

Ten keys to becoming an effective soul winner (evangelist)



**In the book of Proverbs we read,
“And he who wins souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30a)**

- I really sensed the Lord put on my heart today to share on the great need for evangelism given the times that we are now living in as we can see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers



Jesus Himself said,

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” **(John 4:35)**

- We are also now living in the lawless times that Jesus spoke of as we see the nearness of the rapture of all true believers

Jesus Himself said, “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” **(Matthew 24:12-13)**



So, in this teaching I will be sharing both keys to being effective in soul winning and to remaining strong in our own personal walk with the Lord

- **The gospel is good news**
- True hope and freedom can only be found in Christ. He who the Son sets free is free indeed



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **(Romans 1:16)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“... As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”” (Romans 10:15)



Jesus Himself said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

TRULY ALL THAT WE NEED IN LIFE IS FOUND IN CHRIST

- i. Forgiveness of sins (No more shame or guilt)
- ii. Unconditional Acceptance
- iii. TRUE Joy (irrespective of what is happening in our life)
- iv. TRUE peace
- v. TRUE purpose
- vi. Provision
- vii. True security, and
- viii. Eternal Life



IN SHORT, IN CHRIST WE HAVE TRUE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

In the book of Jeremiah we read, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
(Jeremiah 29:11)

true
hope

“Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” **(Jeremiah 29:12)**



“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” **(Jeremiah 29:13)**

- However, living the Christian life is also very much about rowing upstream against the tide of the spirit of this world that would try and pull us away from living wholeheartedly for the Lord



- We can also sometimes be rejected for our faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12)

- So, in this teaching I will be sharing both keys to winning people to Christ and to remaining strong in our own personal walk with the Lord so that we can enjoy the abundant life that Jesus spoke of in John 10:10

Jesus Himself said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
(John 10:10)



- As Christians we have a message of hope that we can share with all people at a time when so many people are looking for true hope and purpose in life
- As the way that we live our life and how we share our faith is so important to being an effective soul winner, I felt led to put together a teaching that can help to equip all Christians to become effective soul winners and evangelists and to remain strong in their faith
- I will now look at 10 important keys to effective evangelism and to remaining continually strong in our own faith

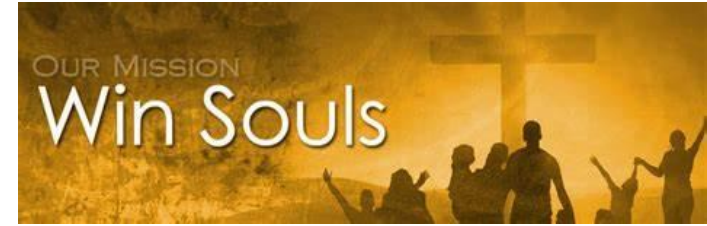


1) That we have a great love for Jesus Christ. That He is our best friend



- The Apostle Paul had a great burden to help people to come to Christ. His greatest desire was to know God intimately and to make Him known to others

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;” (1 Corinthians 9:19) “I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”
(1 Corinthians 9:22b)

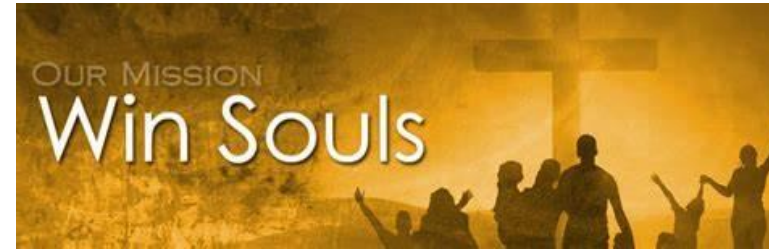


The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” **(Philippians 3:7-8)**

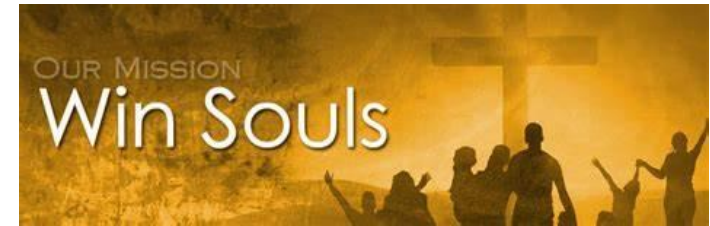
“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” **(Philippians 3:10)**

- The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord the easier and more natural it is to share the good news of the gospel with others



- What is most important in our life is what we talk about
- When our consuming passion is to know Christ intimately, we will share the gospel with passion and conviction

- Having God's compassion for people is such a great key to preaching the gospel effectively to others
- When our greatest desire is to know Christ intimately, He will also fill our hearts with His compassion for the lost and hurting
- When we share about God's love to the people that we are ministering to, they must also see that we have a genuine love for them as well



In the gospel of Matthew we read,

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”
(Matthew 9:35-36)



- Our love for the Lord is a great key to being an effective and powerful evangelist and soul winner as we preach the gospel message from a heart that is filled with His love

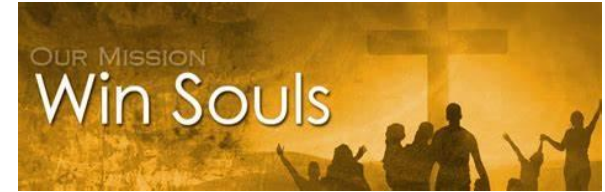
King David wrote,



“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.”

(Psalm 63:1-3)

- So, our most important ministry must always be Jesus ministering to us and that our love for Him is always the greatest priority in our life

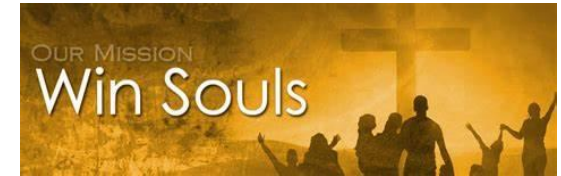


The Apostle Paul who won many people to Christ wrote,
“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

Jesus Himself said,

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.” (Mark 12:30)

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)



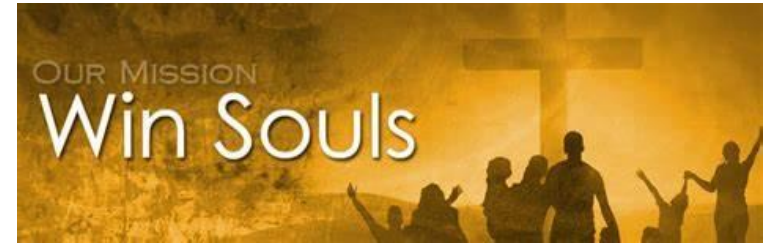
- It is our love for God that also gives us His love for the people that we are sharing our faith with which is such a great key to being an effective soul winner**

2) That we have a great love for all people and in particular the lost and hurting



- Continually having a great love for all people is such a great key to being an effective soul winner
- Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes who were weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd
- It was His great love for us that caused Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins so that we can have eternal life as believers

- In many respects the first key of maintaining our love for Jesus and the second key, having a great love for all people, go hand in hand



- It is our love for God that will give us His love for people
- However, having an unconditional love for all people is also a continual choice that we need to make, particularly when we are rejected or persecuted for our faith

- Jesus' ministry was characterized by His great love and compassion for others



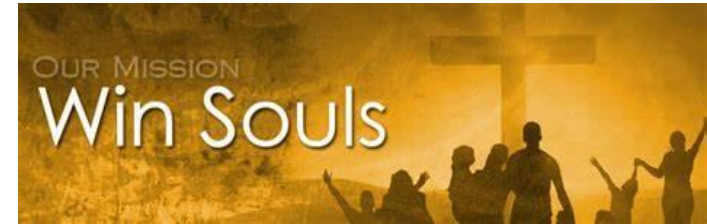
In the gospel of Matthew we read,

“Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!”

Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!” **(Matthew 20:29-31)**

“So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?”

They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened.” So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.” **(Matthew 20:32-34)**

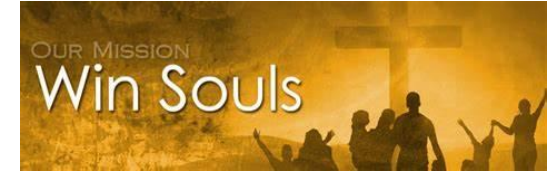


- **Jesus also wept over Jerusalem because of their rejection of Him and failure to receive His offer of eternal life as they did not know the time of their visitation**

- **The Apostle Paul also had a great love for the people that he ministered to. We can see this clearly in the book of 1 Thessalonians where the Apostle Paul wrote,**
“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labour and toil; for labouring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.” **(1 Thessalonians 2:7-9)**



- It is our love and compassion for people, that comes from our love for God, that will compel us to reach out to the lost with the gospel message



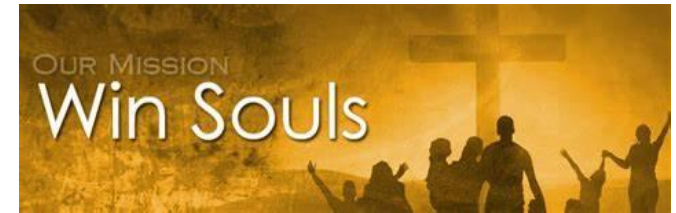
- It is our love for people that will also help us to graciously communicate the gospel to those that we are preaching and witnessing to
- It is our love for people that will cause us to sacrificially give of ourselves for the gospel's sake, and
- It is our love for people that will also help them to receive the message of the gospel that we are preaching

3) That we never forget the value of every single soul to God when preaching to larger audiences. The world is full of hurting individuals



- One-on-one evangelism helps us to understand the hurts and pains that people carry in life as we share our faith with them. This in turn helps us to be more relevant and compassionate in our preaching to larger audiences
- We must never lose our sense of awe and joy when we help to lead a person to faith in Christ

- God has such a great love for every single person
- We see God's love for every single person in Jesus' Parable of the lost sheep



In this Parable Jesus said, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing.” **(Luke 15:4-5)**

“And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which is lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.” **(Luke 15:4-7)**



- **Jesus during His ministry here on earth always had a great love and concern for the individual as He also ministered to the multitudes**

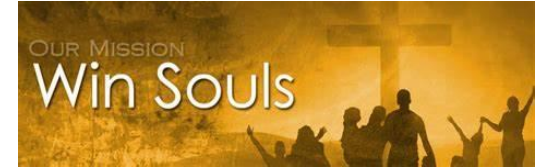
We see such a great example of this in the following passage of Scripture in the gospel of Matthew,

“When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” **(Matthew 8:1-3)**



4) That our lives reflect the message that we preach



- The way that we live our life matters, especially in relation to helping those who are closest to us come to Christ
- Do people see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives after we have preached the gospel
- As Christians it is so important that we are always seeking to grow in Christlike character

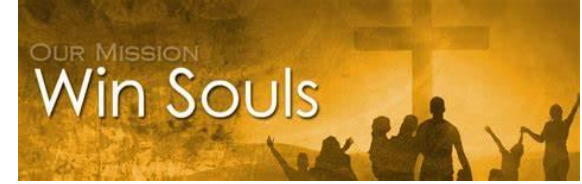
The Apostle Paul wrote to the young Pastor Timothy,

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” (1 Timothy 4:12-13)



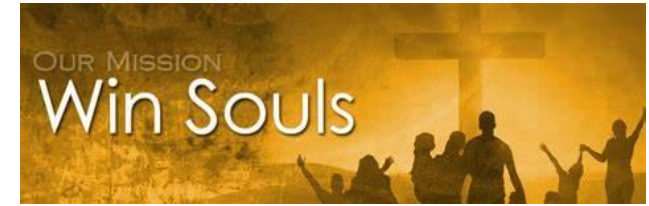
- Spending time in God’s word and maintaining intimacy in our own personal walk with the Lord are two great keys to continually growing in Christlike character

The Apostle Paul wrote,



“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” **(Romans 12:2)**

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)



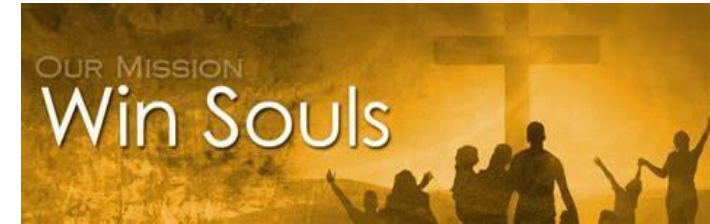
Jesus Himself said,

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:4-5)

- The simple fact is the way that we live our life matters and adds credibility to our message if we also model what it is to live out the Christian life ourselves**

Jesus also said,

**“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)**



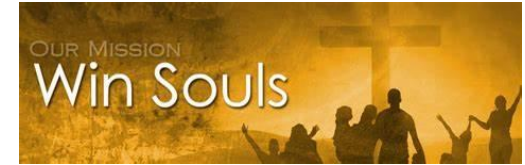
- The simple fact is that the way we live our life has the greatest impact on those around us
- **Learning to walk in the Spirit is one great key to consistently reflecting the character of Christ in our life**

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.” For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”**
(Galatians 5:13-15)



The Apostle Paul then continues to write,

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16)



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

- When we look at the lives of two of the greatest evangelists, Billy Graham and Reinherd Bonnke, they were both people of great character who had a great love for all people**

5) That we are both full of the word of God and full of the Holy Spirit (The importance of being baptized with the Holy Spirit)



- Memorising key gospel Scriptures adds power to the messages that we preach. Just some of these Scriptures include: John 3:16-21, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 1:12, Romans 5:6-8, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, Psalm 103:2-5, Matthew 16:26
- There is great power when we preach the word of God and the gospel message in the power of the Holy Spirit

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)



- I will now pause at this point with this teaching and share a full teaching on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
- It is so important to encourage every believer to be baptised with the Holy Spirit so today I felt to share a full teaching on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit before again resuming this teaching on ten keys to becoming an effective soul winner (evangelist)



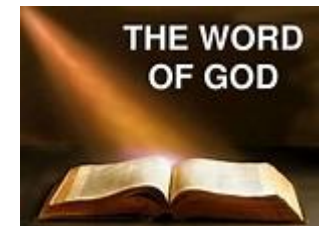
- I will now resume this teaching on ten keys to becoming an effective soul winner by continuing with the importance of also being full of the word of God
- However, before I do, I will just quickly share five practical keys to becoming an effective soul winner



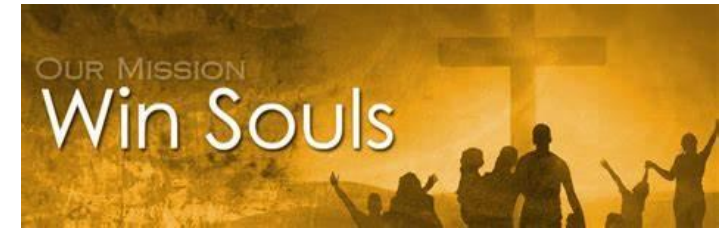
- i. Be led by the Holy Spirit as to who to witness to
- ii. First the natural and then the spiritual (get them talking about themselves first. At the right time the Holy Spirit will turn the conversation around to sharing about Jesus)
- iii. Be a good listener (Have a genuine love for people)
- iv. Keep directing the conversation back to what Christ did on the cross and that He is the only name under heaven by which we must be saved, and
- v. Don't bruise the fruit by trying to get someone to pray the sinner's prayer when they are not ready to do so



- **Now back to the ten keys to being an effective soul sinner teaching.** The real power in our preaching comes when we preach the word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit
- For this reason, we need to make the study of the word of God a great focus in our Christian walk as we are also continually filled with the Holy Spirit
- All word and no Spirit we dry up and all Spirit and no word we blow up. It is so important that we are always BOTH full of the Holy Spirit and full of the word of God

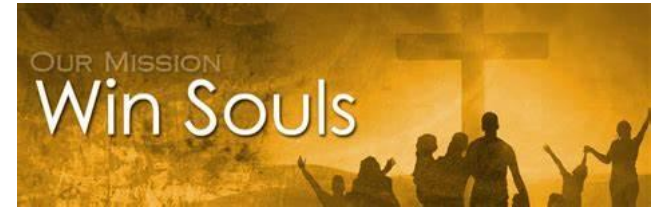


**The Apostle Paul also wrote to the young pastor Timothy,
“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season.
Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and
teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2)**



- **Preaching the word of God with the anointing of the Holy Spirit is a great key to seeing people come to Christ**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

- **Meditating on the word of God helps to get the word into our heart which is such a great key to preaching the word of God in the Power of the Holy Spirit because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**

The Psalmist wrote,

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)



**“I will meditate on Your precepts,
And contemplate Your ways.**

I will delight myself in Your statutes;

I will not forget Your word.” (Psalm 119:15-16)

The LORD said to Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**



- Given the times that we are now living in it is also, important that we communicate the whole counsel of God including end time events as we see the imminent rapture of all true believers.

In the book of Acts, we read the words of the Apostle Paul,

“And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

(Acts 20:25-27)

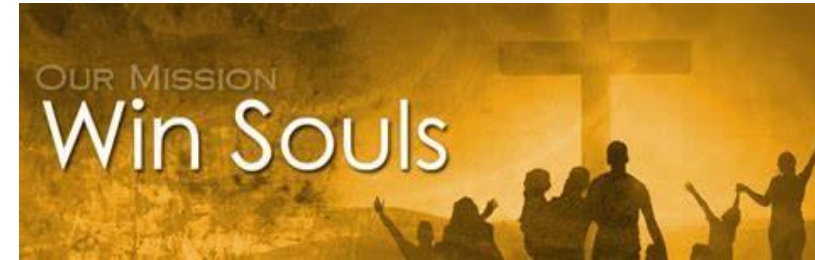


Given the times that we are now living in it is good to incorporate the whole counsel of God in our outreach messages. That we share as the Holy Spirit leads:

- i. The gospel message (Most importantly)
- ii. About the rapture of all true believers
- iii. About the tribulation and second coming of Christ
- iv. That our past does not define our future
- v. That God has a unique plan for every believer's life
- vi. About the reality of Heaven and Hell, and
- vii. The importance of true repentance and faith in Jesus



- It is also so important that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit



- That as we give out to others, we are then filled again afresh with the Holy Spirit ourselves
- That we are always ministering out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**



- So being continually full of the word of God and full of the Holy Spirit is a great key to being an effective evangelist and soul winner

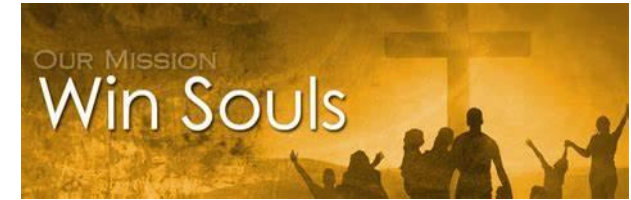
6) That we have a great love for other believers and are planted in a local church and well connected with other mature believers as leaders

- It is by our genuine love for one another that the world will know that we are His disciples



- The way that we relate to other believers matters. It is important that those in the world can see our agape love for one another in the body of Christ

Jesus Himself said,



“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)

- Being planted in a church fellowship is crucial to having a pastoral heart in the way that we communicate the gospel to others. Being part of a church family helps us to grow in our love for others as we do life together**

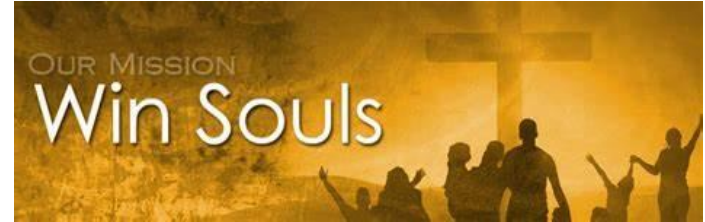
- Especially given the challenging times that we are now living in, it is crucial for all believers to be planted in a local church fellowship. We all need encouragement from other believers



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” **(Hebrews 10:24-25)**

7) That we can very clearly communicate the gospel message to others



- It is so important that we can clearly and simply communicate the gospel message to others

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.”

(1 Corinthians 15:1-2)

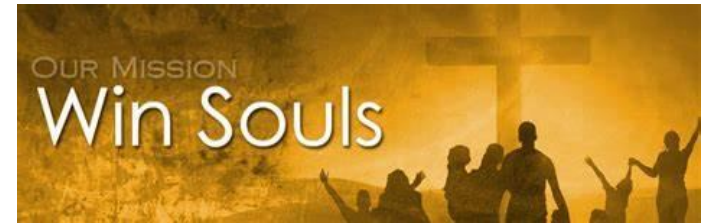


“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” **(1 Corinthians 15:3-4)**

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others:

i. Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins. (Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins)

ii. Christ was buried



iii. God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and

iv. Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

**“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,
that we might become the righteousness of God in
Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)**



- **Every person must make a personal response to the facts of the gospel to receive salvation and the gift of eternal life.**

The bible refers to our personal response to Christ in a number of ways,

i. Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (*Romans 10:13*)

ii. Coming to Christ



Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (*Matthew 11:28*)

“...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (*John 6:37b*)

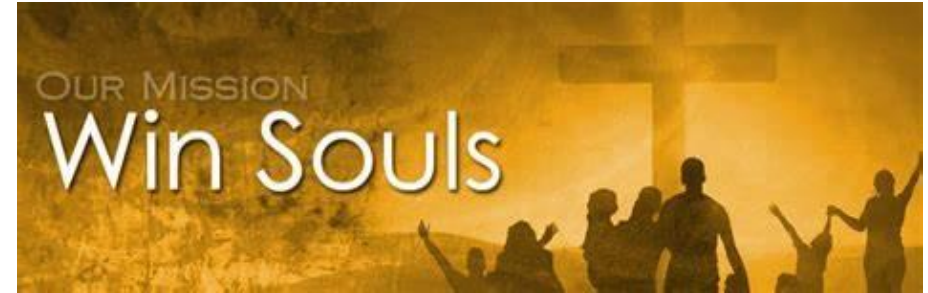
iii. Personally, receiving Christ



In the gospel of John, we read, “He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (*John 1:11-13*)

And

iv. Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give



Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” *(John 4:14)*

- *Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.*

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.”
(Revelations 3:20)



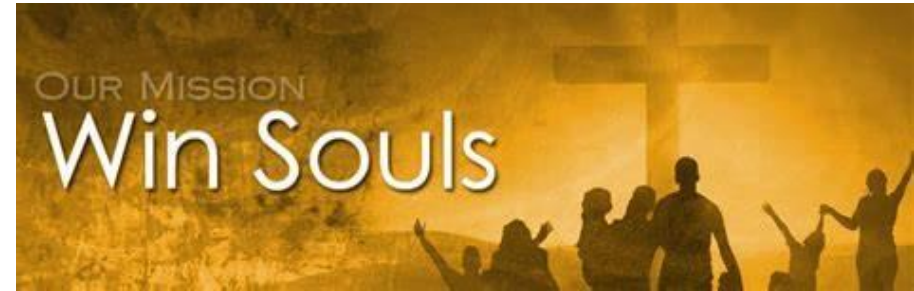
- **SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS SIMPLY A FREE GIFT THAT WE MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH BY COMING TO CHRIST WITH A REPENTANT AND OPEN HEART**



The Apostle Paul wrote,

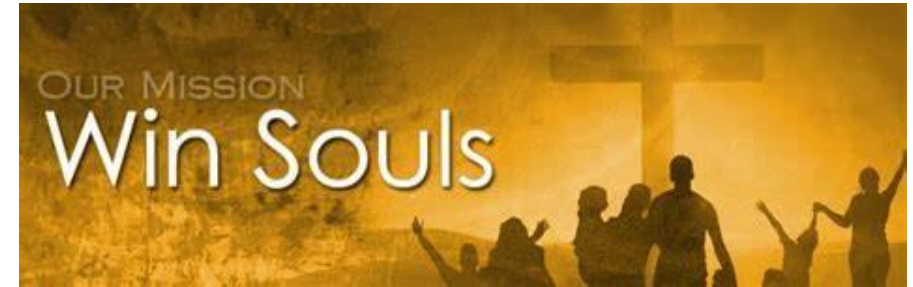
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

- **THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR SALVATION HAS TWO COMPONENTS – REPENTANCE AND FAITH TOWARD GOD**



In the book of Acts, we read the words of Peter,
“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

- **Jesus Himself preached both repentance and faith toward God in His messages**



In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1:14-15)

- In the gospel of Luke Jesus clearly emphasised the important of repentance,

Jesus Himself said, “... but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3)



- **IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE MUST BOTH REPENT FROM OUR SINS AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST – THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD (Lord of all)**

- Without true repentance a person's confession of faith is just an empty confession.



TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

1) TRUE REPENTANCE is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (God's saving Grace) AND

2) TRUE REPENTANCE *also involves a recognition that we are then responsible to turn from our sins to God.*

- *Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction.*
- **This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.**



Following is an example of how to share the gospel;

- God's heart is to have a loving relationship with every person in the world. God's desire is that every person would live a life that is full of great purpose and meaning and have eternal life.
- However, it is our sin that separates us from a Holy God. But because of His great love for us, God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to reconcile us back to Himself. **Jesus Christ Himself said**, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." **(John 3:16)**



- Because of His great love for you and me Jesus willingly died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins. But death could not hold Him; Three days later He arose triumphantly from the grave and is alive forever more.
- Today Jesus is reaching out to you and knocking on the door of your heart. Today you can turn from your sins and open the door of your heart to Him and receive the gift of eternal life.



- **Following is a suggested prayer that can be used to help lead an unbeliever to Christ:**



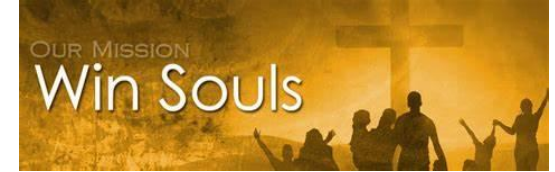
“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name. Amen”

8) That we are continually growing stronger in our own walk with the Lord by having a strong personal devotional and prayer life

- It is so important that we finish our own Christian Walk well
- The more we do for the Lord the greater the warfare we will experience in our Christian Walk
- For this reason, we must be continually disciplined in our own walk with the Lord



- Having a strong prayer and devotional life is a great key to remaining strong in our Christian Walk



The Apostle Paul wrote, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:10-12)

- The simple fact is that we have a very real enemy, the Devil, who is out to destroy the lives and ministries of believers



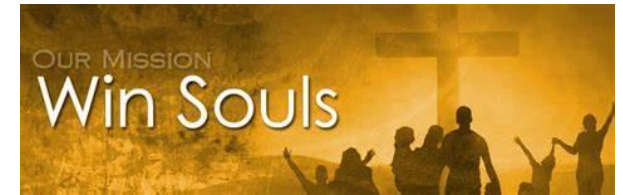
The Apostle Peter wrote,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- **Having a strong devotional life helps us to remain strong and steadfast in our walk with the Lord**



- It is so important, especially given the lawless times that we are now living in, that we continually build our lives on the word of God and prayer

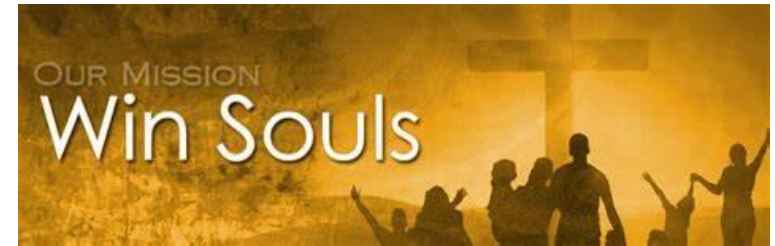
The Psalmist wrote,

**“Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O LORD,
And teach out of Your law,” (Psalm 94:12)**

**“It is better to trust in the LORD
Than to put confidence in man.**

It is better to trust in the LORD

Than to put confidence in princes.” (Psalm 118:8-9)



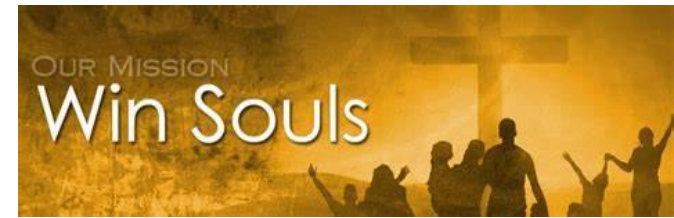
- Being continually hearers and doers of God's word
- Continually prayerfully involving God in all of our plans
- Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit
- Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit
- Having a lifestyle of worship
- Continually surrounding ourselves with the right people, and
- Continually trusting God at all times



Are all important spiritual disciplines that can help us to finish our Christian walk well. I will now look at each of these

Being continually hearers and doers of God's word

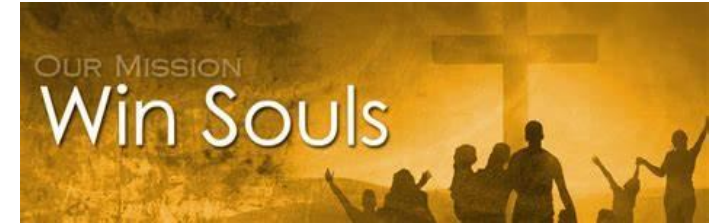
(We need to get back to the bible at a time when so many people are being distracted by the smart phone)



Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.” **(Matthew 7:24-25)**

Continually prayerfully involving God in all of our plans
(Life is full of important choices)



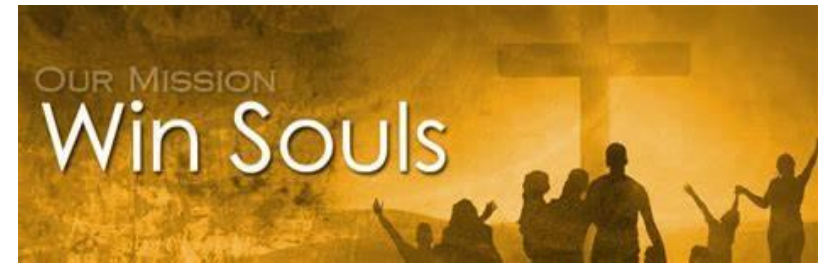
In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Jesus Himself said, “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

In the book of James we read,

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for the saints-” (Ephesians 6:18)

Being continually guided by the Holy Spirit



Jesus Himself said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

- How important it is that we are continually guided by the Holy Spirit, especially given the lawless times that we are now living where there is so much deception**

Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

“to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”
(Ephesians 3:19)

- **It is so important that we are continually filled with the right spirit, the Holy Spirit**

Having a lifestyle of worship (A great key to maintaining our love for God in the lawless times that we are now living in)



Jesus Himself said,

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

- King David was the only man referred to in the bible as being a man after God's own heart. He had a great passion to worship God



In Psalm 95 (most likely written by King David) **we read,**

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.” **(Psalm 95:1-2)**

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.” **(Psalm 95:6)**

Continually surrounding ourselves with the right people

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (Proverbs 12:26)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

**“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”
(1 Corinthians 15:33)**

AND



Continually trusting God at all times

(That we are not moved away from our God given assignment by temporary trials and challenges)

King David wrote,



“Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. **Delight yourself also in the Lord,** And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.” (Psalm 37:3-5)

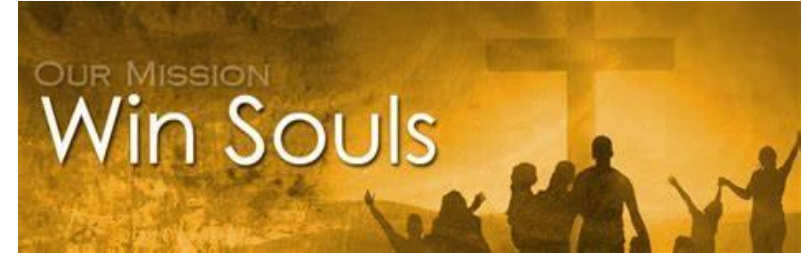
- People soon forget all the good things that people have done when they fall
- Maintaining a strong devotional life is crucial to finishing our Christian walk well, especially given the lawless times that we are now living in



Like the Apostle Paul we want to be able to say at the end of our time here on earth,

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

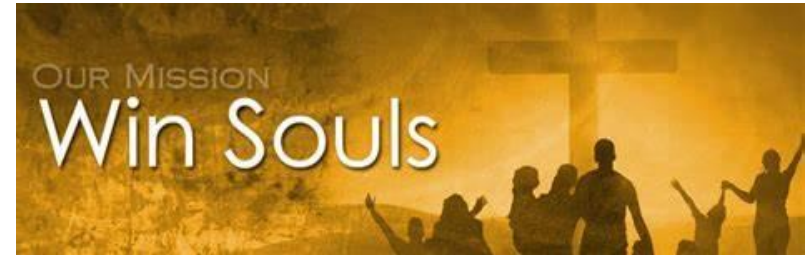
9) That we learn to flow in the gifts of the Spirit including praying for people to be healed and delivered



Jesus Himself said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
(Mark 16:17-18)

- All believers have great authority in the Name of Jesus to help see people healed and delivered of demonic spirits
- Miracles and healings were common place in the early church

In the book of Acts we read,

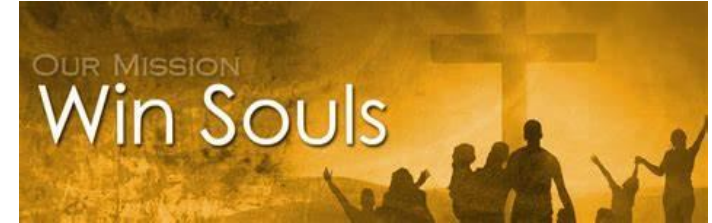


“And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.” **(Acts 5:12)**

“And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed.” (Acts 5:14-16)**



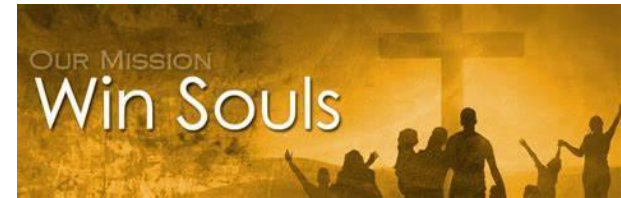
- Philip was a non-Apostle who also saw miracles as he preached Christ to those in Samaria



We see this in the following passage of Scripture in the book of Acts

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” **(Acts 8:4-6)**

“For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” **(Acts 8:4-8)**



- **The best time to pray for people is when we are flowing in the gifts of the Spirit**
- It is so important, especially given the times that we are now living in, that we are actively flowing in the gifts of the Spirit in our outreaches and church meetings

The Apostle Paul wrote, “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” **(1 Corinthians 12:7-11)**



- So often a word of knowledge, or a miracle of healing can be the means by which a person comes to faith in Christ
- So how important it is that we flow in the gifts of the Spirit during our evangelism outreaches and church worship meetings



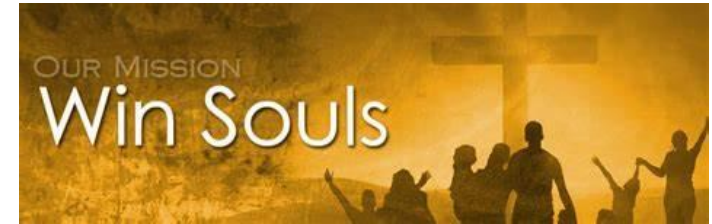
In the gospel of Mark we read, “So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” (Mark 16:19-20)



In the book of Hebrews we read, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

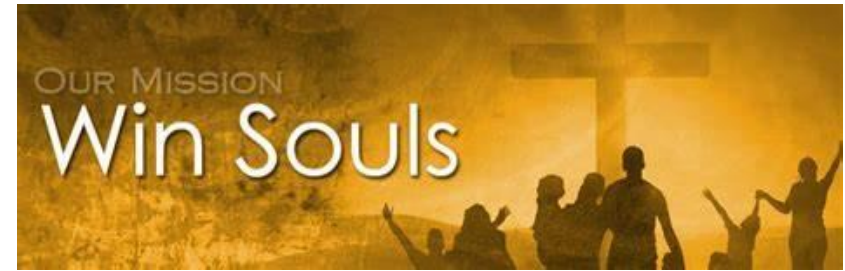
- **JESUS STILL PERFORMS MIRACLES TODAY**
- AND**

10) We need to live a crucified life where we are prepared to make sacrifices for the Cause of Christ and where we live our lives with eternity in mind



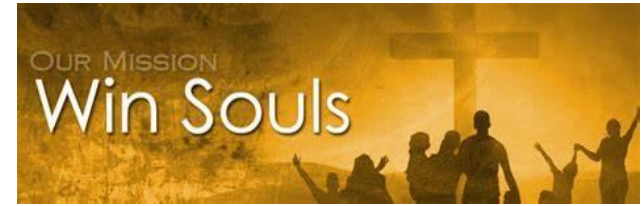
- It is so important that we are in the world but not of it
- In a world full of challenges and distractions, it is so important that we keep our focus on the eternal things and most importantly on helping people to come to Christ

- If our lives are to truly make a great impact in this world for eternity, at a time when Jesus said “And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12), we need to daily commit to living our lives with eternity in mind



Jesus Himself said, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” **(Luke 9:23)**

- It is only in daily choosing to live a crucified life in a world full of distractions that our lives will bear much eternal fruit



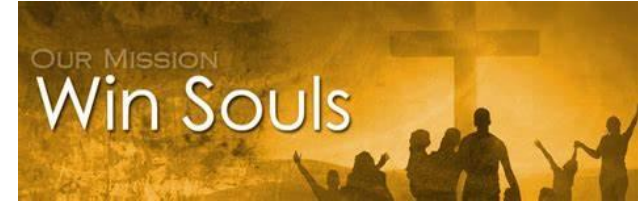
Jesus Himself said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

The Apostle Paul who achieved so much during his time here on earth, including writing around 28% of the New Testament, wrote,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)**



- God has so much planned for every believer's life

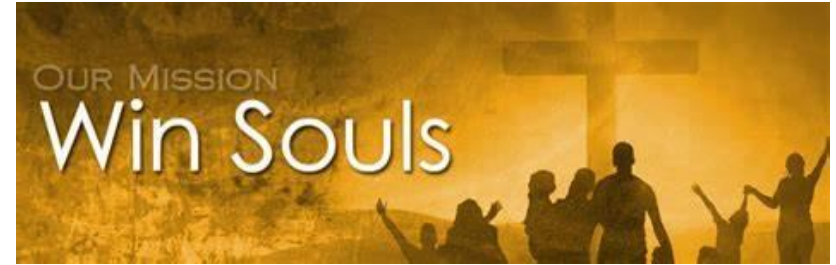


The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” **(Ephesians 3:20)**

The word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

- God does not look at our ability



- All He needs is our availability

- Are we prepared to fully break open our lives for the Cause of Christ. If we are, He can use our lives in a powerful way to see many lives touched for eternity

- Truly the harvest is ripe but the labourer few

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ (Isaiah 6:8)

- How we too need to also respond to that call and devote our lives to helping to win people to Christ and as pastors and leaders, helping to equip all Christians to become soul winners at a time when the harvest truly is ripe



- I will finish with a passage of Scripture in the book of Acts that is also very relevant to all of us today.



“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city” **(Acts 18:9-10)**

- How important it is that we live a life that is fully consecrated to the Lord and that we always continue to be bold and loving in communicating the gospel message to the multitudes who are now in the valley of decision