

# **The Divine Art of Soul-Winning**

by

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## **CHAPTER 10 -**

### **MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS**

#### **I. WINNING THE CHILDREN**

"**SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN to come unto me.**" The soul-winner must emulate his Exemplar in not ignoring little children, "**for of such is the kingdom of God.**" Such a subject is deserving of a volume to itself, but this study must necessarily be confined to a few of the more important issues. Dr. Torrey once said: "No other form of Christian work brings such immediate, such large, and such lasting results as work for the conversion of children." It was Spurgeon's opinion that "capacity for believing lies more in the child than in the man." (See Matthew 18:6).

Parents are, of course, GOD's own appointed teachers of the child, and the religious training cannot be done by proxy. The parent who neglects this duty is unwittingly robbing himself of the highest privilege this world affords. Why should the winning of the child, whom the parent has brought into the world, be left to a stranger?

The late Joseph W. Kemp made the seven following suggestions for successful work among children:

1. THERE MUST BE A THOROUGH BELIEF in the child's need. The child, no less than the man or woman; is "**dead in trespasses and sins,**" and unless there is a clear sense of the utter ruin and spiritual death of children, there will be no power to bring blessing to them. We believe, of course, in the salvation of infants who have not reached the years of moral accountability, but even these can accept CHRIST as SAVIOUR.

2. THERE MUST BE A CONSCIOUSNESS OF ONE'S MISSION - not to amuse or instruct only, but to secure the salvation of the child.

3. THERE MUST BE RELIANCE ON the SPIRIT'S POWER as much with children as with adults.

4. THERE MUST BE ADAPTATION TO THE CHILD. We need our best and most industrious

studies and our ripest powers to save the children.

5. WE MUST USE THE CHILD'S LANGUAGE - not baby talk, but language the child can understand.

6. WE MUST NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH OF THE CHILD - an ever-present danger with us grownups. Don't expect the child to abandon its childish ways and become a mature old man!

7. WE MUST EXERCISE PATIENCE. It will be easier to do this if we remember our own stumbling progress.

The worker among children must exercise wisdom in making an appeal, as it is a very simple thing to get the whole class or audience to respond to the appeal. It is a mistake never to make an appeal, but an equally great mistake to make appeals continually, for the child-heart easily becomes accustomed and hardened to them. One of our evangelists invites children present at his meetings, if they desire to accept CHRIST as SAVIOUR, to go home, write their name in John 3:16 instead of the world and "**whosoever**," and mail or hand it to him the next day. This avoids the dangers of a mass movement.

Remember that Moody was converted at 14, Fanny Crosby at 11, Jonathan Edwards at 7, Isaac Watts at 9, and that 90 per cent of Christians are saved before they reach eighteen years of age.

## II. TRACT DISTRIBUTION

The widespread use of tracts and literature by the false cults should arouse the Christian worker to the great possibilities for good of the distribution of suitable tracts. Souls who would never darken a church door will often read a tract.

Here are some suggestions as to the most effective methods of tract work.

1. Have well written and attractively printed tracts which you have read yourself. Always carry some with you.

2. Know your tracts, and endeavor to suit the tract to the recipient, e.g.; do not give a sailor a tract dealing with railways, or do not give a tract on holiness to a sinner.

3. Be courteous, genial, and tactful in your approach. If rebuffed, manifest the love of CHRIST. ***Even if those you approach refuse to read your tract, they will certainly read you.***

4. Every tract is not suitable for indiscriminate distribution.

5. Be prayerful and confident of blessing.

6. Follow up the opening which the giving of the tract has made, with a talk on the way of salvation.

7. Distribute tracts broadcast in public places, from house to house, in hospitals, in letter boxes, on sports grounds, in vacant automobiles, confident that some of the seed thus sown will bring forth fruit.

### **As an Encouragement to the Tract Distributor**

A story of the remarkable blessing resulting from the giving of a tract follows.

A tract by Dr. Richard Gibbs was handed by a peddler to Richard Baxter, whose *Call to the Unconverted* fell into the hands of Philip Doddridge, the great preacher and hymn writer. He wrote *The Rise and Progress of Religion*, by means of which William Wilberforce, the emancipator of the slaves, was converted. He in turn wrote *Practical Christianity*, which fired the heart of Leigh Richmond, who wrote *The Dairyman's Daughter*, of which, before 1848, 4,000,000 were circulated in fifty languages. Wilberforce's book also fell into the hands of Thomas Chalmers, and was the means of bringing him out into the light of the Gospel, and all Scotland rang with his mighty eloquence.

Do not despise the ministry of the good tract.

### **III. A CONSECRATED PEN**

Who can measure the blessing which has flowed from a consecrated pen? Have you ever prayed: "LORD, sanctify my pen to Thy use?" Pray it now.

Some timid Christian who is not courageous enough to talk to someone face to face about CHRIST, could at least use his pen. Dr. H. Clay Trumbull, the greatest soul-winner of his day, was converted through a letter written him by a college-mate who had not the courage to speak to him personally.

The same fruitful avenue of service is open to the invalid or to the mother whose children are away from home. The letter will probably be read and reread, whereas a spoken word might be forgotten.

1. Pray before and after writing each letter.
2. Write lovingly, sympathetically and simply, adding your testimony to the Scriptures you quote.
3. Having put the way of salvation clearly, urge the recipient to definitely decide to accept CHRIST at once.
4. Enclose a suitable tract, or perhaps a decision card.
5. Write to one who has recently decided, one who has backslidden, one who is passing through trial and testing, to a lonely boy or girl.
6. Do not wait for a reply, necessarily, before you write again. All are not good correspondents.

Most workers, Sunday school teachers, Bible club leaders, and Christian workers do not exploit the power of the pen nearly as much as they should.

Only a note, yes, only a note,  
To a friend in a distant land.  
The SPIRIT said "Write!" but then you had planned  
Some different work, and you thought  
It mattered little, you did not know  
'Twould have saved a soul from sin and woe,  
You were out of touch with your LORD.

#### IV. INSTRUCTION OF CONVERTS

Many a promising convert has made no progress in the new life, simply because he was not correctly instructed at the time of his conversion. It is not wise to overload the newly-born babe with sage advice, but several things should be made crystal dear to him.

1. To be a happy Christian he must confess CHRIST to men at the earliest possible moment, preferably to his own people and then to his workmates (Romans 10:9, 10). He must be out and out for GOD to experience GOD's best. The would-be secret disciple never knows the real joy of the LORD. Explain that if he trusts his newly-found SAVIOUR, He will give him the power to testify (Philippians 4:13).
2. Show that CHRIST is not only his SAVIOUR but his LORD (Romans 10:9), and that therefore his will must be surrendered to his Master.
3. Urge him to read the Bible every day, and if possible first thing in the morning, asking the HOLY SPIRIT to make the Book live. Explain that the Bible is to the spiritual life what bread is to the physical life, and that he cannot grow without food.
4. Having heard GOD's voice in the Bible, instruct him to let GOD hear his voice in prayer, to pour out his soul and his desires before GOD (Matthew 6:6). Make clear his privilege to talk with GOD and walk with GOD every hour of the day, and to claim the fulfillment of His promises. Encourage the habit of ejaculatory prayer throughout the day as well as the time spent in the secret place.
5. Advise him to begin to work for CHRIST, and endeavor to win others to Him.

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