biblical examples of this: Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-46a; Acts 19:6. However, he should be impressed with the fact that he is seeking for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and not the experience of "tongues."

Counsel him that the experience comes not by being in a certain position, by repetition of certain words or phrases, by loud praying, or even by physical effort, but by completely yielding himself to the Spirit, believing fully that the gift is for him (Acts 2:39). and that God is eager to bestow this gift upon him. Use Scripture verses that will help build this necessary faith and submission to the Spirit.

Some persons receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost quickly while others seem to require long periods of seeking. But in every case, as soon as the seeker meets the necessary conditions of faith, he receives it immediately and instantly. Try to condition the seeker to meet these requirements so he can have the experience NOW. But do not become discouraged yourself when he has difficulty in doing so, but at all times be encouraging even when you cannot see any results.

The Need to Be Reclaimed. Quite often a seeker comes who has once been a Christian but who has forsaken the Lord and gone back into sin. While his need of salvation is no less real than any other, a person who has been a Christian needs a different kind of assurance. Quite often he may fear that God will not forgive him, that his sin has been too great. He already understands what he must do to be saved, so this person's need is to break through this extra-heavy barrier of guilt.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

Use the examples of David in the Old Testament and Peter in the New Testament who sinned against God (Peter actually denying the Lord), who were forgiven and restored to their places with God.

Special Needs of Children. Most children have tender hearts that are responsive to the gospel message. In evangelistic services they may quickly come to the altar and as quickly receive the experiences. But, because they are children lacking adult maturity, they need special post-conversion care to preserve them, particularly if they must continue to live in non-Christian homes. But one of the causes of the apparent failure of these youngsters is that adults often give them ideals of perfection impossible to live up to. Therefore when they fall short of this they feel they have failed completely and believe they are backslidden. It is the duty of the counselor to help fortify these children against this situation explaining to them that faults are not necessarily sins, that all

persons are tempted, and that they should not give up their hold on salvation merely because they have made mistakes.

Other Needs. You, as an altar worker, must be prepared to detect and to help in meeting a variety of needs. Some may come to the altar who have grown cold in their experience and wish to be renewed, to be rededicated. Some may desire help with a life-problem or want a terrible burden lifted. Others may wish to be healed of some illness. Look upon all these as opportunities for you to be of real service to God and to others.

What NOW?

INTRODUCTION

A person has accepted Christ as his Savior - Now what does he do? This section has been prepared to help him to know and to grow into a happy victorious Christian.

The following subjects may be taught to the new convert or he may be given a copy of What Now? to read and study privately.

Apart from this he should be encouraged to read the Gospel of St. John, it will strengthen his faith.

Welcome To The Kingdom Of God

You have made a choice that will affect every remaining day of your life. It also has affected the destiny of your soul. You have chosen to follow Jesus Christ. Heaven is now your goal.

Even though Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you," it was entirely in your power to accept or reject His choice. You are to be congratulated on your wise decision.

You met the conditions pertinent to the experience of salvation. You were sorry for your sins, repented with godly sorrow, and accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. This makes you "a child of God," and a member of the "kingdom of God."

You do not look much different than you did previous to this experience. Your physical characteristics are the same, but your heart has made a great change. ". . . The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (St. Luke 17:20, 21) There has been an internal change (invisible to the natural eye), but as you develop spiritually the change will become visible, affecting your natural life. According to the Bible you are now a new creature. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17) Old desires and interests are replaced with new desires and new interests.

You now want to live for Jesus Christ and to do the things which will please Him.

You have actually been "born again," born into the kingdom of God. You are now a member of the family of God just as surely as you are a member of the family whose surname you carry.

Jesus said, "... Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit." (St. John 3:3-8)

You were born of water, (the first birth) when you made your appearance into this world. This was a natural birth, a fleshly birth. The second birth (a spiritual birth-born of the Spirit) came when you felt conviction in your heart for the sins you had committed and repented of these sins. You believed God would forgive

you and He did. As soon as this took place you became a newborn spiritual creature. You were set free from your burden of sins as surely as the newborn babe is set free from the realm of darkness where it has grown and developed until the day of its natural birth.

It is difficult to explain every step of the physical or natural birth. It is impossible to explain to the natural man every step of the spiritual birth.

Jesus told Nicodemus that being born of the Spirit was like hearing the wind. We don't know "whence it cometh and whither it goeth."

Being born of the Spirit is an act of faith by the convert. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power (or the right or privilege) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (St. John 1:12) When you confessed your sins, asked forgiveness for your sins and believed in Christ, you became a "babe in Christ."

You will grow into a mature Christian by studying the Bible, by a faithful and constant prayer life, and by bringing yourself into subjection to the will of God. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

1. What Has Made You a Child of God?
2. What Is "Being Born of the Spirit?"
3. How Can You Grow into a Mature Christian?

Prayer, The Key To Your Spiritual Success

In Webster's Dictionary is the following definition of prayer: "act of offering a reverent petition to God."

The Bible teaches that prayer is man's communications with God.

Prayer is a natural resource of a Christian. A natural resource is something "built-in" at the time of creation and to which one resorts in the time of need.

When God created the world He "built-in" natural resources that have proven helpful to mankind. The large forests, the great beds of oil, vast coal deposits, and many more are natural resources. When these resources are developed, man enjoys food, raiment, and shelter. Without these he would perish.

When God made man, prayer instinct and a desire to worship a higher Being was included in his natural creation. However, God also made man free to make his own decisions. God will not infringe on this privilege.

Even though many men never confess knowing Jesus Christ, they call on God in a time of sorrow or disaster. This proves the "built-in" natural resource of prayer has made its appearance in their lives. It is a "natural" for man to say, "Oh God, help me," or "Oh God, have mercy," etc. Prayer is man's natural resource to be appreciated and developed by him.

The Psalmist said, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice." (Psalm 55:17) Prayer in the morning will unlock and furnish strength for the day. Prayer at night before retiring will give rest from your burdens and peace to your mind.

The Bible records many instances when miraculous victories followed consecrated prayers. Prayer will help you climb every mountain, cross every ocean, bring success out of despair and help you master every problem.

The first step in developing a life for Christ, is to develop good prayer habits!

First, you must have faith in God; believe that He is. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." (St. Matthew 7:7) Now read St. Matthew 7:11-"If ye then,

being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (St. Matthew 21:22) Make your requests known to God through prayer. One writer said, ". . . Ye have riot, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

Jesus spoke to His disciples, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24)

Sometimes you may feel that God has not answered your prayer. But did it ever occur to you that the answer may have been no? A "no" answer and the reason for it, is recorded in James 4:3. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts (or pleasures)."

A Christian who develops good prayer habits will be a happy, well adjusted Christian. He will be confident, fearless, victorious, full of faith and a good example to his fellow man.

1. What Is a Natural Resource of a Christian?
2. What Is the First Step in Developing a Life for Christ?

Know Your Adversary, The Devil

The word "adversary" connotes an opponent or an enemy. Before an enemy can be subdued, he must be discovered.

During a war the enemy will go to great lengths to disguise himself in appearance and power. Sometimes a spy will enter the ranks, secretly watching for a weak place in the defense, thereby determining a good time to strike a defeating blow. The Bible says, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (2 Corinthians 11:13, 14)

When you gave your heart to the Lord Jesus, you enlisted in God's army. Satan had previously not been too concerned about you. But now he has lost a follower, so he declares war and wages a battle to control your mind. He knows if he can control your thoughts he can defeat you as a Christian. "And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." (Ephesians 4:23) Paul warned the church at Corinth, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtly, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:3) And another warning from Paul, "(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5)

The writer of Proverbs says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

The degree Satan may influence a Christian is measured by the intellectual and emotional pressures he can exert. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Ephesians 6:12) The devil is a spirit; he is a personality having the quality of being everywhere and always present. Paul said, "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." (Romans 7:21)

Because of a lack of knowledge, you may lose a battle with the enemy. You need to be aware of Satan's devices. "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." (2 Corinthians 2:11)

You must not let up on your defense at any time. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

There are great words of encouragement in 1 John 2:1. "My little children (babes in Christ), these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father" Remember, if in your weakness the enemy overtakes you and you feel you have failed, you can immediately exercise

your privilege of prayer. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Peter 5:7)

The way of a Christian is not always an easy way to travel, but it is a rewarding way. Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound. To become defeated as a Christian would be to admit that the enemy has more power over you than the Lord does. This is not true unless you allow it to be so. Press forward, think victory, act victory and with the grace and strength of God available, HAVE VICTORY.

Why should YOU be aware of Satan's devices? (self-examination).

Getting Acquainted With The Book Of Books

The words of Solomon record, ". . . of making many books there is no end" (Ecclesiastes 12:12)

There are books of every description. Good books, bad books and mediocre books. But there is one Book that outsells all books and is known as "the Book of books," the Bible.

The Bible is different from any other book. It is the inspired Word of God. It has been written by many authors all of whom wrote as they were anointed by the Holy Ghost. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21)

Archaeologists, excavating in Eastern lands, have added greatly to our knowledge of the people and customs of Bible lands. They have also brought scientific proof of the accuracy of Bible stories.

The Bible referred to as the Book of books, gets this title because it consists of 66 books. It has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old

Testament consists of 39 books, and tells of events before the coming of Christ, It is the first part of the Bible. The second part of the Bible is the New Testament and it contains 27 books. It tells of the coming of Christ and subsequent events.

The Bible is a library of books on various subjects. No matter what your taste in reading, you will find the type of literature you like best in the Bible. Prose, poetry, adventure, plain narrative, history, biography, hymns, these and many more are found in this library of books.

Psalms is located near the middle of the Bible and is a collection of sacred poems. It is sometimes referred to as the Hebrew Hymnal.

Proverbs is a book of wise sayings. It is not unusual to hear someone quoting from Proverbs even though the person himself may not be aware that it is a passage from the Bible.

In the Old Testament there are books of law, history, Major and Minor Prophets. The Minor Prophets are just as important as, although shorter in length than, the Major Prophets.

The first four books of the New Testament-Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John-are records and history of the life of Christ. The books are referred to as the Gospels.

At one time, copies of the Bible were rare and precious. Not everyone had a copy. Not even every village had a copy. If a church was fortunate enough to own a Bible, it was kept chained. People often walked miles to have the privilege of reading it for a short period of time. Before the days of printing the copies had to be written by hand. This made them costly and rare.

The first book to be printed in moveable type was the Bible. Now hundreds of copies can be made in one day and a copy can be bought for only a few cents.

The Bible is a translation of early copies and translations. Not one of the original manuscripts has been in existence for many centuries.

1. What Is the Book of Books?

2. What Is the Bible?
3. Who Wrote the Bible?

You And Your Bible

If you do not own a Bible, get one immediately. Bibles are not expensive. The King James version of the Bible is the most widely accepted version.

Make a habit of reading some in your Bible every day. Some days you may read more than other days. But do not let a single day pass without reading at least a verse from the Bible.

When you pick up your Bible to read, remember it was written for you as much as for anyone else. ". . . Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." (Acts 10:34) What God will do for one He will do for all who will meet the conditions to receive the blessings. Every promise in His Book is for YOU as much as for any other individual.

Before reading the Bible, whether a chapter or only one verse, pray and ask God to help you to understand what you are about to read. Memorize

Psalms 119:18 (KJV) Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Repeat this prayerfully" before reading the Bible. You may find many passages in the Bible which are hard to understand but do not let this stop you. Read on until you find a verse you do understand, stop and say to yourself, "This is a message from God to me." After reading the Bible, think about the things you have read. As you read, meditate and pray for understanding, and you will soon discover that more and more of it becomes understandable to you.

Reading God's Word helps you to become better acquainted with God. You may read a good book and enjoy it, but to become acquainted with the author, makes the book far more enjoyable. This is especially true in reading and studying the Bible. God is the Author of this priceless Book.

People who read the Bible to learn about God and His plan for man, develop into strong Christians. They believe God's Word, trust God and dedicate their lives in service to God.

As quickly as possible commit to memory some passages from the Bible. If you do not know the Lord's Prayer, begin by memorizing it. You will find it recorded in the 6th chapter of the book of St. Matthew. Learn the 23rd Psalm which is often referred to as the Shepherd's Psalm.

Familiarize yourself with the books of the Old Testament and the books of the New Testament. This makes it easier to find Scriptures in reference.

Learn to turn your Bible quickly to the following Scriptures:

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| The Ten Commandments | Exodus 20 |
| The Birth of Jesus | St. Luke 2 |
| The Crucifixion | St. John 19 |
| The Sermon on the Mount . . . | St. Matthew 5, 6, 7 |
| The Beatitudes | St. Matthew 5:1-12 |
| The Great Commission | St. Matthew 28:19-20 |
| | St. Mark 16:15 |
| The Golden Rule | St. Matthew 7:12 |
| The Love Chapter | 1 Corinthians 13 |
| The Faith Chapter | Hebrews 11 |

Ulysses S. Grant once said, "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for the progress made, and to this we must look as our guide in the future."

Abraham Lincoln said, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man."

Life is no longer a mystery and death holds no terror for those who know the Bible and are personally acquainted with its Author. Enclosed you will find, "My Reading Record." This will help you to get acquainted with your Bible.

Tell Others

Now that you have experienced a new life in Christ, you will want to share this experience. Telling others what has transpired in your life through Christ is called witnessing. Jesus said, "And ye shall be witnesses unto me." Acts 1:8. You will find that Christ grows more precious to you as you tell others about Him.

Jesus said, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." St. John 15:16. This Scripture shows that Christ chose you to tell others about Him. What a privilege-to be chosen as an ambassador of Christ.

Not only is it a privilege, it is also a command. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. We must be His witnesses. This is not optional. "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." St. John 17:18.

You cannot make a person accept Christ. It is not your job to convict him of his sins. This is the work of the Holy Ghost. "And when he (Holy Ghost) is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." St. John 16:8. Your job is to present Christ in love and in sincerity. The Holy Ghost must convict and convert.

Satan has been successful in causing the average Christian to think that witnessing is difficult. This is another one of his lies. It is not hard for you to tell a friend about some gift you have received and of which you are proud. You have no problem in explaining circumstances that led to your buying a new suit or dress. Then why should it be difficult to tell of receiving the greatest of all gifts-eternal life. You may witness for Him by word of mouth, by giving Christian literature, and by your actions, attitudes, and daily life. As you witness to others about your new-found life, occasionally someone else will desire to find Christ also. This means that you will need to know how to help him become a Christian. This is very simple when he will accept Christ through faith. However, you will need to know a few Scriptures that you can relate to the person desiring to know Christ. Following is a brief plan with which you should familiarize yourself:

You should explain to the inquirer that, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. You will need to explain to the individual what sin is—a transgression of the law of God. You might use the Ten Commandments in explaining that if a person breaks one of these, such as stealing or killing, that he is guilty of transgressing God's law. After this Scripture has been explained, then you should use, "The wages of sin is death," Romans 6:23, showing that a person will receive just reward for his sins. This death is more than just physical; it is also the second death and a complete, eternal separation from God. After this has been impressed upon the mind of the person you should then quote or read to him the remaining portion of that Scripture, which is, "but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." At this point, explain about the joys of the Lord—peace, happiness, contentment, and eternal life that comes through accepting Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The next step to be explained is how a person can receive this gift. Read or quote Acts 3:19—"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" The word "repentance" should be explained as being sorry for and turning away from committed sins. Step four is after a person repents, he must receive Jesus Christ into his life. "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." St. John 1:12. This is done by faith. Make it clear that it is one thing to believe on Christ but another to receive Him as Lord and Master. The fifth step is Revelation 3:20—"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him" Explain that Jesus Christ is now knocking at his heart desiring to come in.

You will note that in each one of these Scriptures there are key words that are to be emphasized. These are (1) ALL-SINNED; (2) WAGES-GIFT; (3) REPENT; (4) RECEIVED; (5) KNOCK-OPEN.

If the person fully understands what is involved and is ready to accept Christ, you should pray with him at that time and help him to become a Christian. Although this plan is very short and is given briefly here, its foundation is the Word of God. When people, following this plan, sincerely accept Christ they know from the Scriptures what has happened to them.

As you witness to the saving grace of Christ, be prepared to help others receive and enjoy this same experience in Him. Not only will you witness, you will also be a soul winner.

1. What Is Witnessing?
2. What Are Some of the Ways You Can Witness?
3. Familiarize Yourself with the Brief Plan to Help Someone Become a Christian.

Church Attendance And Church Membership

Church attendance will now be a new experience for you. You will realize a new interest and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians. As much as possible, make it a practice to attend every service. The writer of Hebrews not only implies that it is necessary to be regular in church attendance but also warns Christians not to be neglectful about this. "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25.

By faithful church attendance you will have an opportunity to hear the Word of God taught and preached. This will help you gain understanding of the Bible and help you successfully regulate your Christian life. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss portions of the Bible. Thus, you will gain a valuable knowledge of the Scripture.

As you attend the services you will soon hear the pastor and others in the congregation speak of deeper experiences with the Lord. Learn as much about them as you can by reading your Bible and by consultations with the pastor. Seek the deeper experiences of God at every given opportunity.

Perhaps you have already noticed the rich fellowship among the membership of the church. This is partly due to their being joined together by a covenant for one specific purpose: to make known the plan of God for these last days.

There are so many churches today sounding the cry "This is the way!" that the world is in utter religious confusion. Jesus instituted one Church and it is His

desire that the people be one in mind and spirit. However, because of a lack of understanding and unfortunately, in some cases, because of selfishness, arrogance, and pride, the new Christian is easily confused about so many beliefs in the world today.

According to the Bible all Christians will be gathered into one body before the return of Christ to rapture the Church. Jeremiah said, "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray." Jeremiah 50:6. Jesus said, "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." St. John 10:16.

You are not added, at the time of salvation, to the Church that Christ organized. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. A revised version reads: "The Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved." Salvation is a prerequisite to becoming a member of the Church. True, the Lord does the "adding to the Church," but it must be done a certain way-the Bible way.

One becomes a member of the Church in a manner similar to a man being joined to his wife. "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:31, 32. "For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." Isaiah 62:5. This addition takes place by an officially administered covenant.

God's Church is operating in the world today. It is not a new church, but rather, the latter end of the Church which was organized by Jesus and which was covered for hundreds of years by man-made governments.

The Church is not a perfect Church, but it is the will of God for it to strive and reach perfection. Paul told the Ephesians that "He (Christ) 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." Ephesians 4:11, 12. The body of Christ is the Church.

The Church was established by Jesus Christ. It is the principle means of proclaiming and perpetuating the Gospel.

It is important that Christians make a habit of regularly attending church and taking part in the activities of the church. The Church will furnish its members spiritual protection and Christian fellowship.

The physical body needs exercise to develop a good, healthy structure. The spiritual part of man is also developed by exercise. Prayer, personal witnessing, accepting church responsibility, etc., will produce a well developed, mature Christian.

Consult with the pastor about becoming a member of the local church.

1. What, does the writer of Hebrews tell about church attendance?
2. How does one become a member of the Church?
3. Who established the Church?
4. What will produce a well developed, mature Christian?

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