

Charles G. Finney's Sermons

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Jesus said when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (Mark 11: 25)

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- **WITNESS**

Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43: 10)

- **WISDOM TO WIN SOULS**

He that winneth souls is wise. (Proverbs 11: 30)

- **WHO IS SUFFICIENT**

Who is sufficient for these things? (II Corinthians 2: 16)

- **HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL**

I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? (Nehemiah 6: 3)

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- **PROMOTION**

Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5: 18)

- **TO BE SAVED**

What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16: 30)

- **THE BACKSLIDER**

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways.
(Proverbs 14: 14)

Scriptures from King James Bible

PREFACE

- A charged battery works! Fathers need a charged battery to start their car or operate tools. Children need fresh batteries to operate toys. Mothers need charged cell phone batteries. People know to keep their batteries charged if they want their devices to work. It does not matter what the battery operates, charging a battery is revival. New Life is given.
- People need to keep their battery charged too. Proper diet, regular exercise, and sleep, keep a

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body fresh. Proper diet requires most people to eat breakfast, lunch and supper to maintain their energy through the day. To keep muscle tone and strength a body requires exertion. Six to eight hours of sleep is required.

- The Gospel recounts Jesus took time to revive. He encouraged the apostles to participate. The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath! (Mark 2: 27) Many forget! Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20: 8) For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth,

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the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20: 11)

- Just as your body needs to be charged, so does your spirit. Many distinctions drain the spirit; family, vocation, and Christianity are but a few. It is necessary that man's spirit be fully charged. An excited spirit will be aroused to obey God and produce powerful results.
- This LIFE LESSON is dedicated to recharging

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your battery.

There is practical application for everyone:

- Sinners,
- Christians, and
- Backsliders.
- Full indoctrination should produce powerful results sharing God's word.
- New Life - Revival!

BROTHER FINNEY

- Charles G. Finney was the most widely known and successful American revivalist of his time.
- Born a back woodsman and trained for the legal profession, when converted and called to preach he became a minister to the masses.
- He believed in "the science of revival" and set about with clear analytical mind discovering the pattern of revival as revealed in the scriptures.
- Apply his findings and method to your life.

FALLOW GROUND

- Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. (Hosea 10: 12)
- The ancient Hebrews were a nation of farmers and shepherds. The scriptures are ripe with references to their occupation and scenes with which they are familiar. The prophet Hosea addresses them as a nation of backsliders. He reproves them for their idolatry. He threatens them with the judgments of God.

FALLOW GROUND

- What is the meaning of "Break up your fallow ground"?
- The mind of man is often compared in the Bible to ground. The Word of God is compared to seed. Seed is sown in the ground. Seed grows bringing forth fruit representing actions and affections of those who received the seed.
- "Break up your fallow ground" is to break up your heart to prepare your mind to bring forth fruit unto God. To bring your mind into such a state that it is fit to receive the Word of God.

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- Sometimes your heart gets matted down, hard and dry. There is no such thing as getting fruit until it is broken up, mellowed down, and fit to receive the Word. It is this softening of the heart, to make it feel truth, the prophet calls breaking up your fallow ground.
- Feelings are an involuntary state of mind. They exist naturally and necessarily in the mind under certain circumstances calculated to excite them. We cannot by will call forth feelings, but they can be controlled indirectly.

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We cannot say: "I will feel so-and-so towards such an object." We can command our attention to it, look at it intently, until the proper feeling arises. Let a man who is separated from his family bring them up before his mind, and will he not feel? It is not by saying "Now I will feel deeply for my family." A man can direct his attention to any object about which he ought to feel and wishes to feel, and in that way he will call into existence the proper emotions. Let a man call up his enemy before his mind, and his feelings of enmity will arise.

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- If a man thinks of God, and fastens his mind on any parts of God's character, he will feel. Emotions will come up by the very Laws of Mind.
- If he is a friend of God, let him contemplate God as a gracious and holy Being. He will have emotions of friendship kindled in his mind.
- If he is an enemy of God, only let him get the true character of God before his mind, and look at it, and fasten his attention on it. His bitter enmity will rise against God, or he will break

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down and give his heart to God.

- States of Mind are under your control. The mind regulates moving our limbs. We are unphilosophical about their moving. The mind regulates emotions. We are unphilosophical about our feelings.
- Just as your mind works in moving your limbs or regulating your emotions it is required to break up the fallow ground of your heart. We are unphilosophical about our own hearts. Look into your heart. Examine it. Draw your attention

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from other things. Are you walking with God everyday? Are you serving God or Satan most? Are you under the dominion of the prince of darkness or Jesus Christ. Few know whether they are producing fruit or not. Note with your state of mind where you are.

- Self-examination consists in looking at your life, considering your actions. Calling up the past and learning its true character. Look back over your history. I don't mean that you take a glance at your past life. Examining your heart requires

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you consider your sins. Take them individually and look at them. Go over them as carefully as a merchant goes over his books.

- A general confession of sin will never do. Your sins were committed one by one, they ought to be reviewed and repented one by one.
- Let's begin with what are improperly termed Sins of Omission.

Ingratitude

I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee

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out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20: 2-3)

- Have you known some remarkable providence? A turn of events that saved you from ruin? Goodness before your conversion? How many instances can you remember where you received favor from God for which you never exercised gratitude? Or have not been thankful enough?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Idolatry

- I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.
(Exodus 20: 5)
- Think of the alarm to find a husband, wife or children shunning your affection while another engrosses their hearts, thoughts and time. Your heart would ache. You might well die.
- Have you given your heart to other loves offending Him?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of the Word

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.
(II Timothy 3: 16)
- Remember when for perhaps weeks, or longer, God's Word was not a pleasure? Remember reading over whole chapters in such a way you could not tell what you had been reading? Wonder why your life was spent without purpose?

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Unbelief

- I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive. (John 14: 16-17)
- Jesus prayed for and God promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to them that ask. If you have not believed nor expect to receive the blessing expressly promised, you charge Him with lying.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of prayer

- Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5: 16)
- Think of the times you neglected secret prayer, family prayer, and prayer meetings.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Hypocrisy

- The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. (James 3: 17)
- Prayer offered in a worldly state of mind, and careless manner with want of feeling and want of faith. The words were nothing but mere chattering of a wretch who did not deserve that God should feel the least care. Remember when you prayed in a way grievous to God.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of grace;

God's Redemption At Christ's Expense

- Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 1: 21)
- When you suffer trifling excuses that prevent your attending to the Lord's work you have neglected and poured contempt upon your means of salvation.

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of your family

- Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. (Exodus 20: 12)
- Think how you lived before your family. Have you obeyed them? Have you prayed for them? What example have you set? What efforts have you made for their spiritual good?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of your neighbor

- Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
(Mark 12: 31)
- Remember how little compassion you have felt for your friends and relatives. You have stood by and seen them going to hell, and you did not care. Have you made their salvation the subject of a single fervent prayer?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Neglect of self-denial

- Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

(Matthew 18: 18-20)

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- Many will do anything not requiring self-denial. Anything requiring them to deny themselves, is too much! They give of their surplus thinking they are doing a great deal. How soon will they find hell?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of witness

- Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he:

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before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43: 10)

- Christians are left in the world to be witnesses for God. They call attention to God and the thoughtless multitude see a difference in character and destiny of those who believe the Gospel. The Holy Spirit awakens mans attention to the plan of salvation through you.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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World mindedness

- Said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19: 23)
- What is your state of mind in regard to your worldly possessions? Do you look at them as really yours? Have you loved property and sought after it? Do you lust after title or position? Is your ambition to reach the pinnacle? Are you laying in store for you or your family? Do you have the right to dispose of your worldly

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- possessions as your own according to your own will?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Pride

- Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (Proverbs 16: 18)
- Do you exercise in pride? Vanity is a form of pride. Do you take pains to decorate your body. Are you vain about your dress and appearance? Do you care anything about

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having people look at you? Would you take all these pains about your looks if every person was blind? Do you pay more attention to your outward appearance or how your heart and soul appear to God?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Envy

- Jesus knew that for envy they had delivered him. (Matthew 27: 18)
- Do you envy those above you in any respect?

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What do you think of those who are more talented or more useful than yourself? Are you pained to hear someone praised? Do you dwell upon someone's faults or virtues? Their failures or success?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Neglect of charity

- Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. (1 Corinthians 13: 4)

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- Do you have a bitter spirit? Have you spoken in a manner devoid of charity and love? Charity requires you always hope the best case will prevail and you to put the best construction upon any ambiguous conduct.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Slander

- Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice. (Ephesians 4:31)

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- You need not lie to be guilty of slander! Do you tell the truth with a design to injure? Have you spoken behind peoples backs without good reason or unnecessarily? Do you talk of their faults, real or supposed?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Lying

- Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight. (Proverbs 12: 22)
- Understand what lying is: any designed

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deception; if the deception be not designed it is not lying. If you design to make an impression contrary to the naked truth, you lie. How innumerable are the lies told every day in business and social intercourse by words, looks, and actions designed to make an impression on others for selfish reasons that are contrary to the truth!

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Cheating

- All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law. (Matthew 7: 12)
- When you have dealt with an individual, and done to him that which you would not like to have done to you, that is cheating. The law is not that you should do "what you might reasonably expect them to do to you." That admits every degree of wickedness. It is "As ye would they should do to you."

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- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Robbing

- Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. (Malachi 3: 8)
- Think of the hours squandered which God gave you to serve Him. How many souls are lost because of vain amusements or foolish conversations? How much money have you spent for things which did not contribute to your

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health, comfort or usefulness? How have you misapplied your talents and powers of mind?

- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

Temper

- A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards. (Proverbs 29: 11)
- Have you had a fit(s) with your husband, wife, children, relatives, workers, or neighbors?
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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Hinderance

- Who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? (Galatians 5: 7)
- A wicked servant not only loiters but hinders the rest! Sometimes taking their time. Sometimes destroying their confidence. Playing into Satan's hands you show yourself to be an idle vagabond who prevents others from working.
- Go on your knees, confess, ask forgiveness!

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- Jesus spake a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let

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him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. (Luke 8: 4-10)

- Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which,

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when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (Luke 8: 11-15)

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- When the Word falls on the ears of "way side" Christians it bears no fruit. A minister might wear out his life, doing very little good when the Word falls on the ears of "stoney ground" Christians. If the Word falls on the ears of "good ground" Christians it bears fruit.
- Much preaching and teaching is wasted if Christians will not break up their fallow ground. They will continue to harden their hearts. They will grow worse and worse, just as the rain and snow on an old fallow field makes the turf thicker and the clods stronger.

FORGIVE IF YE HAVE OUGHT

- Prayer does not consist of benevolent desires alone. Benevolent desires are pleasing to God. Such desires pervade heaven and are found in holy blessings. Men, angels, and glorified spirits have these desires. Prayer is more than this!
- Truth influences men and prayer moves God. I do not mean that prayer changes the character or mind of God. Prayer produces such a change in us and renders it consistent for God to do as it would not be consistent for Him to do otherwise. When a sinner repents, that moves

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God to forgive him. God has always been ready to forgive him on that condition. When the sinner changes God moves to pardon him. The sinners repentance renders His forgiveness and moves God to action.

- Righteousness is the relationship of man to God and man to man.
- Jesus taught; thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (Mark 12: 30)

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- God is never unwilling to bestow the blessing on the prayer of a righteous man. The righteous man broke up his fallow ground, asked forgiveness, and prepared his mind to bring forth fruit because he loves God as described in the first commandment.
- Jesus taught a second commandment; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.
(Mark 12: 31)

FORGIVE IF YE HAVE OUGHT

- James teaches to confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. (James 5: 16a)
- Jesus taught pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom,

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and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

(Matthew 6: 9-13)

- Jesus said when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. (Mark 11: 25)
- Forgiveness of our debts by God, depends upon our forgiveness of those indebted to us!
- God is willing to bestow the blessing on the prayer of a righteous man. The righteous man

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forgave those who trespassed against him. Both may be healed and bring forth fruit because they love God as described in the second commandment.

- A righteous man asked God's forgiveness according to the first commandment . According to the second commandment he has forgiven those who trespassed against him.
- The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5: 16b)

FORGIVE IF YE HAVE OUGHT

What is effectual fervent prayer? Prayer that effectually moves God and attains the blessing it seeks!

Consider:

- Effectual prayer is for a definite and distinct objective. Your prayer is legislation in the Kingdom of Heaven. You petition God to move on a specific object. Your petition is in detail. Is it likely that any Legislature will move favorably on an incomplete or random petition?

FORGIVE IF YE HAVE OUGHT

- Effectual prayer must be according to the will of God. Praying for contrary things, is to tempt God. His will is revealed for guidance in prayer by; promises or predictions in the Bible, providence, and the Holy Spirit.
- 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)
- Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we

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ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8: 26-27)

Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5: 18)

- Effectual prayer must be with submission to the revealed will of God. To submit to any dispensation of Providence is impossible till it

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comes. We never can submit to any command of God, till it takes place. Consider; David's child was sick he was distressed, refused to be comforted and agonized in prayer. His servants were afraid to tell him the child died. As soon as he heard, he laid aside his grief, arose, took food and drink. As the child lived David did not know the will of God. When the child died, David bowed and submitted. (II Samuel 12: 15-23)

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- Effectual prayer implies desire for the object commensurate with importance. God blesses strong desire not contrary to His will and providence. Jacob exclaimed in agony of desire: I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. (Genesis 32: 26) Jacob's boldness allowed God to bless Israel. God said Moses, Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. (Exodus 32: 10) Moses prevailed with God. Jesus

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Christ's desire for blessing was strong. In an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. (Luke 22: 44) The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion. (Proverbs 28: 1)

- Effectual prayer must be offered from righteous motives. Prayer should be for the glory of God. Much prayer seems to be based on no higher principle than sympathy. Thinking what dread it would be for them to go to hell, parental prayer

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for their ungodly children and missionary prayer for heathens has little concern for the dishonor to God. This is a great evil. Prayer is not selfish. Until Christians learn higher motives, their prayers will not be effectual.

- Effectual prayer must be in faith. You must expect blessing from your petition. You need not look for an answer to your prayer if you pray without expectation of obtaining it. Doubt is a thing of men, not of God.

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This is the tricky part. As long as your mind does not have some uninvited thought creep in to your consciousness you can confess your faith. The instant your mind has that thought of impossibility, you begin to doubt. If you confess with your mouth the thought of impossibility, you own the doubt.

Jesus teaching faith, rebuked Peter in front of the twelve. Get thee behind me Satan: for thou savorest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men. (Mark 8: 33)

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Jesus instruction to the twelve was faith requires confession with the mouth. (Mark 11: 23)

The apostle Paul confirms; if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus. (Romans 10: 9)

Confession applies to our salvation, our prayers and moving a mountain! It is important to declare our faith with our mouth.

- Effectual prayer must be in the name of Jesus. Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. (John 16: 23)

FORGIVE IF YE HAVE OUGHT

Without effectual fervent prayer a ministry need not expect much success. It is not only necessary that ministers pray, it is necessary all Christians pray.

WITNESS

- The grand design of God in leaving Christians in the world after conversion is they witness for God. They call the attention of the thoughtless multitude to the subject, and make them see the difference in the character and destiny of those who believe the Gospel and those who reject it.
- Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither

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shall there be after me. (Isaiah 43: 10)

- The inattention of the thoughtless multitude is a difficulty. The Holy Spirit awakens the attention of men to the subject of their sin and the plan of salvation.
- God scattered His children everywhere, in families and among the nations. He never would suffer them to be altogether in one place, however agreeable it might be to their feelings. He wishes them scattered. When the Church at

WITNESS

Jerusalem herded together, neglecting to go forth as Christ had commanded, to spread the Gospel all over the world, God let loose a persecution upon them and scattered them abroad. Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
(Acts 8: 4)

- They are to testify to the truth of the Bible. Preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16: 15)
They are competent witnesses. They have experience of its truth. The Christian has no

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more need of external evidence to prove the truth of the Bible to his mind, than he has to prove his own existence. To doubt it is against his own consciousness. The whole plan of salvation is fully spread and settled in his conviction.

Of what truths is the Christian to testify?

- The immortality of the soul.
- The vanity of earthly things.
- The satisfaction and glory of Christianity.

WITNESS

- The guilt and danger of sinners.
- The reality of hell and eternal punishment for the wicked.
- The love of Christ.
- The necessity of a holy life.
- The necessity of self-denial and living above the world.
- The necessity of meekness, heavenly-mindedness, humility, and integrity.

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- The necessity of an entire renovation of character and life.
- These are the subjects which Christians are to witness for God. They are bound to testify in such a way as to constrain men to believe the truth. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16: 16)

Precept and Example

- Preach the word; be instant in season, out of

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season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (II Timothy 4: 2)

- On every proper occasion they testify by their lips, but mainly by their lives. Christians have no right to be silent with their lips; they should reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Their main influence is by their example, because "actions speak louder than words." When precept and example are brought to bear, the greatest influence is exerted.

WITNESS

The immortality of the soul.

- I give unto them eternal life; they shall never perish. (John 10: 28)
- Believing death is not the termination of existence and the soul to be immortal requires living proof. Precept without example will do no good. All the arguments in the world will not convince mankind you really believe this unless you live it.

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The vanity of earthly things.

- For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.
(II Peter 2: 18)
- Mankind is so struck with the objects of sense, and so constantly occupied with them, that they are very apt to shut out eternity from their minds. A small object that is held close to the eye, may shut out the distant ocean. So the

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things of the world, that are near, appear so magnified in their minds, that they overlook everything else.

The satisfaction and glory of Christianity.

- My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phillipians 4: 18)
- Christians are bound to show, by their conduct, they are satisfied without the pomp and vanity of the world; that following Christ and communion with God keep them above the

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world. They are to manifest that this world is not their home, heaven is a reality and that they expect to dwell there for ever.

The guilt and danger of sinners.

- Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. (Psalm 103: 13)
- Talk to a sinner about guilt and danger and the impression must correspond to the testimony. If the sinner believes they are in danger of hell, it is wholly on your testimony. Christian lives must

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show compassion, if sinners are to believe them sincere. They must show tenderness by their eyes, their features, their voice. Their manner must be solemn and earnest.

The reality of hell and eternal punishment for the wicked.

- Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

(Matthew 10: 28)

WITNESS

Souls of all men are confined until a proper season, which God hath determined.

- One righteous sentence shall deservedly be passed upon all men; when the unjust and those that have been disobedient to God, and have given honor to such idols as have been the vain operations of the hands of men, as to God himself, shall be adjudged to this everlasting punishment, as having been the causes of defilement. (Josephus *Discourse Concerning Hades*)

WITNESS

The love of Christ.

- Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15: 13)
- Christians bear witness by the regard they show for His precepts, His honor and His kingdom. They should act as if they believed that He died for the sins of the whole world and as if they blamed sinners for rejecting His great salvation.

WITNESS

The necessity of a holy life.

- According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.
(Ephesians 1: 4)
- God is holy. We are chosen by Him. We are to be holy. God abhors sin. Jesus lived without sin. We are meant to live without sin. We should be holy and without blame before him, in love!

WITNESS

The necessity of self-denial and living above the world.

- Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.
(Titus 2:12)
- A Christian life is the most powerful influence on a sinner. Going about daily; practicing self-denial, teaching, preaching, praying, and laboring; mingling with every caste and grade,

WITNESS

and bringing down instruction to the capacity of each and every individual.

The necessity of meekness, heavenly-mindedness, humility, and integrity.

- Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6: 33)
- A Christian should always show a temper like the Son of God, who when He was reviled, reviled not again. An irritable Christian who is

WITNESS

ready to injure, to fly into passion, to take the same measures as the world cannot recommend Christ with such a spirit.

The necessity of an entire renovation of character and life.

- Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

WITNESS

There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12: 30-31)

- Righteousness is man's relationship to God and man. There is no commandment greater than these. Righteous living requires that the Christian change.
- Unless Christians wake up and act as living examples of their testimony the world will never be converted. Christian life should not contradict testimony, preaching or teaching. The Standard of Living must be raised!

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

- He that winneth souls is wise. (Proverbs 11: 30)
- The business of every Christian on earth is to save souls! People complain they do not know how to take hold of this matter. Why? The reason is plain enough. They have never studied it. They have never taken the pains to qualify themselves for the work. If people made no more a matter of attention and thought to qualify themselves for their worldly business, than they do to save souls, how do you think they would succeed?

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

- Well intended remarks may divert attention, because of lack of knowledge and skill, when talking to sinners. There is danger of destroying the sinner's convictions if their attention is diverted. Press the same point in all your remarks. Take pains to learn the sinners state of mind; what they think, how they feel, what they feel most deeply about, and press that chief point thoroughly. Do not divert the sinners mind by talking about anything else. Be fearless pressing that point.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

- Some fear pressing a point to which the mind is trembling alive. An attempt to be wiser than God. Notwithstanding, the Holy Spirit is evidently debating that very point with the sinner. You should clear up the point. Throw the light of truth all around it. Show them the path of righteousness. Bring the soul to yield. Then the mind will be at rest.
- Anxious sinners have come to a turning point. It is a time when their destiny is likely to be settled for ever. Christians must feel deeply for

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

them. In some respects their circumstances are more solemn than those of the Judgment. Here their destiny is settled! The Judgement Day reveals their decision.

- The physician and the Christian, if they know anything of their duty, sometime feel a very solemn responsibility. The patient or sinner is in a critical state, where a little error may destroy their life. They hang quivering between life and death. The responsibility felt in relation to the body is solemn. What responsibility should be

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

felt in relation to the soul as it is seen to hang trembling on a point? Its destiny now to be decided.

- One false impression, one indiscreet remark, one sentence misunderstood, a slight diversion of mind, may wear the anxious sinner the wrong way and their soul is lost. Never was an angel employed in a more solemn work than dealing with sinners who were under conviction. How solemnly and carefully then should Christians

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

walk, how wisely and skillfully work, if they do not wish to be the means of the loss of a soul!

- Scripture ascribes conversion to four different agencies; to men, to God, to the truth, and the sinner. The Bible does actually ascribe conversion to men:
- They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.
(Daniel 12: 3)

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

- Though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. (1 Corinthians 4: 15) The apostle Paul tells the Corinthians that he made them Christians, with the Gospel, or truth, which he preached.
- Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;
- Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. (James 5: 19-20)

- A man has been very ill. How natural for him to say of his physician: "That man saved my life." Does he mean to say his life was saved without reference to God? Not unless he is an infidel. God made the physician and He made the medicine too. It can never be shown but the agency of God is just as truly concerned in making the medicine take effect to save life, as

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it is in making the truth take effect to save a soul. To affirm the contrary is atheism.

- It is true the physician saved him. It is also true God saved him. It is equally true the medicine saved his life. It is true he saved his own life by taking the medicine; for the medicine would have done no good if he had not taken it.
- Truth is an unconscious instrument, in the conversion of a sinner. Truth is an active, voluntary, powerful agent, in changing the mind. Truth turns the sinner to God.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Man, the one who brings truth to the sinner, is also an agent. Man is more; he is a responsible agent in the business.

- Suppose you are standing on the banks of the Falls of Niagra. As you stand on the very edge of the precipice, you behold a man lost in deep thought, approaching its verge, unconscious of his danger. He approaches nearer and nearer, until he actually lifts his foot to take the final step that shall plunge him in destruction. At this

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moment, you lift your warning voice above the roar of the foaming waters, and cry out: Stop! Your voice pierces his ear, and breaks his reverie; he turns instantly upon his heel; all pale and aghast he retires, quivering from the verge of death. Slowly he walks to the hotel; you follow him; as do others. On your approach he points to you, and says: That man saved my life.

- He ascribes the work to you; and certainly there is a sense in which you had saved him. On

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further questioning, he says: Stop! How that word rings in my ears. That was to me the word of life! Here he ascribes it to the word that aroused him, and caused him to turn.

- Conversing still further, he says: Had I not turned at that instant, I should have been a dead man. Now he speaks of it as his own act.
- Directly you hear him say: Oh, the mercy of God! If God had not interposed, I should have been lost!

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

- A defect in this illustration is: God's interference was providential. There is something more than the providence of God in conversion of a sinner.
- Scripture is true! Conversion involves: God, men, truth, and the sinner. The Holy Spirit, by the truth, influences the sinner. The sinner actually changes or converts to God.
- Winning souls requires making choices and pursuit of the best end by the most appropriate means! Christians who do not make it a matter

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of attention and study, how to most successfully build up the Kingdom of Christ, act wickedly.

Schedule Around Worldly Business.

- Realize the unsaved do not understand that Christianity is more important than their worldly business. If they are absorbed in other things you are likely to offend them if you try and call their attention to eternal matters. The unsaved must be taken as they are found, a careless, impenitent sinner who values their worldly business more than their salvation.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Minimize Distractions & Maximize Attention.

- Persons have had their minds turned to the promise of salvation in the midst of a powerful excitement from another subject. It is not common. The mind must be in a state that welcomes Christianity.
- It will be difficult to have much success talking about eternity when attention is strongly excited by another topic.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Sobriety is Paramount.

- People under the influence of beer, cider, wine, distilled spirits, or pharmacological substances are in an altered state of mind. Many will be fond of talking about Christianity. It is exceedingly rare that a person has been truly convicted with any intoxicating substance in them.

Privacy is Preferred.

- If possible, always take an opportunity to

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

converse with sinners when they are alone. People are too proud to admit doing wrong in front of others. They resist the truth, or try and laugh it off.

- When visiting a family, instead of calling all together at the same time, the better way is to see them one at a time. Share the truth one day and visit another a couple of days later. The impression made on one will exert an influence over the rest.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Providence Prevails.

- Seize an opportunity to converse when events of Providence seem to be to your favor. When events occur, they may be evidenced by the Holy Spirit. Such occurrences are calculated to make a serious impression. Be sure to improve the occasion faithfully.

Early is Better than Later.

- Do not put it off from day to day, thinking a better opportunity will come. You must seek an

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opportunity. If none offers, make one! Appoint a time or place, and get an interview with your friend or neighbor, where you can speak freely to them. Send a note; go to them on purpose; make it look like a matter of business that you are earnest in endeavoring to promote their soul's salvation. They will know it is a matter of importance in your eyes. Follow up!

Feelings.

- If you have a feeling for a particular individual,

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take the opportunity to converse with them while the feeling continues. The Holy Spirit may be giving you desire for the salvation of that soul, and God is ready and willing to bless your efforts in this conversion. Make such a feeling the subject of prayer, pouring out all your heart to bring them to Christ.

Be Kind.

- Treat whomever you approach with kindness. Let them see that you address them, not

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because you wish to quarrel, but because you love their soul and desire their best good in time and eternity.

- A harsh overbearing manner will offend them and drive them farther from from confessing Jesus as Christ.

Be Solemn.

- Avoid all lightness of manner or language. Levity will produce anything but a right impression. You are engaged in a very solemn

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

work which is going to affect the character of your friend or neighbor and will probably determine their destiny for eternity.

Be Respectful.

- You need not be abrupt, rude, or coarse with the careless and impenitent. Do not create an unfavorable opinion of both yourself and Christianity. No mistake could be greater!
- Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be

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courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3: 8-9)

Be Plain.

- Do not cover up any circumstance of the person's character, and relation to God. Lay it all open, not for the purpose of offending or wounding, but because you must probe to the bottom. Keep back none of the truth. Let it

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

come out plainly before them. Unless you address the conscience pointedly, you get no hold of the mind at all.

Be Truthful.

- Sinners are apt to put up some pretext, or subordinate point. Tell them the present business is to save their soul, and not to settle controverted questions in theology. Hold them to the fundamental truth by which they must be saved or lost.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16: 16)

Be Very Patient.

- If they have a real difficulty in mind, be very patient to find out what it is, and then clear it up! Do not answer by argument. Show their insincerity in advancing the difficulty. It is not worth while to spend time arguing the difficulty. Enlist their conscience to your side.

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Be on Guard.

- Many do not have a good temper to converse with those opposed to Christianity. Those opposed want no better triumph than to see you angry. They will depart exulting because they have maddened one of the saints!

Defend the Faith.

- Sometimes a sinner entrenched against God will find fault. Do not take their part. Do not side with them against Christians. Remind them they

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

are not held accountable for the sins of others. Show them the wickedness that prompts such remarks and point out that is exactly why Jesus must forgive their sin.

Be Timely.

- Get to the point! It is generally best to be quick. Say a few things and press them home. Bring the matter to an issue. If possible get them to repent and give themselves to Christ at the time. Carefully avoid making the impression, you do not want them to repent now!

WISDOM TO WIN SOULS

Be Prayerful.

- After you had your conversation be sure to pray with them. If you leave them without a prayer, you leave your work incomplete!

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

- Watching animal families in nature is a glimpse of righteousness. The species doesn't seem to matter. Mothers and fathers bear their young and nurture them. They protect them from predators. They feed them. They exercise them. They train them to become self-sufficient in caring for themselves. They set them free to live and die fulfilling destiny according to natural laws.
- One creature consistently fails in this process. Their young are not adequately trained to

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

become self-sufficient to care for themselves to live and die fulfilling destiny according to eternal law. They are the sons of God, who are to be led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8: 14) They have been wrongly educated, all of them.

- The business of every Christian on earth is to save souls! He that winneth souls is wise. (Proverbs 11: 30) Who is sufficient for these things? (II Corinthians 2: 16) Certainly not the Christian children who are sent to learn lessons and life

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

skills chosen by those not known by the teachers, students or parents. Is it any wonder our offspring are not adequately trained to become self-sufficient to care for themselves to live and die fulfilling destiny according to eternal law? Erroneous teaching continues at our institutions of higher learning stressing business, science, liberal arts, and mathematics, under the instruction of atheists, agnostics, believers of the occult, and those foreign to belief in God, Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

- Education is favorable. Business, science, liberal arts, and mathematics, are important subjects that will be useful in teaching all nations to observe all things commanded by Jesus, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28: 19-20)
- As a mother or father do not support teaching Christian children lessons and life skills chosen by those not known by the teachers, students or parents. Support not schools, colleges and

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

seminaries that wrongly educate the children of the Sons of God. Pray that the Father, will bestow upon every Christian the wisdom and means to educate a generation of mothers, fathers, ministers, teachers, and leaders who will go unto all creation and convert the world.

- A congregation seeking a minister considers he should be popular and learned. They should be seeking someone wise to win souls. Such a ministry as is now in the Church will never

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

convert the world. The coming millenium depends upon having a different sort of minister. Someone more thoroughly educated for His work. This we shall have so sure as the promise of the Lord holds true.

- It is the duty of every Christian to pray. Pray the Lord of the harvest, would send forth labourers into His harvest. (Luke 10: 2) We must travail in prayer, and groan and agonize for this.
- In ancient times adoption was very different

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than we know it today. A son with out a father would be schooled. At a time when the child had sufficiently learned to complement his new father the adoption ceremony would take place. In the ceremony the son would cry Abba, Father. The Father would recognize the child as a joint-heir.

- The apostle Paul reminds the sons of God; they have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby they cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. (Romans 8: 14 – 17)

- Our Father yearns that mankind accept His grace. He nurtures us, protects us from predators, feeds us, exercises us, and instructs us to seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness! Then all these things shall be added unto us. (Matthew 6: 33) He sets us free to live and die fulfilling destiny according to His eternal law.
- Who is sufficient for these things? (II Corinthians 2: 16)

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

You are! You are a full heir to the promise of salvation made by God. You are a brother to Jesus Christ. The same Holy Spirit that descended upon Jesus at His baptism, has descended upon you and is living inside you. What a privilege! What a responsibility.

- An heir is a successor or beneficiary. Upon death an heir makes claim. Belief in thine heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and confession with thy mouth that you believe is unto salvation. (Romans 10: 9) He that believeth and

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16: 16) Your baptism is burial with Christ and confers your title as a Joint-Heir.

- Joint means that two things have come together and are united. Jesus and you are united by resurrection in the Kingdom of God.
- The LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet. (Genesis 2: 18) Eve was complement to Adam. They

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

two became a union. They lived an abundant life in paradise. The Effect of Union was lost on sin. Man and the serpent were cursed. Enmity between Satan and man. (Genesis 3: 15)

- God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
(John 3: 16) Your Joint-Heir, Jesus, the Son of God.
- Jesus said; if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

(Matthew 18: 19)

- Taking the number two as the least number between whom there can be agreement, Jesus makes the strongest case! All it takes is you and one more...
- "Ask" indicates prayer. "Touching anything they shall" indicates you and one more must agree on; the desire, motive, purpose, and effect of the prayer.

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

- Many Christians take a passive attitude. They feel as though they have nothing to do. They belong to a church. The church has employed a minister. He is paid to feed them with instruction and comfort. They have nothing to do but sit and swallow the food he gives. He is expected to preach good, sound comfortable doctrine, and to bolster them. They pay his salary and attend his preaching. A great enough effort to expect admittance to heaven.
- Rest assured where this spirit prevails, however

WHO IS SUFFICIENT

good the minister may be, however faithful, however devoted, talented and eloquent, though the minister may wear himself out, and perhaps destroy his life, he will have very little success because of the Effect of Union!

- Who is sufficient for these things? (II Corinthians 2: 16)
- He that winneth souls! (Proverbs 11: 30)

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

- A servant of God had come down from Babylon to rebuild the temple and re-establish the worship of God at Jerusalem, the city of his father's sepulchres. When it was discovered by Sanballat and certain individuals who were his allies, who had long enjoyed the desolations of Zion, that the temple and the holy city were about to be rebuilt, they raised great opposition. Sanballat and the other leaders tried, in several ways to divert Nehemiah and his friends, and prevent them from going forward in their work;

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

at one time they threatened them, and then complained that they were going to rebel against the king.

- They found, however, that they could not frighten Nehemiah, and then they sought to delude him by artifice and fraud, and draw him off from the vigorous work. Nehemiah sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? (Nehemiah 6: 3)

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

- It has always been the case, whenever any of the servants of God do anything in His cause, and there appears to be a probability they will succeed, Satan by his agents regularly attempt to divert their minds and nullify their labors.
- Revival respects the government of this world and the salvation of mankind. Two things of infinite importance. When the spirit of mankind discerns both are involved to glorify God and focuses their efforts to manifest such discipline they enjoy revival. Their faith renewed.

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

- Christians with renewed faith are an infectious bunch. Their joy is contagious to others. They desire to fellowship with other saints. This brotherly love is the perfect medicine to cure those ailing in their local fellowship. The Church is the instrument with which God carries on this work.
- It used to be the established belief; revival could not be stopped, because it is the work of God! No farmer thinks this is common sense. If he did think so, he might just as well reason he

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

could go cut down his wheat and not hurt the crop, because it is God that makes grain grow. Revival is the work of God and so is a crop of wheat. God is as much dependent on the use of means in one case as the other. If it is hindered, revival is just as liable to be injured as wheat in the field. Do you have any idea what hinders revival?

Prophecy of Doom.

- Nothing is more fatal to revival than for friends

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

to predict it is going to stop. No matter what an enemy of the work may say about it, they can not stop it. Friends of the work must labor and pray to carry it on. It is a contradiction to say they are laboring and praying in faith to carry on the work, and believe it is going to stop. If they lose faith it will stop. Whenever friends of the work begin to prophesy it is going to stop, they should be instantly rebuked, in the name of the Lord. If the idea should once begin to prevail, and it cannot be rooted out, revival will cease.

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

Consent.

- Never should this occur! Christians confess their love to God and their efforts for the salvation of souls. Sometimes Christians see revival is in danger of ceasing and do nothing effectual about it. By consent they bring revival to a standstill.

Cold Hearts.

- When faith is strong, hearts are warm, prayers full of holy emotion, and words full of power; the

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

work continues. When hearts are cold, prayers without holy emotion, and words without power, the labor becomes mechanical and revival ends.

Apathy.

- For two thousand years, God has been calling, urging, commanding, entreating, pressing, and encouraging Christians, to get busy. Some Christians have the idea revival will go on without their aid. This is impossible, sinners cannot be converted without them.

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

This is impossible, sinners cannot be converted without them. A conversion consists of the sinner voluntarily turning toward God. Without the appropriate moral influences, truth, and witness there will be few conversions.

Selfishness.

- I do not admit that men have any business that is properly their own. They mistakenly think so, and in fact prefer to attend to what they consider their own, rather than work for God.

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

They think they cannot afford sufficient time from their worldly employments, to carry on revival. They pretend to be obliged to work, having no time for God or revival.

Pride.

- When friends of the work begin to think how great a revival is occurring, how they have labored, prayed, how much good work they have done, revival will likely decline. When Christians get puffed up and vain, no longer

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

enjoying the presence of God, the Holy Spirit withdraws from them and revival ceases.

Exhaustion.

- Revival requires work. Some Christians are thoughtless, and exercise poor judgment. They break up all their habits of living, neglect to eat and sleep at the proper hours, and let excitement run away with them, so that they overdo their bodies. They become exhausted and it is impossible for them to continue the

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

work. From negligence and imprudence revival ceases.

Proselytising.

- The Baptists are so opposed to the Presbyterians. Presbyterians are against the Methodists. Episcopalians are against all three. As efforts are made to get converts to join another Church the revival ends. Proselytising stirs up bitterness, raises strife, and grieves the Holy Spirit. Driving Christians into parties is the work of the devil. There is no revival there!

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

Stewardship.

- God opens the windows of heaven to a Church, and pours out a blessing. It is a reasonable expectation they fill His storehouse. When they refuse to promote the cause of Christ they grieve the Holy Spirit and the blessing is withdrawn. When God has been bountiful Christians must be good stewards.

Sin Against Mercy.

- When Christians sin against their own mercies,

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

Stewardship.

because they get lifted up with success, and take the credit to themselves, and do not give all the glory to God, they rely on their own strength. God says; If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart. (Malachi 2: 2)
All revival ends.

HINDERANCES TO REVIVAL

No Brotherly Love.

- When Christians have revival they share the joy. They call one another "Brother" and "Sister." When the joy departs, this affection ceases. The Holy Spirit is grieved and departs from among them. All revival ceases too.

Controversy.

- As long as humble souls work as friends, revival will continue, in spite of all opposition. When controversy, is admitted by Satan, nothing is more certain to stop revival.

PROMOTION

- Think of revival like a mere shower of rain. The shower comes over a place, continues a while, then blows over. It encourages growth. Often brief, it is cool and refreshing. Some regard revival as a miracle. It is not! Revival is brought about by means. The means behind revival is the Holy Spirit.
- It is important that Christians agree to all measures essential to promoting revival. Without agreement there will be controversy. Their efforts will counteract one another, and they need not expect revival.

PROMOTION

Revival requires much labor.

- Preparation by effectual prayer is required. People pray: "O Lord, enable a sinner to do so-and-so." When people plead for sinners using such language they take the sinner's part, tempting God. A sinner is a rebel, obstinate in rebellion. The sinner is so obstinate he never will, without the Holy Spirit, come toward God. The only help a sinner requires to overcome his obstinacy is a Christian. Is it not more effectual

PROMOTION

to pray for a Christian to share the Gospel with the sinner than to pray for Divine favor?

- Preparation must be shared equally. A few should not be burdened while the remainder does little. Everyone should bear his portion, according to his ability. Then there will be neither envying nor jealousy, nor any mutual recriminations and disrespectful remarks about one another. There should be no stumbling blocks put before the sinners. Brotherly love must abound.

PROMOTION

- Preparation must include conversation with neighbors. Looking for opportunities of doing good provide a chance to share with people who normally would not hear the Gospel. Watch for signs making it natural to visit.
- Preparation must include determination and perseverance. When Christians unite in prayer and effort, so as to prevail with God, they must be agreed in speaking and doing the same things, in walking by the same rule, and meaning the same principles. They must

PROMOTION

persevere until they obtain the blessing, not hindering each other's efforts.

- Preparation expects a blessing. God opens the windows of heaven and pours out a blessing. His reasonable expectation is Christians must be good stewards with His bounty. Refusing to promote the Gospel grieves the Holy Spirit and the blessing is withdrawn.
- Preparation includes study, thought, knowledge of principles, and skill in applying the Word of

PROMOTION

God, as to give everyone his portion in season. Christians who never suppose promoting revival includes sound judgment and good sense need to fellowship with the saints and to suffer indoctrination.

- Sometimes you will doubt whether you are a Christian. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11: 13)
- Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5: 18) Children of

PROMOTION

God are led by the Spirit. The means behind revival is the Holy Spirit.

TO BE SAVED

- What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16: 30) These are the words of the jailer at Philippi. This is the question he put forth to Paul and Silas, who were then under his care as prisoners. Satan had, in many ways, opposed these servants of God in their preaching the Gospel, and had been as often defeated and disgraced. Here he devised a new and peculiar project for frustrating their labors. A certain woman at Philippi, who was possessed with a spirit of divination, or in other words, the spirit of the

TO BE SAVED

devil, brought her masters much gain by soothsaying. The devil set this woman to follow Paul and Silas about the streets, and as soon as they had begun to gain attention of the people, she would come in and cry: These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. (Acts 16: 17)

- She undertook to second their exhortations adding her testimony to their instructions. The effect was just what Satan desired. People

TO BE SAVED

knew she was a wicked, base woman. To hear her praise them as servants of God, led people to suppose the apostles were of the same character as her, having the same spirit she had. Paul turns on her and commands the foul spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ, to come out of her. When her masters saw their hope of gain was gone they caught Paul and Silas and brought them before the magistrates. The magistrates beat them, cast them in prison and the jailer made their feet fast in the stocks.

TO BE SAVED

- The old prison, that had so long echoed to the voice of blasphemy and oaths, now sounded the praise of God. At midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (Acts 16: 25) The walls that had stood so firm trembled under their prayer. The stocks were unloosed, the gates thrown open, and every one's bands broken. The jailer was aroused from his sleep, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword, knowing that if the prisoners escaped he must

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- pay with his life, and was about to kill himself. Paul cried out: Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. (Acts 16: 28) The jailer called for a light, fell down before Paul and Silas, asking What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16: 30) If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (Romans 10: 9)
- It is important a sinner receives the right direction when earnestly asking: What must I do to be saved? No direction should be given that

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will leave the sinner; in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. (Acts 8: 23) Give no direction that would not comply with them going to heaven, should they die in the moment.

First Direction.

- A broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart.
(Psalm 51: 17)
- Generally, you may give the sinner direction that includes a right heart. If you make them understand, and they follow directions, they will be saved!

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- The Holy Spirit suits His strivings to the sinner's state of mind in which He finds them. His object is to bring them to submit to God at once. Their objections, difficulties, and states of mind are as various as the circumstances of mankind.
- The direction to repent is always proper. It will not always be effectual. Sometimes the Holy Spirit seems to direct the sinner's attention to some other thing. The sinner needs another direction.
- In the days of the apostles, the minds of the

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people seem to have been fixed on the question, whether Jesus was the Messiah. When sinners asked what to do, the apostles bore down on this point, to prove Jesus was the Christ.

- The Holy Spirit was striving with the issue between God, Jew and Gentile; whether Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Yielding on this question humbled the sinners. They were converted.
- At other times, the Holy Spirit deals with sinners

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in reference to a particular duty, like prayer. The sinner will be found contesting that point with God. When the sinner prays, they yield their heart and are converted.

- The word repent used to be plain and was easily understood. Now it needs to be explained to sinners.
- Many suppose remorse or a sense of guilt, is repentance. Some feel regret they have done such a thing, and call that repentance.

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Others suppose conviction of sin and fear of hell are repentance. Sinners must be shown these things are not repentance.

- Repentance is a change of mind, as regards God and toward sin. It is a change of view, and a change in preferences of the soul. It is a voluntary change. By consequence it involves a change of feeling and action toward God and toward sin. It is naturally a change of mind on any subject of interest and importance. It always implies abhorrence of sin. It involves

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the love of God and forsaking of sin.

Second Direction.

- He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16: 16)
- Sinners need to have belief explained to them, and be told what is not faith, and what is. It is not uncommon for a sinner, when told to believe the Gospel, to say: "I do believe it." The fact is, they have been brought up to admit the fact that

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the Gospel is true, but they do not believe it: they know nothing about the evidence of it, and all their faith is a mere admission without evidence. They hold it to be true, in a kind of loose, indefinite sense, so they are always ready to say: "I do believe the Bible."

- The fact is, the sinner does not believe the Gospel at all. They are deceived in thinking they believe. For they have never acted upon these truths, as they do upon those things which they

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do believe. It is quite difficult to convince them of their unbelief.

- Belief relies upon faith; a trust or confidence in God, and in Christ, which commits the whole soul to Him in all His relations to us. It is a voluntary trust in His person, His veracity, His word. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11: 1) Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed. (Hebrews 11: 3) We believe and act accordingly.

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- Noah was warned by God of things not seen as yet. He was assured that God was going to drown the world, and he believed it, and acted accordingly. He prepared an ark to save his family, and condemned the unbelievers. Action gave evidence of his sincerity.
- Abraham was called by God to leave his country. He was promised that it would be his gain. Abraham believed, obeyed and went out, without knowing whither he went.
- Belief in Christ requires faith and results in

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action!

Third Direction.

- My son, give me thine heart. (Proverbs 23: 26)
- Ask a woman what it is to give her heart to a man or her husband. Ask a man what it is to give his heart to a woman or his wife. They understand it is to place their affections with the other, to strive to please them in everything. When giving your heart to God you place your affections with Him and to strive and please

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Him in everything.

Fourth Direction.

- Here am I; for thou didst call me. (1 Samuel 3: 8)
- Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? (Acts 9: 6)
- Suppose a company of soldiers rebelled. The Government raised an army to put them down. Driven into a stronghold, the rebels were out of provisions and had no escape. One rebel says: I am convinced we all were wrong from the

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beginning. We can't escape. I am not resolved to die. I am going to throw myself on the mercy of the commander-in-chief. The moment that rebel submits he ceases being a rebel. So it is, with a sinner, when they yield the point, and consent in their heart to do and be what ever God requires.

Fifth Direction.

- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all

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unrighteousness. (1 John 1: 9)

- A man does not forsake his sin till he has made all the reparation in his power. If he has stolen property, he does not forsake his sin by resolving not to steal any more. He must make reparation to the extent of his power. He must return or replace what he stole and make the owner whole.

Sixth Direction.

- I call heaven and earth to record this day

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against you, 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; as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

(Joshua 24: 15)

- Call upon the sinner to choose! Whether they will serve God or the world; whether they will follow holiness or sin. Let them understand

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what it is to be chosen. If their choice be from their heart, they will be saved.

- Sometimes the first direction in being saved is submission to God, sometimes it is repentance, sometimes it is faith, sometimes the choice of God and His service. In short, whatever thoughts are directed by the Holy Spirit should be obeyed!
- It is error to suppose conversion must follow an exact prescribed order. Whatever point the

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sinner has taken hold of between God and themselves, when the sinner YIELDS that, they are converted! When they yield one point to God's authority, they are ready to yield all. When the sinner changes their mind, and obeys in one thing, because it is God's will, they will obey in other things. The sinner's obedience to God is what conversion requires.

- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

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That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

(II Timothy 3: 16-17)

- Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. (II Peter 3: 18)
- Be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5: 18) Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore

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resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. (Romans 13: 1-2)

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- When someone, who confessed Jesus as Lord, takes back their consecration to God and withdraws their devotion they have a backsliding heart. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways. (Proverbs 14: 14)
- The backslider in heart may demonstrate the following:

Want Of Prayer.

- The backslider in heart will pray, or praise, or confess, or give thanks with their lips, so all can

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hear them, but in such a way that no one can feel them, lacking earnestness.

Want of Joy.

- Christians enjoy saying and doing things that please those whom they most love because communion with God is a source of rich and continual joy. The backslider in heart has lost their joy.

Want of Love.

- The backslider in heart is like a dutiful, unloving

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wife. She tries to do her duty to her husband, but fails utterly because she does not love him. Her painstaking to please her husband is constrained, not the spontaneous outburst of a loving heart. Her relationship and duties become the burden of her life. She is committed for life, and must perform her duties, but it is a burden.

Ungoverned Temper.

- While the heart is full of love, the temper is

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naturally chaste, sweet, and under control. The backslider in heart suffers to control temper and becomes an irritable annoyance to others.

Uncharitableness.

- Christians credit good professions, of those they love, to right motives, putting the best allowable construction upon their words and deeds. The backslider in heart has a disposition that fails to put the best construction upon every one's conduct.

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Censorious Spirit.

- A spirit of fault-finding, impugning motives of others, and fastening blame is the disposition of a backslider in heart. A spirit of distrust toward Christian character and profession reveals itself.

Lack Of Interest In God's Word.

- When love is gone, scripture becomes uninteresting and repulsive. Nothing more conclusively proves a backslider in heart, than

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losing interest in the Bible.

Disinclined To Pray.

- If you pray with out heart, make devotions short, are easily induced to neglect prayer, your thoughts and emotions wander you have a backsliding heart.

Lack Of Interest In Conversion Of Souls.

- A loving Christian heart is most interested in conversion of souls. A backslider in heart has lost interest in the effort.

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Worldly Speech.

- If you have known the love of God and find your conversation not focused on Christianity you have a backsliding heart. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. (Matthew 12: 34)

Absence Of Fellowship.

- No meeting is more interesting than worship to a Christian. If you have known the love of God and forsake fellowship with the saints you have a backsliding heart.

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Self-Indulgence.

- You have a backsliding heart when you are disposed to gratify your appetite, and the lusts of flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind. (Ephesians 2: 3) Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. (I Corinthians 10: 31)

Absence Of Morals.

- Making bargains by misrepresentation, deception, taking advantage of fellow

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businessmen and conforming to worldly habits indicates a backsliding heart.

Dead Works.

- That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. (Luke 16: 15) A backsliding heart is filled with its own work, not works of faith and love which are acceptable to God.

Distraught Feelings.

- Instead of that sweet peace, rest, and joy found

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in the Holy Ghost, a backsliding heart is in an irritable state of unrest, dissatisfied with itself and everyone else.

Enmity.

- A backsliding heart will chafe in almost every relation of life. It will become vexed, and get into such relations with such persons that it can not pray for earnestly and can not treat with common civility.

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Errant.

- A backsliding heart is full of its own mistakes. It does not walk with God. It has fallen out of Divine Order. It is not led by the Holy Spirit. It walks in spiritual darkness. Mistakes abound in business, new relations, use of time, money and influence.

Poor Stewardship.

- A backsliding heart regards possessions as its own. That includes; time, influence, reputation,

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and wealth. Having forsaken God, and unable to control the events, all is lost!

Disgrace.

- A backsliding heart is full disgrace. The eyes of the world watch all the inconsistencies, worldly-mindedness, follies, bursts of temper, hateful words and deeds.

Bondage.

- A backsliding heart is in bondage to God. It

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serves from fear or hope, just like a slave, and not from love. To avoid conviction and remorse, it will do or omit many things.

Condemnation.

- A backsliding heart had enjoyed the love of God. Having forsaken Him, it is condemned!