

"The Fruit of the Spirit is SOUL-WINNING!" HOW TO BE A FRUITFUL CHRISTIAN SERIES (PART 12)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. Ephesians 5:8-10

> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of <u>PRAISE</u> to God, that is, the <u>fruit of our lips</u>, giving thanks to His name. Hebrews 13:15

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 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! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for ETERNAL LIFE, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors." John 4:34-38

- Jesus commissioned our message in Luke 24:46-49 - "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <u>and that repentance and remission of</u> <u>sins should be preached in His name to all nations</u>, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

- Jesus declared in Acts 1:8 - But you shall <u>receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;</u> and <u>you shall be witnesses to Me</u> in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- <u>Paul shares his strategy for SOUL-WINNING</u>! - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 - For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, <u>that I might win the more</u>; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, <u>that I might win Jews</u>; to those who are under the law, as under the law, <u>that I might win</u> <u>those who are under the law</u>; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), <u>that I might win those who are without law</u>; to the weak I became as weak, <u>that I might win the weak</u>. <u>I have become all things to all men</u>, <u>that I might by all</u> <u>means save some</u>. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

> How many people die in one day worldwide? 155,500

> How many people are born on Earth in one day? <u>273,972</u>

- <u>Porter Barrington writes</u> – "Soul winners are made, not born. Therefore, to be an effective witness, you must be taught, trained, and motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit." Statistics tell us that 95% of all Christians have never led another person to Jesus Christ.

> *Let's practice three simple steps to SOUL-WINNING*:

#1 - Soul winners testify truth! #2 - soul winners Offer salvation! #3 - soul winners engage in Spiritual warfare!

STEP #1 - Soul winners testify truth!

> <u>Classic EXCUSES and DECEPTIONS that lead people to hell:</u>

- NOT <u>TODAY!</u> – Luke 12:16-21 - Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

- IT'S TOO <u>LATE!</u> – Luke 23:39-43

- GOD IS LOVE, WE'RE ALL GOING TO HEAVEN! - Matthew 22:1-14;

2 Peter 2:4-6 - For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;

- TRIED ONCE AND <u>FAILED!</u> – Matthew 13:1-23

- THERE'S TOO MANY <u>HYPOCRITES</u> IN THE CHURCH! – Matthew 24:42-51; all of Matthew chapter 23 deals with the religious hypocrites. There are hypocrites in the church, but there will be no hypocrites in heaven. Regarding the non-believers statement about "hypocrites" one author writes, "A non-believer tends to be biased or partial in his judgment of Christians. He will not consistently apply the same rule of judgment to the non-believers – he will not be quick to point out or criticize them when they sin or act hypocritically by virtue of the fact that they do not believe in God. He will not harp on the multitudes of atheists or godless people in prisons today for their horrendous crimes because of their belief in atheism. Neither will he highlight his own sins and inconsistencies as an unbeliever."

- <u>There is a coming day of reckoning according to Romans 2:1-11</u> - Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.

- I DON'T NEED A <u>SAVIOR</u>, I'M A GOOD PERSON! - Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:10-12 - As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." (John 3:16-21; 36)

- MY <u>FAMILY</u> WILL REJECT ME! - Matthew 10:32-39 - "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Acts 16:31-34 - So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

- DON'T ALL RELIGIONS <u>LEAD</u> TO GOD? - John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me".

- I AM TOO GREAT A <u>SINNER!</u> - Matthew 9:12-13 - When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Luke 19:10 – "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

1 Timothy 1:15 - This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

FFER SALVATION! > STEP #2 - SOUL WINNERS

- OFFER SALVATION TO <u>RELIGIOUS</u> PEOPLE – John 3:1-8

- OFFER SALVATION TO <u>SINFUL</u> PEOPLE – John 4:1-26

- OFFER SALVATION TO <u>ALL</u> PEOPLE AND TO <u>ALL</u> GENERATIONS – Acts 2:38-47

> STEP #3 - SOUL WINNERS ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE!

- General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, said that he was worried about the church losing the message of the true gospel. He illuminates four areas: *(1) Christianity without Christ*

(2) Forgiveness without repentance

(3) Salvation without regeneration

(4) Heaven without Hell

- Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 - Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- Jesus encourages all believers in Matthew 5:11-16 - "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Mark 16:15-17 - And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

LET'S GO FOR GOD!