

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

by

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## **CHAPTER 5 - SOME DON'TS**

1. DON'T let it be apparent that you are a personal worker. Conceal your hook. If you are using tracts, hide them.
2. DON'T attempt to deal with more than one soul at a time. Get your "prospect" alone, or he will never open his heart to you and disclose his real difficulty.
3. DON'T be drawn into an argument. You will most likely be side-tracked from your main objective if you do. Few have been argued into salvation. Duncan Mathieson tells how, in his unregenerate days, an earnest Christian used to speak to him about his soul. This friend was very staunch concerning his denominational tenets, and, in order to avoid a pointed talk about salvation, Mathieson used to attack his views on these matters, and the old man at once brought forth arguments to prove his views were right, and doubtless succeeded in defeating his opponent's arguments; but this was much to Mathieson's liking. He had escaped the personal talk about the condition of his soul. Keep your man pinned to his personal responsibility to CHRIST.
4. DON'T attract attention to yourself or your experience. Seek to attract souls to your LORD.
5. DON'T monopolize the conversation. If your man has a lot to say, give him a patient hearing. You will be better able to deal with him if you know his viewpoint. He will come to an end of his talking sooner or later, and then your chance will come.
6. DON'T as a rule deal with persons of the opposite sex. If possible pass them over to some worker of the same sex. It is not becoming for a young man or a young woman to be always looking for a person of the opposite sex to deal with.
7. DON'T as a rule choose a person much your senior to deal with. Of course, there are exceptions to both this and the previous "don't."
8. DON'T rely on your own ability, powers of persuasion, or knowledge of the Scriptures. Maintain an attitude of constant dependence on the HOLY SPIRIT to wield His sword.
9. DON'T multiply texts and illustrations. Have three or four texts which reveal the need and the

remedy, with one or two pertinent illustrations. Answer difficulties from the Word rather than from your own experience.

10. DON'T be unduly familiar with your inquirer. Avoid putting hand on shoulder or arm around him, as it sometimes arouses resentment.

11. DON'T become impatient, even if cause has been given. Return good for evil.

12. DON'T break in when someone else is dealing with a soul. Never interrupt at such a moment of crisis. You may feel you could do far better, and perhaps that is so, but This is not the time for you to do it. Do not even stand by. Similarly, do not allow others to interrupt you.

13. DON'T hurry or do shoddy work. "**He that believeth shall not make haste**" (Isaiah 28:16).

14. DON'T be discouraged by apparent failure. Pray and think over every case in which you fail, asking the LORD to show you how to deal with a similar case next time. Thus your failures may become stepping-stones. In any case, the Word of GOD never fails.

15. DON'T forget that your only weapons are "**the Sword of the Spirit**" (Ephesians 6:17); and the weapon of "**all prayer**" (Ephesians 6:18). Make full use of both.

The value of one soul, O LORD,  
Teach me to see; and as Thy Word  
Assures me of the awful fate  
Which doth the Christless soul await,  
Oh, may I wrestle and prevail  
with GOD and men, like Israel.  
Give me Thy tenderness and tact,  
Guide every thought and word and act,  
And cause me so to do my part  
To reach the hard or longing heart,  
That men to Thee, O CHRIST, may turn,  
More of Thy tenderness to learn.

- Estelle Edmeades

~ end of chapter 5 ~

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