

Ambassadors of Love



David Brandt Berg

AMBASSADORS OF LOVE

David Brandt Berg

A Mountain Streams book

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

If you discovered a cure for loneliness, anxiety, fear, and every other personal or social ill, and if you could package that cure in a single neat little pill, wouldn't you prescribe it for everyone, everywhere? If you happened upon the fountain of youth, wouldn't you give its waters freely to others, so they also could live forever? If you found paradise on earth, wouldn't you want to take your loved ones there?

If you have found Jesus, you *have* discovered those things and more! You found it *all*—Heaven in your heart now by being filled with His love and peace, and Heaven forever in the life to come!

There's a lost and lonely world that's crying out for the answers and the love you now have access to because of knowing Jesus personally, and He wants you to share your discovery with others. Jesus could solve their problems if they would only ask Him to, but how will they ever ask Him if they've never even heard of

Him or heard a firsthand account of how real He is from someone who has met Him personally? And how are they going to hear that unless someone tells them?—Someone like you.

“Love wasn’t put in your heart to stay. Love isn’t love till you give it away!” Share the good news of Jesus’ love and salvation with others, and you’ll be amazed to find what wonders His love can do through you.

Ambassadors of Love contains plenty of impetus and practical counsel to get you started. Then Jesus and the Holy Spirit will inspire you and provide direct, personal guidance, day by day and heart by heart.

The Reason for It All

For the Christian, every day is like Christmas! Jesus showers His love down on us every day of the year. But sad to say, it's not that way for so many poor folks who haven't yet found Him. So many people are lost, lonely, downtrodden, weak, and weary. Some are weak in their bodies, others are weak in their minds, and yet others are weak in body, mind, and spirit. There are those who are trampled on: the poor, the persecuted, the hungry, victims of war and crime and exploitation; those nobody wants or cares about, those who have so little in the way of worldly goods, those who lack even the basic necessities.

Then there are others who do have material goods and who appear to "have it together" in the eyes of others, but who are lost and lonely prisoners of their own selfish desires. They are weary and heavy laden with problems, stress, fears, and phobias. There are those who wear a smile, yet ache inside; those who are engulfed in a sea of emptiness; those who suffer from pain, guilt, bitterness,

and condemnation; those who feel remorse over the past or fear the future.—So many lost and desperate folks in the world today!

It reminds me of the words to that old Beatles song, “All the lonely people, where do they all come from?” Well, I’ll tell you where they come from—all the lonely people come from selfish living. All the lonely people, the lost and the forlorn, come from a dog-eat-dog society, from a lot of wrongful living. They’re products of the Devil’s own doctrines of “me first” and “do your own thing.” That’s where all the lonely people come from. All those lonely people are products of a world that has forgotten its Creator. They’re victims, the sad result of what happens when people’s lives aren’t ruled by love.

It’s getting darker and colder all the time, and many people can feel it. They may not understand it, and they don’t always want to admit it, but it’s happening. The sun is setting, the darkness is falling, and the world is looking for hope, for some ray of light. Event after event has left the nations questioning. “Why this and why that? Why all the pain and strife in the world? Why the slaughter of the innocents? Why troubles and sorrows?” These questions are being raised in people’s hearts and minds, and those whose foundations have been built on the sand, or others who had no foundations to begin with, have no answers. Never has the world been hungrier for true love and real answers than they are right now!

In this day of hatred and hardness of hearts, of confusion and deception, of scheming and sly words, of false fronts and cover-ups, there is a great need for His love to shine through. As the darkness falls and the cold winds blow, you must hold up the light. You must hold it up steady and firm for all to see.

If you will shine His light on people, He'll do all the rest. He'll cause it to accomplish His purpose in their lives and hearts and minds.

Not only does the world need to *hear* the truth today, but never before has the world been in such great need of *seeing* the truth. People not only need to *hear* about true love, they need to *see* it. They need to see love put into action!

It's just human nature to sometimes confuse the words you say, but there's no confusion when they see it put into practice. It's like that poem by Edgar A. Guest, which says: "I'd rather see a sermon, than hear one any day. I'd rather one would walk with me than merely tell the way." For most people to accept the truth, they not only need to *hear* the *sermon*, but they need to *see* the *sample* as well.

Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."¹ Why do you think He said that? Wouldn't it have been enough for you to simply *tell* others about the love of Jesus? Couldn't the Lord just as well have said, "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if

¹ John 13:35

you preach My message”? Wouldn’t that have been enough?

Evidently not, because the Lord said that all men would know that you are His if you *have love* one for another. And if you have love one for another, you’re certainly going to show it throughout the day in obvious, tangible ways that others can see. It’s not good enough to just talk about love. Jesus said you have to *have* love, you have to *live* love. The Lord knew that there would be no denying that sample.

Pray and ask the Lord to help you follow His great commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. This is the reason for it all. This is the reason Jesus came to earth in the first place—so we could have life eternal, yes, but also to teach us to love, so we could turn around and give that life to others.

Ambassadors of Love

Through His children, God is trying to show the world what He is like. Jesus said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”¹ Jesus came to love the world and He calls us to do likewise in every facet of life, in every way—to give God’s love to others. The only way that others will ever find His joy and peace and love and happiness and Heaven is through us. No matter where we are from, if we have Jesus, we are now His ambassadors and represent the King of kings, the One who runs the universe.

What was Jesus’ last message to His disciples at the Last Supper, just before He was arrested, taken to jail, beaten, and killed? “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”² He talked about love, that love was the most important thing.

And those first Christians turned the world upside down with the love of God. The way they

¹ John 20:21

² John 13:35

lived convinced others that their faith was real. Even their Roman persecutors marveled. “Look at how these Christians love one another!” “Who is this Christ?” they asked. “And how does He make you so happy? Even though you have nothing, you’ve got everything! How can I find this kind of happiness too?” And within two hundred years, one out of five people in the Western world were professing Christians.

Today, nearly two thousand years later, the heart of man is still the same. So many people are searching for love, but seldom, if ever, finding it. People everywhere are looking around for some little ray of hope, some salvation, some bright spot somewhere, a little love, a little mercy, someplace where they can find some relief. We who have found God and His love have what others have been searching for all their lives and need desperately, and if we can show them that love exists, then they can believe that God exists, because God is love.

Even the little things you do can mean a lot. The light of your smile, the kindness of your face, the influence of your life can shed light on many and have an amazing effect on some of the people you think might be the least likely to be impressed. When they feel your love and you tell them it’s God’s love, they think, *Maybe Somebody up there does love me!* It can change their whole outlook on life and give them a new start.

May we always be known by our love!

The Story of Tommy

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”¹ Faith can even come from hearing *your* word, your testimony, your witness, your letter containing the Words of God to a friend, relative, or interested party.

I’m reminded of a true story I heard when I was young, about a crippled boy named Tommy who lived in poverty with his aunt in a small third-story apartment of a run-down tenement on a busy city street. Tommy was so severely handicapped that he could do little else besides lie helplessly in bed.

One day Tommy asked a newsboy friend of his to bring him the book about “the Man who went about everywhere doing good.” The boy searched and searched for this unnamed book, until one book dealer finally realized that Tommy must have been talking about the Bible and the story of Jesus. The newsboy scraped together what little money he had, and the kindly bookseller gave him a copy of the New Testament, which he took back to Tom.

¹ Romans 10:17

The two boys began to read the Gospels together, and after a time Tommy understood the message of salvation. He received Jesus as his Savior and decided that he, too, wanted to do good like the wonderful Man in the book. But Tommy was crippled and could not even leave his little one-room apartment. So he prayed and asked Jesus to help him, and the Lord gave him an idea.

Tommy began to painstakingly write out by hand helpful verses from his New Testament onto little pieces of paper, which he would then drop from his window to flutter down to the busy street below. Passers-by would see the notes drifting down, pick them up and read them out of curiosity, and there find the words of the Man who went about everywhere doing good—Jesus Christ. Many were helped, encouraged, and comforted, and some were even saved through the simple ministry of this young boy and his New Testament.

One day a wealthy businessman accepted Jesus through reading the verse in one of Tommy's little notes. He later returned to the spot where he had found the scrap of paper that had led him to the Lord, hoping to find some clue as to how it got there. Suddenly he noticed another little bit of paper floating down to the sidewalk. He watched as a poor, tired old woman stooped painfully to pick it up, and noticed her countenance brighten as she read it. There seemed to be new strength in her step as she journeyed on.

The businessman kept his eyes glued upward, determined to find the source. He had to wait a long time, for it took poor Tommy many painful minutes to scrawl even one verse on one of those pieces of paper. Then the businessman's eyes were drawn to a certain window where he saw a scrawny arm reach out to drop another piece of paper like the one that had brought a whole new life to him. He carefully noted the location of the window, dashed up the stairs of the tenement, and finally found the humble abode of tiny Tom, the sidewalk missionary.

The businessman and Tom soon became close friends, and the businessman brought Tom all the help and medical attention that he could. Then one day he asked Tom if he would like to come and live with him in his palatial mansion outside the city.

Much to his new friend's surprise, Tom answered, "I'll have to ask my Friend about that"—meaning Jesus.

The next day the businessman returned, eagerly seeking Tom's reply. Instead, Tom asked him some rather surprising questions.

"Where did you say your home is?"

"Oh," said the businessman, "it's in the country, on a large and beautiful estate. You'll have a room of your own, servants to care for you, delicious meals, a good bed, every comfort and attention, anything your heart desires, and my wife and I will love you dearly and care for you as our own son."

Hesitantly, Tommy queried again. “Are there any people that would pass under my window?”

Surprised and somewhat baffled, the businessman replied, “Why, no, only an occasional servant, and perhaps the gardener. You don’t understand, Tommy, this is a gorgeous country estate, far from the tumult of the city. You’ll have quiet there and be able to rest and read and do whatever else you want, away from all this filth and pollution and noise and the busy throngs.”

After a long and thoughtful silence, Tom’s face looked very sad, for he hated to hurt his newfound friend. Finally he said quietly but firmly, with tears in his eyes, “I’m sorry, but you see, I could never live anywhere where people don’t pass under my window.”

When I first heard this story, it was a turning point in my life. When my mother recounted it to me, I determined then and there, by the grace of God, that I would never live anywhere that I couldn’t reach others with the message of God’s love in Jesus. Having met the Man who went about everywhere doing good, how could I ever live selfishly again? As Jesus said, “Freely you have received, freely give.”¹

Are you living where people can pass under the window of your life? Are you ministering to those who do? There are people passing under our windows all the time. Are they going to receive what they need?

¹ Matthew 10:8

Here is the story of someone so weak, so helpless, so isolated, that you might have thought he could never have had any ministry at all. He would seem to have had every excuse for not helping others, but rather expecting to be helped himself—but love found a way!

People pass under the window of your life every day. Has your love found a way to help them? Has Jesus shown you how you can help them? He will if you want to, no matter what the conditions or your limitations.

God has a window too, and He has promised that if you obey Him and open the window of your life to others, He “will open for you the windows of Heaven, and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”¹

Are you caring for others by giving them the sunshine of God’s love through the window of your life? Please don’t fail them. Share God’s love and His Word with others as you “work the works of Him who sent [you] while it is day,” before the night comes, when no man can work,² “redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”³

If you give of yourself more and share your faith more, God will do more for you than you ever dreamed! But if you selfishly withhold from others, what you have will come to naught. “There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one

¹ Malachi 3:10

³ Ephesians 5:16

² John 9:4

who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.”¹ You can’t outgive God!

David Livingstone (1813–1873), the famous Scottish missionary, physician, and explorer who left the comfort of his own country in order to reach the people of Africa with God’s love and died there in the Lord’s service, once said, “I never made a sacrifice!” He had discovered that God would more than repay every sacrifice. Although he gave his life, he has reaped eternal life and dividends of immortal souls—thousands saved forever!

But it *costs* something to serve God. King David once declared that he would not give unto the Lord that which cost him nothing.² You have to *give* something—you have to open the window of your life. You have to give to get, pour out to receive, sow to reap, invest to profit, die to yourself to live! “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”³

¹ Proverbs 11:24–25

³ John 12:24

² 2 Samuel 24:24

Let Others See Jesus in You

Jesus told His first followers, “He who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do.”¹ And they did! Those He was speaking to at the time carried the Gospel much further than Jesus had been able to during His brief public ministry, and those they reached carried it even further.

But some Christians today look at all the miracles Jesus performed and think, *What are You talking about, Lord? We couldn't possibly do greater things than You did during Your earthly ministry! You raised the dead, healed the sick, fed the multitudes. How could You say that we could do greater things?*

For a start, we could feed a bigger multitude than Jesus ever fed. Jesus multiplied five loaves of bread and two small fish to feed 5,000 people for one day,² but one dedicated Christian could feed many more than that over a lifetime, and not with mere food for the body but with the Bread of Life—Jesus.³

¹ John 14:12

² John 6:5–13

³ John 6:48–50

Jesus raised the dead. What can we do? We can raise people to new spiritual life to live forever! The people the Lord raised from the dead eventually died again physically, but when we lead people to believe in Jesus and receive His gift of salvation, eternal life, we're helping them to live forever. Jesus also reached people with the message of salvation, of course, but He only had a little over three years for His public ministry. The average Christian has many more years than that.

Jesus healed the sick, and He has commissioned and empowered us to do the same: "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."¹ We can pray for people's physical healing, and if we have faith and it's His will, He will heal them. And by giving people the Gospel we can also help heal them of their spiritual diseases, which are often a whole lot worse than physical diseases.

Why shouldn't we do "greater things"? The world population is greater, the need is greater, the opportunities are greater, and the means are far greater with the printed word, radio, television, air travel, the postal system, the Internet, and much, much more. We've got the greatest opportunities in history and all the means at our disposal. If we will stay close to Jesus, He will help us surmount whatever obstacles we may encounter, win victories, and accomplish His purposes.

¹ Matthew 10:8

Of course, Jesus is the One who does all those things through us. Jesus never personally preached the Gospel to so many people as it's possible for us to preach it to now, and He never won as many souls as are being won today. Of course, *He* is winning them all, but while He was here physically, He never saved as many or healed as many.

We are a privileged generation. Privileged to perhaps go through the worst time in all world history, the coming Great Tribulation,¹ perhaps even privileged to suffer for the Lord and the Gospel,² but also privileged to watch the Endtime events develop and possibly even see Jesus' return. Think of that! We could be the only generation in all history that will witness that event—except, of course, for the great cloud of witnesses in Heaven.³

As Jesus said, “This generation”—the generation that sees the events of the Endtime being fulfilled—“will by no means pass away till all these things take place.⁴ We have seen all the signs that Jesus said would precede His coming happen in this generation, including the Gospel being preached throughout the world.⁵ The Gospel now has been preached in all nations to all peoples everywhere! Countries that were closed to the Gospel when I was young are now open to the Gospel. “Greater things than these shall you do!”

¹ Matthew 24:21

⁴ Matthew 24:34

² Matthew 5:11–12

⁵ Matthew 24:14

³ Hebrews 12:1

The Gospel has been preached in all nations, but there are still billions of individuals who have never heard the true Gospel. Even if they have heard of Christianity and the name of Jesus, most people haven't heard how they can be saved, or even that they *can* be saved. They don't know who Jesus really was—just that He was “a great teacher, prophet, guru, or rabbi who the Christians believe in, not much different than the key figures in other religions.”

But Jesus is much more than that, of course. Jesus is the way to salvation—the *only* way. “By grace you have been saved through *faith*, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”¹ “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”²

The Lord is requiring this generation, and most of the world's population since the beginning of time, to believe and receive salvation by faith in His Word, without visible, tangible proof. “Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.”³ When we choose to open our hearts to the Word of God, faith springs forth and we believe.

In the Millennium—the coming thousand-year reign of Christ on earth after His return—faith will come by not only hearing the Word of God, but *seeing*. People will see the Kingdom of God on earth.

¹ Ephesians 2:8

³ Romans 10:17

² Acts 4:12

Nobody will have to be convinced then that there's a God and that Jesus Christ His Son is the King of kings, because they will see the evidence of it on every hand. We won't have to convince anyone then that God and Jesus are real, or persuade people to believe. All we'll need to do is invite them to receive God's love in Jesus and be saved.

But Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."¹ Today, our faith is built on the Word alone—not on any supernatural, miraculous manifestations of the spirit world—and for that Jesus said that we are *more* blessed. That is a principle of the spiritual Kingdom of God: Jesus is going to bless those who have believed His Word by faith, including His death on the cross. We weren't there at the cross. We didn't see it happen. We don't know anything about it except what we read about it in the Bible or what somebody told us.

The only way people can be saved today is by God's Word—by somebody telling them about the love of Jesus, and showing them the love of Jesus, too, in their face and in their deeds. The only proof people can see today is the proof they see in those who spread the Gospel, the witnesses! The only way they can find faith is by seeing the Word in you and hearing the Word through you.

As a witness, you become the Word of God!
Just as Jesus was the Word of God when He was on

¹ John 20:29

earth,¹ you are the Word of God whenever you carry the Word of God and the message of salvation. If you have the Spirit of Christ, if you have Jesus in your heart, if you manifest the love of Jesus, then you are going to be like Him.

There are billions who have never heard what it takes to be saved or had a chance to understand what Jesus did on the cross, because they have never heard the true Gospel, much less seen the Gospel in you. The only proof of the Gospel that people today are going to get is the proof they see in you. The only Jesus they're going to see is the Jesus they see in you.

As the famous American evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899) said, “The only Bible the world reads is the one bound in shoe leather!” He must have gotten that lesson from selling shoes. Before he found Jesus, he had been a shoe salesman. But as soon as he got saved at age 18, he began preaching the Gospel one on one and became a great personal witness. That was his forte long before he started preaching to crowds. He was just a young shoe clerk who never even finished school, but soon he was winning so many people to Jesus that church leaders started coming to him to find out how he did it. He told them, “Watch me while I’m selling shoes. Watch how I witness.” He was a great proponent of personal witnessing because that’s how he had gotten saved, through one-on-one witnessing.

¹John 1:14

Edward D. Kimball led Moody to the Lord in the back of the shoe shop where Moody worked. Moody would have never become a great soul winner and preacher of the Gospel if it hadn't been for this otherwise unheard-of Sunday school teacher, but Moody heard the Word of God and saw Jesus in Kimball!

Lots of people say, "I see a light on your face! I see something in you that I've never seen before!" They see Him in our faces and in our actions. They really feel the difference! That's the one little confirmation God gives.

Someone has said, "You can't prove that God exists. You can't put God in a test tube and prove to me that God is real." Well, whoever said that was wrong! If you have received Jesus, God has put Himself in you and you are the living, visible proof that there is a God. His creation is also proof, but you go even beyond that. Your physical body alone is the proof that there's a God, but your love, the light in your eyes and on your faces, and the wonderful spirit that people feel from you proves not only that there's a God, but also that He *loves* them. *You're* the proof!

You're the living proof of salvation. You're the test tube that proves not only that there's a God—which the whole world ought to be able to recognize just by observing His creation—but also that Jesus saves. But not everybody in the world has had that

opportunity to hear and see the Gospel. They may have heard of Jesus, but they don't really understand who He was or what He did or what He has to offer.

If they happen to live into the Millennium, they'll get a chance then, but they won't be as blessed as you or the ones you're reaching with the Gospel now. You're giving people the most marvelous opportunity in the world—the opportunity to be among the most blessed people who have ever lived or will yet live, who believed without seeing!

So praise the Lord! “Greater works than these shall you do,” not only now and in the years to come, but in the thousand years of millennium beyond that! Just think, we're going to be governors of the world!¹

I'm trying to bring this down to earth and show you the reality of it all. We will help Jesus re-educate the whole world—what's left of it—because the ones who survive the Battle of Armageddon will be mostly those who never heard how to get saved, didn't understand Jesus, and therefore never had an opportunity to make a choice.

There will be all kinds of proof then, no problem, and people are going to believe because they have *seen*. But right now you've got the tough job of trying to get people to believe, even though they *haven't* seen. They may not realize it, but they're seeing the living proof right now when they look into your eyes and hear your words. You have

¹ Revelation 20:6

become Jesus Christ to them—the Word of God! “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”¹

In you, people are seeing the only Jesus they will ever see until they get to Heaven. You are not only Jesus to them, but you are the manifestation of the Word of God to them. You are the walking, talking Bible—the living Word of God today—because you have Jesus and you manifest Him and His Word.

The only thing that people are going to see to help prove to them that there *is* a God, that Jesus is who He says He is, and that there is real love to be found is what they see in you. And the only Word of God they’re going to pay any attention to is the Word they hear from you—the Bible bound in shoe leather—because most unbelievers aren’t going to read the Bible or other Christian literature until they see the sample first.

As I’ve often said, people have to fall in love with the Lord’s Spirit in you before they can fall in love with Him, because you represent the Lord to them. You’re the walking Word of God! You’re the living proof of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Jesus lives in you, right? So if people see any light, if they see any love, if they hear any truth, if they find any peace, if they find the way, they find it through seeing Jesus in you and hearing His Words through you. So that’s the biggest job we all have in these last days—to show Jesus to the world! Be the Word of God to the nations! Be the love of Christ

¹ Colossians 1:27

to the world! The greatest thing you can do is to let others see Jesus in you!

While passing thro' this world of sin,
And others your life shall view,
Be clean and pure without, within,
Let others see Jesus in you.

Your life's a book before their eyes,
They're reading it thro' and thro',
Say, does it point them to the skies,
Do others see Jesus in you?

What joy 'twill be at set of sun,
In mansions beyond the blue,
To find some souls that you have won.
Let others see Jesus in you.

Then live for Christ both day and night,
Be faithful, be brave, and true,
And lead the lost to life and light.
Let others see Jesus in you.¹

When Jesus was here in human form, He was only one Jesus. But now there are millions of us all over the world who ought to be showing Jesus to the rest of the world! The world should be hearing Jesus through us. "Greater works than these shall

¹ B.B. McKinney (1886–1952)

ye do!” What greater work can you do than that, than to show Jesus to others and let them hear Jesus through you and help them find Jesus through you? That’s the greatest work anybody can do!

Miracles, supernatural happenings, gifts of the Spirit,¹ are all for one purpose—they are tools of the Holy Spirit to give the Gospel to the world, through you. So whatever gifts or talents the Lord has blessed you with, use them to win souls.

Just think of the eternal rewards you will reap for investing your time and energy in winning others to the Kingdom of God. “There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the Gospel’s, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time, and in the age to come, eternal life.”²

It’s a very great privilege to show Jesus to the world, but it’s also a big responsibility! So “be faithful, be brave, and be true. Lead the lost to life and light. Let others see Jesus in you!”

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:4–11

² Mark 10:29–30

Fruit that Remains

Personal witnessing vs. mass evangelism

I have very little faith in mass evangelism. The proportion of changed lives to the numbers of the crowds is too small. In a weeklong series of public meetings, for example, maybe a thousand people will raise their hands when the speaker asks, “Who wants to receive Jesus?” or, “Who wants to go to Heaven?” Well, I’m sure those who believe and sincerely open their hearts to Jesus do get saved, because His promises regarding salvation never fail—promises like “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,”¹ and, “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.”²

But of those one thousand converts, how many do you suppose will have a genuine and lasting change and go on to become the kind of Christian they could and should become? How many do you

¹ Acts 16:31

² John 1:12

suppose will continue to “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” that they may be filled?¹ How many will consistently read and absorb Jesus’ words, that they may grow spiritually and become His “disciples indeed”—real followers and *doers* of His teachings?² How many will become mature, fruit-bearing Christians, witnessing to and winning others, bearing more Christians like themselves?³ Probably not more than a few, at best!

Jesus told His original disciples: “I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,”⁴ and He says the same to us today. He intends for us to not only win souls, but to help them grow into strong Christians, true disciples who will witness and win others. You rarely get that kind of fruit from mass evangelism.

It depends on what you want, and that should be determined by what is going to be most effective and best for the Kingdom of God, best for souls. Mass evangelism is faster and gets big numbers and more temporary popularity, but how much lasting fruit does it bear?

Some people get their eyes off the goal and on the method. They get their eyes off the *end* and on the *means*. It’s a common temptation for preachers and evangelists to go after bigger and bigger crowds, and often, I’m sorry to say, I suspect ulterior motives because bigger crowds and more publicity mean

¹ Matthew 5:6

² John 8:31–32

³ John 15:8

⁴ John 15:16

bigger offerings, more money. “Come out and support *me* to preach the Gospel for you! Look at my huge meetings! Look at all the tens of thousands of souls I’m getting saved! Support me and I’ll win the world for you!” But just because a ministry has wide exposure or is popular or brings in a lot of money doesn’t necessarily mean that it is bearing lasting fruit.

Where is the lasting fruit of the mass evangelists you see on TV or hear about speaking to tens of thousands at huge rallies? Show me the changed lives. Show me the converts from those ministries who are now witnessing and winning souls themselves. Show me the results! That’s the acid test as to whether or not a ministry is actually fruitful—not just crowds in attendance or show-of-hand salvations, or mass media statistics. If it doesn’t get lasting results, it’s unprofitable.

It doesn’t matter how much seed a farmer sows, if he doesn’t get a crop, he’s wasting his time. It’s got to bear fruit or he’ll go out of business. He can brag all he wants to about how many fields he’s plowed, how much seed he’s sown, and how huge his farm is, but if he doesn’t *grow* anything, if it doesn’t bear fruit, then it’s unprofitable.

“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”¹ You have to sow much seed in order to bear

¹ 2 Corinthians 9:6

much fruit, but if you're scattering the seed on stony or shallow ground or amongst the thorns and thistles instead of on fertile ground, or if you only sow the seed and never go back to water or tend to it, then it's not going to bear much fruit no matter how much seed you sow.

I don't believe in mass evangelism! I was in it for much of my life and my parents before me, and I'm absolutely convinced that it's ineffective and inefficient compared to individual witnessing. We used to say about our big evangelistic meetings with their lavish advertising, enormous expense, and untold effort, "If even *one* soul was saved, it was worth it all!" Well, one soul *is* worth all that, but I understand now that we could have won a lot more souls had we spent all that time and energy and money differently!

As a young preacher with a real love for the lost and a sincere desire to try to win the poor lost sheep that organized religion had failed to reach, I also tried everything else I could think of to try to carry the Gospel to them. I preached on the streets and in the parks. I sang at the top of my voice. I showed pictures and movies anywhere I possibly could, trying to reach the people outside of the churches with the message of God's love. But it was still the meeting method and the mass evangelism approach, which only had moderate success.

Then one day I found out the exciting truth that I could win more souls witnessing individually to

people wherever you could find them, without a church or a pulpit or a meeting of any kind—anywhere, everywhere, any time, and all the time, to everybody! At those huge meetings we were preaching mostly to churchgoers who were either already saved or had heard the Gospel many times. But witnessing one on one, I could reach people who needed to hear the Gospel for the first time, those who were outside the religious system, and that's as it should be. Jesus said, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."¹

Like Jesus and His disciples and many others, I found out from personal experience that when it comes to bearing lasting fruit, the most effective and efficient method is one-on-one soul winning. I also learned that the secret to multiplying my fruitfulness was intensive individual training of those won, so they all became soul winners.

When you witness one on one right where the people are—in their homes or shops or offices, or discreetly in parks or on the street—you are able to pray and discern who is genuinely hungry for answers and the truth, and you can concentrate on those who are most likely to be receptive to the Gospel and worthy of your time. The Holy Spirit will lead you to those who most need your help and who will respond in loving appreciation, just as it will also lead them to you.²

¹ Matthew 9:13

² Luke 1:53; James 4:6

Because you have made direct, personal contact, you also have a good chance of following up on those who get saved or show interest, to water the seeds you planted so that they can grow and become fruitful. You can't do that nearly so well with those reached through mass evangelism, even if you manage to get your new converts to fill out contact cards with their names and addresses and phone numbers. It's still too impersonal.

Jesus started with just a handful of followers who He talked with and won individually, and most of His so-called sermons were taught to individuals or small groups of true disciples or true seekers, seldom to crowds. When He taught the Sermon on the Mount, for example, it says, "And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His *disciples* came to Him."¹

The large crowds He drew were not planned. The people just showed up, and they were mostly there for the miracles—healing or the loaves and fishes, something selfish for themselves. Nevertheless, Jesus was "moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."² He fed the multitudes and healed all who came to Him.³ But how many of those people do you ever hear of again? What did they do with what they were given? Most of them never did anything for Jesus or His disciples, and

¹ Matthew 5:1

³ Matthew 8:16–17; 14:13–21;

² Matthew 9:36

15:30–38; Luke 6:17–19

left as soon as the going got tough or the doctrine heavy.¹ The crowds just made things difficult for Jesus, and He often avoided them when He could.²

True sacrificial disciples are few and far between and hard to find! They don't come to the front by the thousands in huge stadiums. You have to search them out individually, personally, with tender loving care and personal attention. Jesus said that the good shepherd "calls his own sheep by name"—personally, individually—"and leads them out."³

I daresay that most of those who get saved at mass meetings are only looking for a "fire escape." They couldn't care less if the rest of the world goes to Hell, as long as they themselves are saved. As slowly as they drift to the front, they drift back into the mass again and disappear from God's service.

So for God's sake and His work's sake and souls' sake and your own sake, don't get duped into this mass evangelism, big crowd, big rally, big place delusion. You're only kidding yourself if you think you will accomplish anything that way!

Not only is mass evangelism ineffective and inefficient, it can be downright dangerous! Jesus instructed His disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces."⁴ In any large crowd you're bound to

¹ John 6:51–66

³ John 10:3

² Matthew 12:15–19;

⁴ Matthew 7:6

Mark 7:36; Luke 5:15–16

get some “dogs” and “swine.” That’s the danger of mass evangelism. Preaching to so many at once, just by the law of averages, some are not going to like your message or agree with your doctrine, and could be jealous or consider you competition. Sooner or later, you’re bound to make some enemies who will try to discredit you and your ministry, just like Jesus did and His apostles did after Him.

Jesus didn’t preach in the Temple very much until the last week of His life, and when He did, it nearly always caused Him trouble.¹ He didn’t come marching into Jerusalem with great fanfare and Hosannas until His time had come. Up till then, when He wasn’t teaching His disciples, He mostly ministered one on one and told those He helped, “Go your way and don’t tell anybody!”² He was trying to prolong His ministry and teach His disciples as long as He could. He knew His jealous enemies were going to get Him in the end, and He understood how important it was for Him to teach His disciples to win souls and establish disciples—fruit that would remain. In terms of lasting results, Jesus accomplished more by training a few disciples to carry on the work after He was gone than by the miracles for the multitudes.

How long were Peter and the other disciples able to continue those huge public meetings where they

¹ Matthew 21:12–15, 23, 45–46; Luke 4:28–30;
John 8:59; 10:23–24, 31–39

² Matthew 8:4; 16:20; 17:9; Mark 3:12

won thousands of souls—three thousand on the Day of Pentecost and five thousand a few days later, after the lame man was healed on the Temple steps? They reaped a tremendous harvest on the Day of Pentecost. It was the day of the first fruits, the harvest feast, and they got their harvest then and in the days that followed.¹ But after that you don't hear anything more about people joining them by the thousands. That's because persecution began and they were driven underground. Then all they could do was glean.

Those public explosions—first with Jesus during the week leading up to His crucifixion, and then with the apostles at Pentecost—just about finished the Early Church as far as mass evangelism was concerned, at least in Jerusalem.

So the question is: Are you going to be satisfied with little but lasting fruit that in the long run will do far more good than all the mass evangelism put together, or do you want quick results in terms of hands raised but little or no lasting fruit in the end?

As far as I'm concerned, the only sound, permanent, effective, efficient, and fruitful evangelism is personal evangelism. But if you're still not convinced, there's one sure way to find out—try it! “The proof of the pudding is in the tasting.” “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”²

¹ Acts chapters 2 and 3

² Psalm 34:8

You will soon find that personal witnessing is not only the best way to win souls, but it will inspire you like nothing else as you see the Lord work in others' lives. It will not only be worth it all when you see Jesus, but it's worth it all right now to see the wonderful, thrilling, satisfying results of your witness.

Are you with me? Let's witness and minister where it's going to bear lasting results—all-out believers who will live their Christianity by helping to spread the Gospel and giving of themselves in sacrificial service to others. Let's go out into the highways and byways where the lost are to be found and give them His love and the good news of salvation in Jesus! Jesus walked miles out of His way in the heat of the day to love and win one wayward woman at a well! Though ninety-and-nine were in the fold, the good shepherd was not content until the last lost one was found and saved and rescued. How can we do any less?

Wonder Working Witnessing

A practical lesson on sharing your faith with others

There once was a young man who got saved. He was a logger, and he worked in a remote area. The men he worked with were notoriously tough, strong, hard men, so the man who led him to Christ warned him, “When you go back to the logging camp, it’s going to be very difficult for you when they find out you’re a Christian, because most of those men don’t like Christians! You’ll no longer be the same man you were before, cursing God, speaking foul language, and doing evil things. You’re going to be so different they’re going to mock you and ridicule you, and try to get you to give up your faith!”

A few months later, the young man returned to town, and the two met again on the street.

“How did it go?” the man asked.

“Fine, just fine,” the young man answered.

“Well, I told you it was going to be hard, didn’t I?”

“No, it wasn’t hard.”

“You mean they didn’t ridicule you or make life hard for you?”

“No,” said the young man. “They never even found out!”

That’s not being much of a Christian! If you have the love of Jesus you *cannot* hide it. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid, and if someone has a lighted candle, they don’t put it under the table, but on the table so it will give light to others.¹ If you have found Jesus, the Light of the World,² you don’t hide it! You tell others about Him! If you have His love in your heart, you’ll share it. This is what faith is all about—standing up and witnessing for Jesus and the truth!

The Bible says, “He who wins souls is wise.”³ It takes a lot of wisdom and a lot of love to win souls. Here are a few valuable witnessing pointers to remember, starting with the four steps of witnessing.

Step 1: Ask questions! How are you going to find out who the people you witness to are, or anything about them at all, unless you ask questions? You’re a soul doctor and it’s your business to gently probe so that you find out what people’s problems are so you can help them.

Step 2: Listen to the answers! Even if it takes an hour or all night, it’s vitally important to show others that you love them and are concerned and

¹ Matthew 5:14–15

³ Proverbs 11:30

² John 8:12

interested, and you can do this by taking time to listen. All some people need is for somebody to listen, somebody to pour their hearts out to. So that's half the job of being a witness—being a good listener!

Step 3: Give God's answers! Let them do most of the talking until finally something is said that turns the knob that opens the door for you to witness and give them God's answers to their problems—and the main one, of course, is accepting the Lord.

Step 4: Get a decision! No matter how good or poor your witness was, or how receptive you think they've been or haven't been, you should always ask them to receive Jesus as their Savior. Sometimes you've got to take a chance, because you may never see them again and they may never get another chance. Pop the question: "Do you want to receive Jesus right now?" You may get a "yes," or "no," or a "maybe later," but get a decision!

One of the simplest ways to pop the question is to say, "I'm happy because I have Jesus in my heart! Do you have Jesus in *your* heart? If you did, you'd be happy too!" And if the person hasn't received Jesus, then say, "Well, you can have Him right now if you want Him. Just ask Him to come in. He promises to do so if you ask Him."

Show them a couple of Bible verses on salvation, have them pray with you, and it's done!

Then they and you have to believe that it happened, whether they feel any different or you see

any signs of it or not. I've seen all kinds of different reactions, from an absolute explosion in the spirit, to a cool intellectual or mental acceptance where there was no outward indication that anything had happened, and I just had to trust that they meant their prayer.

How do you know whether they got saved or not? By how loud they shout hallelujah or how high they jump? How do you know? How did Jesus say you would know? "By their fruits you will know them."¹ What effect does it have in their lives? If they sincerely prayed to receive Jesus, sooner or later they're going to *change*.

In your witnessing, try to find points of agreement. Don't dwell on your differences or things that you know they're going to disagree with. You've got to win people over to yourself first, really, before you can win their hearts or convince them to believe what you're telling them about Jesus and the Bible and get saved.

Try to stay away from controversial issues, and don't get into arguing. Jesus never argued. Even when His enemies forced Him to give an answer, He simply told them the truth. Some argumentative types argue because they are skeptical, unbelieving, and just want to cause you trouble and waste your time. But some sincere seekers will seem to argue with you because they really want the answers—they want to be convinced.

¹ Matthew 7:20

And always remember, your own personal testimony is just about the most effective argument you have. Sometimes people won't listen to anything else. Everybody loves a story, and life stories are a much more effective witness than getting into theological arguments and preaching sermons on doctrine. That's one thing they cannot deny.

American cowboys in the Wild West had a saying: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink!" Well, that's true of people too. You can lead them to the truth, in love, but you can't make them drink it! If they don't want it, you can't drink it for them. To make the decision to receive the truth is *their* job, not yours. You can win their heart, but only the Spirit of God can win their soul.

Our job is to witness and to show them the Word. Show them Revelation 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." When they hear that He's promised to come in if they ask Him to, God by His Spirit can give them faith to believe it and receive Him. The Word is the foundation of faith.¹ You just have to give them the Word!

That's why I am so sold on the Word and so convinced that the Word is powerful enough to do the job! The wonder-working Word will do the work. His Word will not return to Him void, but it shall accomplish His purpose.² Once you've given others the

¹ Romans 10:17

² Isaiah 55:11

Word, your job is done. They can then choose to go to Heaven or not. Don't try to cram the Gospel down people's throats. If they don't want Jesus, that's their decision.

You're offering them a marvelous gift, the greatest in the world—free salvation, eternal life! If you were offering them a million dollars, you wouldn't be begging them to take it. You'd say, "Here, do you want a million dollars? You can have it if you want it. Just reach out and take it. You don't want it? Then I'll give it to someone else!"

Just give them the answers in the Scriptures, and if they don't accept the Word, they won't accept anything. Jesus said that if they won't accept Moses and the prophets—the Word—then they still wouldn't believe you even if you raised somebody from the dead!¹ In other words, they don't *want* to believe it.

Once you know they've heard the truth, you don't have to keep trying to convince them. That's the mistake many Christians make: They think they've got to convince the person. But the Holy Spirit is the only One who can convince anybody, the only One who can persuade anybody or win anybody. If people won't accept the Word and the Holy Spirit tugging at their hearts with the truth, they're not going to listen to you no matter what you say.

So don't try to force salvation on people. I don't mean you shouldn't be persistent, that you shouldn't keep praying and doing what you can, but

¹ Luke 16:31

have a little common sense. Forget about trying to convince people who don't want to be convinced.

And when you give the Word to someone, remember that it's better to use a *few* good salvation verses that you know very well than a whole bunch of verses that you forget or can't find in the Bible. In fact, it's often better to harp on one verse—just one verse! I once knew a man who had been in the hospital when a little old lady came by and quoted Ephesians 2:8–9 over and over to him: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” He said those few words burned themselves into his mind until he couldn't get rid of them, and he finally woke up to the fact that he didn't have to *work* his way to Heaven. As a result, he was saved and began preaching the Gospel!

The Word of God *always* has an effect. It is “alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.”¹ No one can hear the Word of God without being affected in some way. And the most effective way to get it across is not to quote it to people, not to read it to them, but to let *them* read it themselves. You remember about 80% of what you see, but only about 40% of what you hear—which means reading it is twice as effective. Besides that, having them read it takes you out of the way as a target for their objection. If they're going to argue, then they're

¹ Hebrews 4:12

going to have to argue with *God* because they're reading it straight from His Word, the Bible.

But no matter how effective a witness you are, the fruits are in the Lord's hands and the response is up to the individual. You have no control over that. You can't force people to have a good response. You can't force results! One sows and another waters, the Bible tells us, but it's God who gives the increase.¹

If, after all your witnessing, they still claim that they don't believe in God or the Bible, if they have any sense of fairness at all, you can suggest to them, "Why don't you say, 'God, if there *is* a God out there somewhere, show me. Reveal Yourself!'" Even if they don't believe the Bible or anything, if they sincerely want to know, God's Word promises that if they sincerely seek Him they will find Him! "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."²

That's one of the best ways in the world to witness. It's that old formula: Try it—you'll like it! They've either got to try it or they're not really giving it a fair chance! "All right, now what have you got to lose? Just pray, 'God, if You are real and if Jesus is Your Son, the Messiah, show me!'" Many times I've known God to do something supernatural to convince people.

So you still have to leave most of the results up to the Lord. You can't force people to receive God's

¹ 1 Corinthians 3:6

² Matthew 5:6

love in Jesus. You can only try to prepare the ground, soften it with your tears and your prayers, and sow the seed, the Word. It's up to the ground to receive the seed, and it's up to God to make it take root and grow and produce fruit.

Jesus said, "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."¹ Jesus came to preach the Gospel to the poor, to heal the sick, to mend the broken-hearted, and to set the prisoners free!²

(Prayer:) Help us, Lord, to try to find Your lost sheep, the hungry ones, those who are looking for help. Help us to find the ones who will receive and respond, who are hungry and needy, and whom we can help—not the full ones that You send empty away, not the self-righteous ones who have no need of a physician, but the hungry, empty sinners who know they need help and are thankful for it!

Help us to do our best and to not fail them or You in any way, so we can one day hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."³ Thank You for the joy You give us every day, Lord. We've already entered into it in many ways and have been rewarded. Even witnessing in itself is a form of reward because it encourages

¹ Matthew 9:12–13

³ Matthew 25:21

² Luke 4:18

and inspires our own hearts as we see You work.
We count it a privilege that You've called us to be
ambassadors for You! It's an honor—a high honor—
and we thank You for it!

Happy witnessing!

It Works!

The conversation with our attractive young travel agent turned into a personal witness after she told us how sick she was, and how she was taking a certain medicine to try to cure what was ailing her.

I told her that I didn't have much confidence in medicine, but rather had more faith to stay well by keeping God's rules of good health: proper diet, rest, exercise, and right living. I then related that to keeping God's laws in general, which He gave for our general happiness and well-being.

Then I said, "After all, if He created us, He knows what is best for us. He's our Father, and like any good father He wants His children to be healthy and happy. That's why He has set down the rules to keep us from damaging our bodies.

"Of course, one of the greatest of healing factors is faith," I added. "Knowing that God loves you and is going to take care of you eliminates two of the

greatest causes of ill health—fear and tension. Faith brings peace of mind. Then you can rest in the Lord, knowing He’s going to take care of everything.”

Fear, tension, and hatred all cause psychosomatic illnesses, and often also lead to physiological diseases like heart trouble, arthritis, and stomach ulcers. Many severe cases of arthritis are not the result of any other physical problem, but are rather caused by bitterness or hatred or a negative attitude toward life, all of which result in a buildup of toxins in the body that in turn cause the swelling, stiffness, and pain in the joints.

Eliminating fear through faith gives peace of mind, and that, in turn, gives rest to your stomach, heart, and other vital organs, and cleanses the blood of the toxins that cause illness. In other words, your state of mind can actually poison your body. This science knows and has proven.

This is also why some of the psychological religions like Christian Science, New Age, Scientology, Reiki, Transcendental Meditation, Unity, Taoism, and some forms of Buddhism and Hinduism can sometimes have a positive effect. Peaceful meditation and mental concentration on positive attitudes and thoughts definitely have a good effect on both mind and body through the right spiritual attitude.

The Bible tells us, “Whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are

just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”¹ The apostle Paul also says to forget the things that are behind—to not worry about the past—and reach forward to the things that are ahead.² And Jesus Himself told us not to worry about tomorrow.³

The two greatest sources of fear and worry are the past and the future—remorse over the past and fear of the future—and God’s Word forbids worry about either! Then for the present, God promises to keep us in perfect peace as long as we keep our mind fixed on Him.⁴

The one who truly trusts, truly rests in the Lord. The apostle John wrote, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.”⁵ Paul taught, “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”⁶ These verses show the relationship of mental illness to fear—and of course there are also fears that are actually inspired by the Devil and the dark side.

Your physical state of health is largely dependent on your mental state of health, and your mental

¹ Philippians 4:8

² Philippians 3:13

³ Matthew 6:34

⁴ Isaiah 26:3

⁵ 1 John 4:18

⁶ 2 Timothy 1:7

health is largely dependent on your spiritual condition, because both love and faith cast out all fear. Faith in God, trust in God, gives you a feeling of rest of body, peace of mind, contentment of heart, and spiritual well-being, which all tend to greatly improve your whole state of well-being.

Getting back to my witnessing adventure, this was when she said, "I wish I had faith, but I don't have faith in *anything*. How can I have faith in God when I don't even know if there *is* a God?"

And immediately she asked, "Don't you believe in evolution?" That shows how people automatically think of the theory of evolution when you talk about God, because the whole purpose of the teaching of evolution is to eliminate faith in God and to foster the false doctrine of devils that the creation created itself, that God had nothing to do with it. If it could have happened without God, there doesn't need to *be* a God!

"So you don't believe we came from apes?" she queried.

"Of course not!" I exclaimed. "I believe it happened just the way it says in the Bible: 'On the sixth day God created man in His own image.'"

"Well, how do we know what God looks like? Nobody's ever seen Him."

I said, "Well, we can't see God because He's a Spirit. He's the power of the universe, He's everywhere."

And that's when she said, "Well, He must have a headquarters somewhere!" People can't help but come to the right conclusions if they think honestly about it.

Then she said, "What do you think about these stories about men getting the idea of God or gods from former visits to earth by superior intelligences from outer space?"

And I said, "Well, I *do* believe in so-called UFOs or flying saucers, and I *do* believe that they are visits of superior intelligences from outer space—the angels—and they are, in a sense, gods to us. The Scriptures speak of the angels as gods—superior beings, more powerful and intelligent than man, and they do travel in circles of power or energy and light because they *are* light!"

Well, that was about the end of that line of thought. She just smiled in amazement that we should actually believe such things. One minute people wonder why you can't believe in visiting spaceships, and the next minute they wonder why you can believe in angels. That shows how people's minds have been conditioned to believe in anything supposedly scientific, but to reject anything "spiritual" or "religious" or according to the Bible. Modern education undermines faith in God and the Bible and encourages faith in man and his wisdom and science instead—the worship of man as opposed to the worship of God.

This is a situation that often comes up in witnessing, and when it does, it becomes a direct controversy as to the existence of God. Once you have declared flat out that you believe in God, angels, the Bible, and Creation, those you're witnessing to must make a choice: They can accept that what you're saying is the truth, they can say you're crazy, or they can give you arguments against the existence of God to try to undermine your faith and justify their own unbelief.

So our travel agent began to ask all the stock questions: "Well, if there is a God, then why did He allow Hitler? Why does He allow pain and suffering? Why doesn't He put a stop to all that if He's in control?"

"God isn't responsible for all this pain and suffering," I told her. "People are."

"Then why does He *allow* it?" she asked.

"If He were to put a stop to the suffering that people inflict on each other," I explained, "then He'd have to put a stop to free choice, which is an important part of His great design. He put us here to make a choice between good and evil, to choose to do right or wrong, to serve God or ourselves and the Devil.

"He is hoping, of course, that we will learn the benefits of serving Him as we reap happiness and health and pleasure from keeping His loving rules, and that we will thank Him for it all, as grateful

children of our heavenly Father. He wants us to believe in Him, to trust Him and His Word, and to obey Him out of love.

“Or we can believe the Devil’s lies, rebel against God, and disobey Him and His Word, go our own way, and suffer the consequences—ill health, misery, pain, suffering, cruelty, war, economic ills, unhappiness, mental anguish, insanity, and finally death and Hell hereafter as punishment for violating God’s rules, which He intended for our health and happiness.”

She was still thinking about Hitler and World War II, apparently, because she said, “Where did we get this good-guy and bad-guy stuff?—Aren’t we supposed to be the good guys and they the bad guys?”

But I said, “No, the Bible says ‘all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no, not one! All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned every one to his own way.’¹ *None* of us are all good, or even all bad. No side is ever all right and the other all wrong. There is always some good and bad on both sides. Most of us are gray, somewhere in between white and black, partly good and partly bad.

“As much as we dislike Hitler and what he did, he wasn’t entirely to blame. The German people

¹ Romans 3:23, 10; Isaiah 53:6

were partly to blame and worldwide conditions—including the world’s general lack of faith in God—were partly to blame. You can’t blame it all on the leaders. People get the kind of leaders they want and deserve—some good, some bad, but usually a bit of both.”

“But how do we know God made the world?” she asked. “Why does there have to be a God at all?”

To this I gave her the classic illustration of the watch. Pointing to my wristwatch, I said, “Just as there had to be a watchmaker behind the making of this watch, so behind the intricate precision and timing of the universe there had to be a great Creator or Designer!”

Then she brought up evolution again. “Couldn’t God have done it by the process of evolution?”

But I said, “If God *is* God and the Creator, if He could make the universe, why would He have had to make it by the process of evolution? Why couldn’t He have made it in six days just like the Bible says?”

Evolution is a religion which has to be believed by faith! All the discoveries that have been heralded as “missing links” or proof of evolution have been proved to be either fakes or guesses or theories. Evolution is really a religion of unbelief in God. That’s its whole idea—to destroy faith in God.

Evolution is a false belief based on false assumptions, theories, hypotheses, pure guesswork, and lies to try to get people to believe in something

which isn't true,¹ as opposed to the truths of God and His Word—again the Devil trying to destroy faith in God.²

Then our pretty travel agent asked, “Don't you believe that those big animals like dinosaurs existed?” That shows how people relate evolution to the existence of prehistoric animals. People are taught that evolution is based on some of these genuine discoveries regarding the prehistoric animals, but they're also taught that among these discoveries there have been the remains of prehistoric ape-like men—the so-called missing links—which is *not* true!

Dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals *did* exist, and you'll even find records of them in the

¹ As far as any proofs of evolution are concerned, even Charles Darwin himself confessed that “the belief [note the emphasis on belief] in natural selection must at present be grounded entirely on general considerations. ... When we descend to details, we can't prove that any one species has changed ... nor can we prove that the supposed changes are beneficial, which is the groundwork of the theory” (Charles Darwin, *The Life and Letters of Charles Darwin*). Thomas Henry Huxley, also admitted that his opinion in the matter was not grounded on any true scientific facts or evidence, but was more of a “religious” expression: “I beg you once more to recollect that I have no right to call my opinion anything but an act of philosophical faith” (Thomas Henry Huxley, *Biogenesis and Abiogenesis*).

² For more on evolution vs. faith, read *Evolution—Fact or Fable?* from Aurora Production.

Bible—the “behemoth” and “leviathan” of Job chapters 40 and 41. You’ll also find in the Bible the dragons and sea monsters of ancient legends. Later accounts have been embellished considerably by man, but these things did exist.

“Then why aren’t they here now?” she asked.

“Because they became extinct, like many other species are becoming extinct today.”

“Well, if God made them, why did He let them become extinct? Or if they were going to become extinct, why did He make them in the first place?”

“Perhaps it was to illustrate how the largest and most powerful and strongest are not always the fittest to survive—*contrary* to the doctrine of evolution!”

The most fearsome of beasts are not those that conquered the earth, but “the meek shall inherit the earth.”¹ Weak little vulnerable man with his brains and the blessing of God conquered the earth! In fact, God told him to, saying: “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over every living thing.”² And that’s exactly what man did, in spite of the dinosaurs and the behemoths and other terrifying monsters of the past. Man, the seemingly *least* fit to survive, outlived them all!

Also in answer to her question I asked, “Why did the automobile manufacturers make some of those antique models of cars when they might

¹ Matthew 5:5

² Genesis 1:28

have known they were going to become extinct as better models were made and manufactured?” Sometimes we learn by trial and error, experiment, and experience what works best. Perhaps God sometimes has done this very thing, just to prove to us what works best.

His design for man was the best and most workable plan and creation. Despite all of the obstacles and prehistoric monsters, man has survived with the blessing of God and equipment God has given him. The weakest and meekest have inherited the earth, which is exactly what is going to happen again in the end, when the most bestial and monstrous of all man’s governments is virtually going to destroy itself by its own size, weight, cumbersomeness, and stupidity, and the seemingly weakest of all groups on earth—the pitiful little bands of persecuted Christians—are going to inherit not only the earth but also the coming Kingdom of God on earth and govern it by love and the power of God!

Their survival will be the *true* survival of the fittest—not by natural selection, but *God’s* selection. Not evolutionary adaptations, but God’s creations. Not the cruel, selfish, dog-eat-dog philosophy that gives the world to the strongest, in which might is right, but to those who truly have the right to govern because of what reprobate man considers weaknesses, such as love, meekness, forgiveness, and faith in God and His Word.

These “weakest” and “meekest” will become the most powerful influences on earth, and they will rule the world with both love and a “rod of iron” to compel the nations to submit to the laws of God and to recognize His authority and to obey His rules of life, love, health, and happiness.¹ Then at last there will be “peace to men of good will.”²

But there will be retribution for those who rebel when “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”³ The Word of the Lord shall come forth from the government of God through His people,⁴ and no man shall need to say, “Know the Lord,” for all shall know Him.⁵

This is what the new world will be like—“a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.”⁶ That’s a shocker! “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain [kingdom].”⁷ There will be no more evil in all God’s kingdom on earth—only a heaven-on-earth rule by the Lord and His people from the heavenly city, New Jerusalem, which will come down from God to rest on the earth!

Getting back to our story, having overruled all of her other questions, we finally came to what is usually the Devil’s last resort: “If there is a God,

¹ Revelation 2:26–27; 20:6

⁵ Jeremiah 31:34

² Luke 2:14 DV

⁶ Revelation 21:1

³ Isaiah 11:9

⁷ Isaiah 11:9

⁴ Isaiah 2:3

where did He come from?—Who made *Him*, and when and where? How long has He been in existence?”

The best answer I could give her to that was, “If you knew the answer to that question, then you’d know as much as God knows, which you don’t need to know. God simply says that He has always been. He is the great ‘I AM’¹ who lives in the eternal now.

“We must accept these truths even though we don’t fully understand them, just as many people who don’t understand Einstein’s theories—relativity ($E=mc^2$), for example—accept his theories because they *work*.”

Most people don’t understand these scientific realities, but still have to accept them because they work and because they can feel the effects of the forces involved in their daily lives. They have been demonstrated by nuclear fission and fusion, which give us both the creative and destructive capabilities of nuclear power.

We use the power of electricity in our everyday lives, even though no one really understands it—not even the scientists! They only know its laws, its effects, and how to channel it to serve many useful purposes. Even so, we must accept the very existence of God even though we don’t know where He came from or who made Him, or how He got here. We simply know He *does* exist and He is here,

¹ Exodus 3:14

ever-present, all-knowing, and all-powerful—omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.

We must recognize His superiority and authority, and thank Him for His power and His creation and His rules by which it is governed.

We must accept and obey these rules, so that we may learn to use His power for our own benefit in everyday living, just as we use electricity even though we don't understand everything about it. All we know is, it works! We flip the switch and make the connection, and it works! We make contact with the source, and the electricity does the work for us.

Just so, you must learn to make contact, personal contact, with the power of God and learn to let Him do the work of bringing you joy, health, and happiness in everyday living and giving you faith, rest, comfort, and peace instead of fear, restlessness, worry, and war.

You must learn how to contact His power through prayer—a spiritual seeking of contact with His Spirit through obedience to the laws of His Word, and listening to His voice. Just as you flip the switch of your radio and tune in to a certain frequency, so you must learn to let Him speak to you through His Word, both through the Bible and directly in prayer.

Learn His will and what and how to obey in order to let His light and power into the room of your life. Then it will give you light and power and joy in living by doing for you many things that you can't

do for yourself—just as electricity does through a simple flip of a switch or turn of a dial.

We must avail ourselves of God, just as we do the electricity that gives us light and power and heat and communication and transportation and all the other modern marvels that we use in our daily lives, even though most of us don't understand the laws that govern it—and certainly none of us has ever *seen* it, only its effects.

Only a few people are electricians who know how to wire houses and bring the power of electricity into our lives, and fewer yet are electrical engineers who know how to design and manufacture new uses, new applications, new electrical gadgets to simplify and make happier and easier our everyday living.

Just so, there are very few men and women of God who are prophets—wise and powerful “engineers” led by God to design new uses and new directions of His power to improve our lot in the present, guide our course for the future, and bring us greater happiness and joy and spiritual awareness of the unlimited usefulness of the power of God in our daily lives.

And only some are God's “electricians,” who know how His power works and how to wire it into your daily life—to connect you with His power supply so His power can flow through to serve you, make your life happier and easier, restore your

energy, regenerate you, and continually replenish what is used up.

God's engineers are His prophets and leaders, and His electricians are those who pass on this power and teach others how to connect to it and use it safely. These are His witnesses who help to wire you or rewire you so that your connection is correct with the power above.

Be sure you're not short-circuited by the Devil's diabolical forces that try to cause the power to shock, kill, burn, and destroy those that come in contact with it!

All of this is happening daily in the spiritual realm: God's power is there, waiting to make your tasks easier, enlighten the rooms of your heart and mind, cook the nourishment your spirit needs, food for your soul, and warm the hearthstones of your heart.

Meanwhile the Devil is trying to short-circuit you, electrocute you, shock you, burn you, terrify you, and fill you full of his contrary connections and opposing negative flows to upset and irritate you, causing showers of sparks and crackling static to ruin your connection and communication with God, confuse your mind, upset your heart, and burn and destroy your body, the house in which you live!

So you must be sure that you have the right power source and are connected to it properly, receiving the proper voltage at the proper amperage

on the correct circuits. You must be insulated by God's truth against the dangerous shocks of the Devil's lies, in order that you might safely use such spiritual power for good in your daily life. Otherwise, a connection to the wrong source on the wrong circuits without proper insulation can wreck your health, ruin your life, and destroy your soul!

God exists, you may be sure, just like electricity exists, though you don't know where either came from or what either of these great forces is composed of. All we know is that they exist, and all we have to do is trust the engineers and the electricians and have faith in the power so we're willing to make the connection that lets it into our daily lives. Then all we have to do is reach out in faith and flip the switch of decision that starts the flow of power into our lives to light, guide, warm, feed, provide, protect, work for us, and give us pleasure and even entertainment!

It's just that simple: You don't have to personally know all the answers—all the whys and wherefores—or be able to explain it. All you have to know is that you can flip the switch and it works! And that's all you ever really need to know unless you want to be an electrician to help bring this power into the lives of others, or one of those rare engineers who designs, manufactures, and guides the uses of such power. You certainly don't have to know where it came from or who made it or how it got

here or how long it's existed or what its nature is or be able to explain it in order to *use* it!

All you have to know is that it's here—and it's obvious that it's here because it *works*. You can *prove* that it works by simply deciding to flip the switch that turns it on. You don't have to take my word for it, or anybody else's. Try it! You'll like it! Just flip the switch of decision by your own human will and let the power in!

See how fast it can warm your heart and nourish your soul and make life easier, more pleasant, more entertaining. Discover how it can lift you to heavenly heights of joy, bliss, and the ecstasy of utter sheer unadulterated total happiness by the ecstatic elevators of the energies of His electrifying Spirit such as you have never known before!

God's power is the mightiest of all, beyond anything you have ever experienced before! Try it! You'll love it! Just be sure to read the instructions before you plug in your various appliances and flip their switches, so you don't get any shorted or overloaded circuits! Read His Word and the writings of His engineers so you'll be sure to have the correct power for each appliance and know how to use it properly.

Begin to enjoy yourself and a life filled with the power of God at every flip of the switch and tuning of the dial to make contact with the Source through prayer!

It's that simple: You don't have to understand Him. Just know Him! You don't have to know where He came from! Just meet Him!

He's like a lover: You don't have to know His entire past history and His mental, psychological, physical, and medical records. You don't have to know His exact height, weight, measurements, metabolism, or chemical constituency. All you know is one look and He turns you on, one touch and you melt, one kiss and you're gone! You've let Him into your life and He really sends you!

All you know is that it works and you like it! In fact, you love it! In fact, you're crazy about it, wild about it, mad about it! He's all you want from now on! He really does it for you, and you love Him. That's all you care about!

What else matters? He brings you love, makes your life, and gives you happiness—all you ever wanted and more! You don't even need to know His name, but it's *Jesus*. And that's only so you can let the world know who you belong to.

You don't know why, but just to look at Him turns your key! You can't explain why His touch electrifies you. You don't understand His love and why it makes you so happy, you just enjoy it—and Him—and you're happy! What more could you want than this?

Forget trying to explain it! Quit trying to understand it! Stop trying to diagnose it and take it all

apart and analyze it! You're just making hard work out of all the fun! Just turn it on and enjoy it! Flip out and have a ball with Him! He's your electricity! He's what turns you on! He's what gives you such a charge! You don't care who He is or what He is or where He came from as long as He keeps loving you like this and makes you so happy and takes such good care of you!

As long as it works, that's all that matters! As long as He makes you feel so good and stay so happy, that's what counts. Don't try to figure Him out—just let Him in! Try Him! You'll love Him! He works! And that's all you need to know!

Fill Up Your Heart

My grandfather, Dr. John Lincoln Brandt, was an orator of the old school—a great writer, teacher, preacher, and lecturer. He really knew the language and grammar, style, and oratory. He was an artist at public speaking. Whenever he gave a speech or lecture, sometimes standing in the dark on the platform, pointing to pictures of his travels or this or that, which I was showing on a slide projector, he never used a note.

So I asked him one time, “Grandfather, how are you so fluent? You manage to cover all these points, sometimes in one-two-three-four order and go on and on with various illustrations and stories”—he was very systematic and analytical—“yet you never seem to forget anything. You’re never at a loss for words. You hardly ever pause. It just pours out! How do you do it?” And he told me something I have never forgotten—and I thank the Lord for it, because I’ve used it ever since.

He said, “David, I do my studying beforehand. I read, study, think, pray, and get totally full of my

subject, so when I stand on the platform, I can speak out of the abundance of my heart.¹ If you're ever going to do any public speaking," he added, "that is my advice to you—get full of your subject. Then when you get up before an audience, don't worry about notes or anything. Just speak out of the fullness of your heart. God will inspire you."

That simple bit of advice has worked for me all these years. I do my studying, reading, and note taking beforehand, so by the time I get up to give a talk or class I'm so full of my subject that I won't have to stop to look at notes or collect my thoughts. It just rolls out by inspiration!

If you're full of your subject, inspired of the Holy Spirit, and ask God to help you in your speaking, you'll speak out of the fullness of your heart. Your mind is like a computer, and by the time you get up to speak or teach, your memory cells should be packed with information, illustrations, and stories.

Don't worry about perfection. Try to organize it if you can, but don't spend days and weeks on it. If you want to have a little subject outline in front of you of points you want to cover, fine, but then let it flow naturally, as much as you can. The thing is to be natural. I'll say to you what they said to the man who had just been hired by the circus as a clown and asked what he was supposed to do: "Just act natural."

¹ Luke 6:45

People like pictures. We're all like children in that respect. Illustrations and stories are more interesting and easier to grasp than facts and figures and theories. Word pictures help people learn and remember more easily. If you've read the Gospels, you've seen how Jesus used stories to illustrate the points He was making—parable after parable. It says that He never taught without using a parable.¹ He was a great storyteller.

So in your speaking, make it simple, speak out of the fullness of your heart, speak from experience, tell stories, give examples, paint word pictures that they'll remember.

Tell them about your own experience. Some people may not listen to anything else. They may never listen to all the rhetorical, erudite teaching that you think they might need, but when you start telling your life story, instantly you have their attention and they become fascinated. People are interested in people.

If you'll notice, nearly every time the apostle Paul began to preach to a new crowd, he started with his own personal testimony. "This is what happened to me. ..."

When you're witnessing, by all means give your personal testimony. Then it's like being a witness in court: People have to decide whether or not to believe your testimony when you say, "This happened to me." They have to decide whether

¹ Matthew 13:34

you're a true or false witness, whether you're telling the truth or lying, and nine times out of ten, if you say it with sincerity and in the power of the Holy Spirit with real earnestness, they will believe that you are telling the truth. Your testimony is one thing they cannot deny.

I have talked to people who said, "I don't believe in God. I don't believe in the supernatural. I don't believe in *anything*." But after I told them my own testimony they wound up saying, even though they claimed they were skeptics, agnostics, unbelievers, and everything else, "Well, if you say so, I believe you. If you say it happened to you, I believe it did happen to you."

And the moment they acknowledge that it happened to you, they have to concede that it could happen to others. If it happened once, it could happen again—even to *them*. When they admit the possibility, there's a spark of faith; a tiny seed of faith has been planted and can begin to take root.

I once talked for eight hours to a man who said he didn't believe in God. But when I was finished, he had to confess, "I know one thing—*you* believe it." There was an admission that if *I* had faith, there must *be* such a thing. He knew I believed, and he had faith in *my* faith—vicarious faith—therefore there was a definite possibility that he too could have faith. If he could believe me, he could believe in God.

That's why, as I've said, in witnessing you have to sell *yourself* first. You have to win people to yourself.

When they see your own happiness, they will want what you've got that makes you that way.

Talk about how it happened to you or how it happened in other cases you know about, but allow that it may not always be that way or may not be exactly the same for them.

It's like the story of the five blind men and the elephant, when each man was asked to feel the elephant and try to figure out what it was like: One grabbed the tail and said, "Behold, an elephant is like a rope." The next man grabbed a leg and said, "No, the elephant is like a tree." The third felt his side. "Ah, no, the elephant is like a wall." The fourth grabbed the trunk and said, "No, the elephant is like a serpent." The last man grabbed an ear and said, "No, the elephant is like a leaf." They were *all* right, but no one was *completely* right or the *only* one who was right. The elephant was like all of these things, but to get the whole story you've got to put everybody's story together.

This is what you must remember: Be tolerant of the opinions of others and qualify your lessons. Say, "Maybe this won't work exactly like this in your case, but this is how it happened to me and So-and-so, therefore this is the way it will *probably* happen." Get away from dogmatism. Get away from formal, rigid conventionalism. You must allow for difference and freedom of thought and opinion.

Above all, no matter what you say or how you say it, speak the truth from the fullness of your heart.

Pray for the inspiration of God. Ask God to help you give people what they need. Before I begin to record a talk or lesson or write a letter, I pray, “Lord, give me what those who will hear or read this need. Help me to feed Your sheep,”¹ and I believe He answers those prayers. If I ask for a fish, God is not going to give me a serpent, and if I ask for bread He’s not going to give me a stone.² If I ask God to lead me, He’s going to tell me the right thing to say.

If your heart is full of Jesus and the truth, that’s what you’ll give people. That’s the sum and substance of it all: Fill up your heart, and then out of the fullness of the heart the mouth will speak. Trust God that He has given you the right message, pass it on, and leave the results to the Lord. Fill up your heart and trust God!

¹John 21:15

²Matthew 7:9–11

Glamour or Glory?

There was once a famous actor who was invited to speak at the church of his childhood, of which his old friend was now the pastor. For his contribution to the service he chose to recite Psalm 23, and did so with all the perfection of a professional orator with all the proper gesticulations and intonations and so on. When he was done, the people all applauded. “Great!” “Wonderful!” “Hurrah!”

Then the pastor arose and said, “If you will pardon me, I know you all enjoyed that, but I would like to recite the psalm *my* way now.” So he began to recite the psalm, and by the time he was done the people were in tears—moved emotionally. They enjoyed the actor and applauded him for his rhetorical skill and eloquence, but by the time the preacher finished, they weren’t thinking about the preacher but the Lord.

Watch performers and you will see the difference between the truly great and the mere perfectionists. The major difference is that the perfectionists—

those who have great voices or other great talents but are more interested in their performance and more conscious of how they are looking or sounding—are only interested in themselves. It falls flat. It's nothing but an egotistical display of self.

Whereas the truly great performers make you forget they're performing. They get you so carried away with the emotion of their message, what they're singing about or saying or portraying, that you forget about *them*. They almost fade out of the picture, and you get the message loud and clear. These are the truly great!

What do you think makes these articles from me? Me? No! If you met me personally, you would probably be disillusioned by my bodily presence. It's the Spirit. You're not thinking about me; you're thinking about the Lord and the truth of what is being said.

The greatest stars are those who don't know they're stars. The greatest men have been those who didn't know they were great, or at least they didn't feel great. What makes a person really great is the greatness *God* gives—the Spirit, the inspiration.

What a difference the Spirit makes! That's what really counts, not technical perfection. If you want to draw people to the Lord, you have to be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. When you are, you flow with it and ride the crest of inspiration, but you have to remember that it's the Holy Spirit and not *you*—it's something divine. People aren't seeing you—they're seeing the Lord.

We're showing God to the world. They don't know what He's like. The only way they're going to know is by seeing God in you, and that's not you. If they only see you—ugh! But if in seeing you they see the Lord, you've succeeded. That's the difference!

The world today calls it charisma—a kind of mystical charm, a supernatural fascination. Every truly great musician, singer, speaker, or performer must have that. In the Lord's service, it's the divine anointing of the Holy Spirit, which goes far beyond worldly charisma. It erases you as the performer to a large extent and makes people think about God, the greater One behind what they are seeing, not the mere instrument.

When you're watching a movie, do you think of the actor as himself, by his own name? Not if it's great acting. He becomes the part he's playing, and you forget who he really is.

Who am I? Look at me—an old hunk of clay, ugly, old, pretty dumb, and a little crazy! It's like what Paul said others said about him: "His letters are weighty and powerful, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."¹ Being personally acquainted in the flesh can be a letdown. What turns people on?—It's the spirit!

God said to Saul, "I will make you another man,"² and to David too—God made him another man. He turned him into something he wasn't. It's almost

¹ 2 Corinthians 10:10

² 1 Samuel 10:6,9

like playing a role. When God has given you a role to play and you can play it with divine anointing and real inspiration of the Lord and by the power of His Spirit, you become that creation of God!

When witnessing, singing, writing, or whatever, it's got to be God. But you have to have the faith to play the role God has given you to play. If you're willing to be what God wants you to be—not what you are but what God wants you to be—then He can mightily use you.

You might be able to relax and be what you are in private, but when you're facing your public you've got to be what God has made you to be. It's like they say of the pope: He is expected to have divine wisdom and speak with authority as long as he's serving in his official role, *ex cathedra*, but he's a mere man in private.

God makes the difference between lifeless clay and the alive, pulsating, energetic body of a human being! It's the breath of God that gives life. It's the anointing and power of God that makes the difference—and don't you forget it!

Without Him you're nothing! You'll fall flat as a flounder! The saddest, most pitiful cases in all history are those who went astray and began to exalt themselves instead of giving God the glory, so God removed their anointing.

I don't doubt God inspired Herod that day when he spoke as ruler of the people: They said, "It is the voice of a god!" Now there was nothing wrong with

him speaking that way, but when he forgot to give God the glory and rebuke the people for giving him the credit, suddenly he was eaten with worms! He fell ill and died! God smote him because he didn't give God the credit.¹

One of the greatest dangers is to begin thinking it's *you*. It's God's anointing. If He withdraws it, you're just as flat as ever, dead as a doornail if you lack His power, that mysterious supernatural power that gets through to people's spirits.

"The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."² Without the Spirit, you're like a furnace with no fire. What good is a furnace when its fire has gone out? It's still all there, but it's cold and dark and useless with no fire. Let the furnace go dead and the whole house grows cold.

It's not the furnace, remember—it's the fire! A bonfire of fallen branches and leaves will do more good and give off more heat and light than the mechanical genius, the furnace, without fire! It's marvelous, but without fire it's not as good as the bonfire in the backyard! It's the fiery anointing that counts!

It's the Spirit! It's the Spirit! I kick over the traces, shatter all the precedents, destroy the conventions, and depart from the traditions! "What in the world? What good could you do without all those?" you ask. I'll tell you what—I've got the fire and it doesn't

¹ Acts 12:21–23

² 2 Corinthians 3:6

matter if I mix everything up, as long as I've got the fire, people will follow the flame! My grandfather used to say, "If you'll just get on fire for God, the world will come out to see you burn!"

I don't care how good a musical band is, if it doesn't have the fire, it's just so much sounding brass and tinkling cymbals! I don't care how much education you have, how much of an orator you are, if you haven't got the fire, it profits nothing!¹

If you haven't got the fire, I don't care how "good" a witness you are, how many Bible verses you can quote, how much you understand Bible prophecy, and how well you can describe every beast in the book and hang a label on every horn. If you haven't got the fire, it's just cold dead icicles of facts and figures—no warmth, no heat. You'll never set anybody on fire without the firepower of the Holy Spirit. All you'll do is get them muddled up and turn them off.

It doesn't matter what job you're doing for the Lord, you need to do it in the Spirit. I think you can even be inspired and Spirit-led in driving a car. You don't have to climb a light pole to be inspired! If you're thinking and praying about whatever it is you're doing and asking God for wisdom, He can inspire you. Anything you do—washing dishes, taking care of babies, or anything else, no matter what it is—you can do it in the Spirit! But if you only

¹ | Corinthians 13:1–3

follow the “letter of the law” and do it out of duty alone, it will drag you down and turn others off.

If you’ve got that divine anointing, it makes every little task wonderful! “You’ve got to have a glory in the thing you do, an everlasting glory that’ll carry you through!” I’ve had some shoeshine men polish my shoes who acted like they could have spit in my face instead of on my shoes. But I’ve had others get down and sing to the rhythm as they shined my shoes with glory. It was a glory to them, and they had a special anointing for it.

It’s the same with bands, musicians, and singers for the Lord. They have to be inspired by the Holy Spirit or their performance will fall flat. You may hear glorious, beautiful, musical perfection, but you’ll wonder why it doesn’t move you.

Unless it moves you, what good is it? In preaching the Gospel, we’re in the business of moving people. We’re trying to move them from one life to another.

People may be attracted to the quality of your music or looks of the singers, but if it doesn’t touch their hearts, it’s no good! If your music doesn’t affect people, you’re just in the entertainment business! If your singing doesn’t affect people, if your witness doesn’t make them glad or mad or sad, it’s just so much hot air and a waste of time! It’s the difference between somebody that is proud of himself and his own work, and those who are filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit and just want to exalt Jesus!

People have to see more than *you*. They've got to see Jesus coming through you. If your performance stops dead with you, people will consider it a waste of time—no different from everybody else. “Not by *your* might, not by *your* power, but by *My* Spirit,’ says the Lord of Hosts.”¹ Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”²

The words the Pharisees spoke were well educated, but they were flesh and they were death. Why? Because they spoke from their heads. Jesus spoke from His heart—from the Spirit. That's the difference!

I don't care what you do—witnessing, singing, playing, writing, dishwashing, or cooking—you've got to have the Spirit! I used to get inspired by the Holy Spirit while working on the engine of the car. It thrilled me, and the Lord would show me what was wrong. If you've got the Spirit, you can even clean toilets with an artistic finesse and be proud of the good job you did and consider it a thing of beauty!

You may be as lowly as a worm, but you can become a glowworm for God! Glowworms glow in the dark, you know. Without the Holy Spirit you'd just be an ordinary ugly little bug, but with the Holy Spirit you become a firefly, lighting up the night for God!

¹ Zechariah 4:6

² John 6:63

You've got to move people! Make them mad, sad, or glad! Drive them to a decision! Spur them to action! Emote them into motion by the emotion by the Spirit! "The body without the spirit is dead."¹ So is every song, every sermon, and every witness. Every task, whatever it is, without the Spirit is dead. But the Spirit can make anything glorious!

"You've got to have a glory in the thing you do!" The Spirit can turn it on, no matter what it is or who it is, and give it glory and glamour and life, beauty, joy, life, heat—you name it! It's the Spirit that makes the difference.

Have you got the Spirit? Does your singing, music, or whatever you do have the power, the fire of God? If not, it's dead works and will never set anyone else on fire either! God help you to have the firepower of God's Spirit in all you do! Don't try to work up glamour—pray down glory!

¹James 2:26

To Win Some, Be Winsome

I'll tell you what I've learned about dealing with other religions, false doctrines, and so on: You can get so absorbed in fighting false beliefs and those who adhere to and propagate them that you forget your main job of preaching the Gospel, preaching the love of God in Jesus, lifting up Christ, and drawing all men to Him.¹ That infighting and feuding is what the Church got into. About 200 years after Christ, the Christians got so busy fighting each other over their doctrinal differences that they stopped preaching the Gospel and evangelizing the world.

It is a temptation to get into arguing doctrine when you know you're so right and others are so wrong, to start fighting false doctrines and the false cults—and some people give their full time to it. I've known some preachers who went around doing nothing but fighting this and fighting that, instead of just preaching Christ and showing love!

¹John 12:32

The people of the world have seen enough fighting and bickering, and they couldn't care less about the hair-splitting theological issues that so many Christians waste their time and energy arguing about.

It's good to know something about false belief systems in case you run into somebody who is trapped in one and disillusioned, so you can give them the truth and help set them free from the false, but don't make exposing or fighting the false your main thing. That's a negative type of preaching, negative witnessing, and it turns people off. People don't like that negative tearing down of other people, no matter who is in the right.

I've never been one for attacking false religions, except for the "religion" of materialism that has overcome the whole world and is the Devil's own religion! Regardless of what religion they profess, most people today worship materialism more than anything else—their job, their home, their car, their TV, and their other possessions. Most of them serve mammon¹ far more than they serve the Lord.² So to me, that's the greatest evil and I don't hesitate to attack that—not *them* but *that!* You've got to remember to make a differentiation between the sin and the sinner, to hate the sin but not the sinner!

But this business of attacking false doctrines and false cults generates a lot of hatred for the

¹ From Aramaic *mâmônâ*: wealth, riches, earthly goods

² Matthew 6:24

victims rather than the devilish *doctrine*. There are billions of people who adhere to false religions simply because they were born into them and that's all they have ever known. They've never heard the truth, so what do you expect? They are mere victims who have never had a chance to know and receive the truth.

I've always advocated that in witnessing to people of another religion it is best to avoid confrontation, contradiction, or the points on which you do not agree. Try to avoid points on which you know you're going to disagree, and establish as many points in common as you can and dwell on those. Be positive and charitable, friendly, loving, understanding, compassionate, sympathetic. You will get a lot further with the people you're talking to and trying to win by going along with them partway and acknowledging the benefits and good things and truths about their religion, rather than immediately attacking the falsities head-on and getting belligerent, contradictory, aggressive, or antagonistic. That's *not* the way to win people!

You have to show people love! Try to avoid the contradictions and the disagreements. Find points of agreement and things you share as human beings with common needs, desires, and problems. There are sincere seekers in every religion—they just haven't found it yet! Try to give the people you're witnessing to the benefit of the doubt and credit for being sincere seekers of the truth.

In your witnessing, I think you'll find that people fall into one of three general categories: There are the few who have already found the truth and believe as you do, and there are the few who will bitterly oppose the truth no matter how it's presented, but the vast majority are unreached and undecided because they haven't heard the truth. Those in this last category are the ones you should be trying to reach, the people who haven't heard the Gospel—and the Gospel is *love*. Most people haven't seen that kind of love in any religion, not even other Christians, sad to say. They're looking for something, and if you've got Jesus and they are sheep,¹ you've got what they're looking for.

I don't like the negative approach—going all-out to fight some false cults and doctrines. I've experienced enough of that kind of opposition myself. My mother was also a strong advocate of preaching positively and showing love. Almost her favorite Scripture was when Jesus said, "I, if I am lifted up, will draw all peoples to Myself!"² Instead of preaching against things, preach *for* Jesus. Uphold Christ and He will draw all men unto Him.

We do have to be prepared on occasion to fight the Devil and his lies, so we need to know his devilish devices,³ but most of the time we should preach positively and show love and compassion, like Jesus

¹ John 10:27–28

² John 12:32

³ 2 Corinthians 2:11

did. Jesus fed and healed and helped and gave the multitudes what they needed most—love.

It's good to be familiar with the basic beliefs and practices of the religions of the people you're witnessing to—what they believe, what they practice, and some of the results. It's also important to understand their falsehoods, if only to help you avoid crossing or confronting people on those things. You know and they know that some aspects of your beliefs conflict with theirs, but you don't have to come out and openly oppose them. The best way to dispel falsehoods is not by a frontal attack, but by offering them the truth. Present the truth, and the truth will take care of the lies. Don't try to fight the darkness, just let the light in.

You will get a lot further with people by loving them, feeling sorry for them, and having compassion for them. Jesus even had compassion for the rich young ruler who chose his possessions over an opportunity to follow Jesus and learn the truth from Him, and “went away sorrowful.”¹ Jesus had great love for the young man and tried to win him. He tried to show him what his weakness was—his love of his wealth, which he wasn't willing to give up—and treated him compassionately. Jesus didn't berate him or condemn him. He didn't try to embarrass him before everybody by showing how right He was and how wrong the young man was. He led the

¹ Matthew 19:16–22

young man along positively with certain questions until the fellow made his decision, which happened to be the wrong one.

There's a positive kind of witnessing, and there's a negative kind of witnessing. I don't like that negative kind—fighting with people you're supposed to be trying to win! “He that would win some must be winsome.” Being confrontational not only makes people defensive and antagonistic toward you, but anyone else who happens to be present and see it will likely feel more sympathy for the poor fellow you're attacking and side with him. It offends and is unpleasant for everyone.

I'm reminded of one preacher I saw once. What he was saying was the truth, he was preaching the Gospel, but he did it in such an onerous, obnoxious way that his witness made his audience almost hate him because he was so impolite, discourteous, overbearing, aggressive, and boorish! His witness just about stunk because of the offensive way in which he did it—that fighting, belligerent attitude! That's *not* loving! That's *not* showing humility and patience! That kind of an attitude just doesn't win people and doesn't show love! I'm sure he made more enemies than friends!

Fighting only makes enemies, so let's not fight any more than we have to! Jesus didn't say that when they persecute you in one city, you should stay there and fight those who oppose you. He said,

¹ Matthew 10:23

“Flee to another!” He said, “You will not have even gone through all the cities before I come again.”¹ In other words, why waste your time on a place where they don’t want you or the truth, where they refuse to listen and are causing you nothing but trouble? Leave! Go someplace else to preach the Gospel where people are more receptive.

When I’ve heard some people teach or repeat falsehoods, I have sometimes said, “Excuse me, but perhaps you haven’t seen or you’re not familiar with this Scripture. ...” I tried to give them the benefit of the doubt and help them save face. Even though I was contradicting them, I tried to do it sweetly, gently, and lovingly. I didn’t start screaming and yelling, but did as the Scripture advises us, speaking gently and lovingly and in a spirit of meekness.¹ Hate the sin, but love the sinner. Hate the false doctrines of the false religions, but feel sorry for their poor victims who know nothing else.

I’ve witnessed to a lot of sincere Christians who I knew from the start didn’t understand salvation, and I always began with points that we could agree on. I said, “We’re both Christians, we both believe in the Bible, we both believe in God, and we both believe in Jesus.” I established these points first, then I asked, “You know you’re going to Heaven, don’t you?” I would ask it that way even though I knew they didn’t.

¹ Galatians 6:1

They would then stammer around and say, “No, I *don't* know. I can't be sure. It all depends on whether I'm good enough or not.”

So then I'd simply give them a Scripture. “The Bible says in Ephesians, chapter 2, verses 8 and 9, that you don't have to be good enough. In fact, you *can't* be good enough. ‘By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.’ Salvation is by grace through faith, not of works.” I'd try to gently lead them, not drive them, push them, or fight them. The victims of false doctrine need to be led like sheep—hoping that they *are* sheep, which often they are. They just haven't yet been exposed to the true Gospel or real love.

Accentuate the positive. If you preach the truth, that will get rid of the lies. But the Lord's Word does say that you should be prepared to give answers, and for that you need to know the Word. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”¹ “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”²

When I see people who are trapped in false religions, my heart goes out to them. I feel sorry for them, because they are victims—misled, misguided,

¹ 2 Timothy 2:15

² 1 Peter 3:15

deceived victims—and it's not entirely their fault. I think, *There but for the grace of God, go I! That could be me!* If I could be less than charitable with anybody, it would be with those who have led them astray. It isn't the common follower who is the most to blame, it's their often sincere but sincerely *wrong* religious leaders who have led them astray. Let's love the victims and feel sorry for them.

Let's not be ignorant of the Devil's devices and falsehoods, and let's be able to gently expose those things with the truth, but let's have compassion and sympathy and love for those who have been victimized by false cults and false doctrines. Let's not go off on a tangent and get sidetracked fighting false religions and religionists, but let's be full of love and love others and try to give them the truth.

Let's preach the Gospel and lift up Christ, so He can draw all people to Himself. Otherwise we will drive them away instead of drawing them into God's kingdom of love. "He that would win some must be winsome"—not belligerent, contentious, or contradictory, but sweet, gentle, and loving, wooing and winning with *love*. Amen? God bless and keep you lovingly winsome!

Become One

If the Lord has called you to a foreign field of service, it is important to learn the language of the land. You can't very well tell people that you love them if you haven't made the slightest attempt to learn their language, customs, culture, history, religion, characteristics, nationality traits, etc., which are all a part of them. You can hardly hope to understand them fully or reach them effectively without showing a genuine loving interest in who they are and what they're like.

“We do not have a High Priest [Jesus] who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are.”¹ Jesus took on the form of our own human flesh and suffered with us as one of us, that He might understand us and our problems better, have compassion on us, and even die for us. “As a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”² He wore that

¹ Hebrews 4:15

² Psalm 103:13–14

frame Himself, suffered in it, and died in it for our sakes.

Jesus renounced His citizenship in Heaven, and though He was rich, for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich.¹ He not only adapted Himself to our bodily form, but also conformed to the human ways of life, custom, language, dress, and living, that He might understand and love us better, and communicate with us on the lowly level of our own human understanding.

He became a citizen of this world, a member of humanity, a man of flesh, in all points like us, in order that He might reach us with His love, prove to us His compassion and concern, and demonstrate His message in simple childlike terms that we could understand.

He not only preached His message, but He lived it amongst us, even as one of us. He was not only the living Word, the sermon, but He was also the living *work*, the sample.

This has always been part of the secret of success of all truly fruitful Christian workers: a genuine endeavor to identify with the people they were called to reach with the Gospel, and to be examples of God's love, clear presentations of His message, in ways the people could understand. They learned the local language, adopted the local customs and dress, ate the local food, sometimes became citizens

¹ 2 Corinthians 8:9

of their adopted land, and, above all, became one of them, as Jesus did.

Jesus not only ministered to people's spiritual needs, but He spent a great deal of time ministering to their physical and material needs. He healed them when they were sick, fed them when they were hungry, and shared with them His life and love.

This is what we [the Family International] have tried to do. This is the way our work began, and this is the way it is continuing to this day. My family and I started by sharing all we had, both physically and spiritually, with other needy young people. I believe this is why the Lord was able to help us relate to them so well. We not only preached to them, but we also took them into our home. They lived with us, ate at our table, and enjoyed the same love, affection, material blessings, and spiritual instruction as our own children. That's when they knew we truly loved them—when we took them into our personal lives, home, and family, and treated them as our own. There was really no difference, and that's as it should be. If we truly believe that “all are one in Christ Jesus,”¹ we will *live* that way.

If you really love the people God has called you to reach with the Gospel, you will become one of them. To go to a foreign field, to become one of the people and consider that your home and your people, as Ruth did with Naomi in the Bible's book of Ruth, loving both the country and the people

¹ Galatians 3:28

where you now live and wishing never to depart from them except by the will of God—to live with them, love them, be one of them, and never leave them—that’s my idea of a missionary. It’s a marriage. Forever. Why not? That’s what Jesus did!

And apparently that was God’s idea of a missionary too, for that’s what He sent His Son to do; that’s what Jesus did for us! God gave His only Son, and Jesus gave His life. He lived it just for us, with us, for us, as one of us, and died for us. How can we do less for others?

Only the supernatural, miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit can win people’s hearts, bring them to a decision, and cause them to be born again as new creations, new citizens of the Kingdom of God.¹ Only God can do this, but people must see Him doing it in *us* first of all. As Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899) said, the only Bible the world reads is the one bound in shoe leather—you and me! They must see this miracle-working power at work in our own lives, as genuine living examples and proof that it can happen.

I am also convinced that what Jesus said is still true, regardless of nationality, country, color or creed: “And I, if I am lifted up ... I will draw all peoples to Myself.”² There is *no* difference! The heart of man is the same the world over, and his heartaches and sorrows and sins and pains and

¹ John 3:3–6; 2 Corinthians 5:17

² John 12:32

fear of death are the same. His longing for love and hunger for God and His truth, for joy and happiness and peace of mind, are God-created and the same in people the world over.

We can't do it, but God can! Even the most difficult to reach are no different from anyone else when it comes to the love and power of God and the truth of His Word. We've found the same message, the same method, the same love, the same life, the same power, the same salvation, the same Jesus, and the same God work just as well in any language and in any land with any people. His Word is just as true and just as powerful and just as moving, and His Spirit is just as great and omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and all-loving in one country as in another.

Nevertheless, as the apostle Paul said, we must become all things to all men in order that we might win some.¹ So while the message and basic method remain the same, there are differences in approaches. It's a matter of making our message understandable and our witness comprehensible and our lives interpretable in the terms, languages, and even gestures that they understand, and this may truly be more difficult in some cultures and languages and under certain conditions or in the face of certain taboos, oppositions, customs, backgrounds, ways of thinking, etc., than others.

¹ | Corinthians 9:19–22

We need to learn all we can about a people in order to communicate with them in a language they understand and ways they can relate to, so that they get the message loud and clear. However, as many missionaries have proven, we don't have to wait to witness until we know everything. One famous missionary began with only two phrases in the native tongue: "I love you," and "God loves you!"—And with these he started a mighty wave of Christian faith in that land. That was all he had to start with, but I'm sure that was not all he learned before he was through!

You need to learn the language, but that doesn't mean you should spend most of your time in language study when you could be out witnessing. Sometimes you can learn and accomplish more by putting to use what little you have where it's needed now, rather than waiting until you know as much as you think you need to before witnessing. While two missionaries I once knew were spending most of their time for two years learning Portuguese, the language of Brazil, their children learned more of the language out playing with Brazilian children, so that they had to act as interpreters for their parents.

For the greatest results, spend most of your time out witnessing as best you can by the miracle-working love, life, Spirit, music, and power of God. And never underestimate the power of literature in the local language. Most soldiers don't understand how a bullet is made, and they don't need to. All they

need to know is how to fire the bullet. Literature in the language of the land can be “fired” by almost anyone.

So if God has called you to help reach a people who are not your own, learn all you can as quickly as you can in order to reach as many as you can as fast as you can, by becoming one with them!

Winning the World with Love

*Excerpts of a letter written to some
missionaries in training*

Members of any missionary team should be prayerfully chosen for their proven, self-sacrificial love for the lost; their close spiritual link with the Lord; and their tested ability to be led by Him in major decisions in the absence of earthly counselors or supervisors. They should also demonstrate a loving concern for their coworkers and those to whom they minister, and be able to get along with them. And of course they also need to know how to win souls.

The leaders of these teams must also have a great deal of wisdom, common sense, business sense, and management ability in order to handle the practical affairs of transportation, legal matters, public relations, and the everyday things of life, as well as to teach and to provide spiritual leadership. They should have a thorough understanding of the people and conditions of their prospective field,

including a working knowledge of their language and a familiarity with their customs, religions, taboos, laws, and attitudes towards foreign missionaries.

But I want to emphasize that the prime requisite for any missionary must be the same driving passion which motivated the apostle Paul, the disciples of Jesus, and every great man or woman of God—that irresistible compassion which should motivate *every* Christian in everything they say and do, everywhere they go, with everybody, and which Paul summed up in these few famous and ringing words that have cried out from the heart of every true Christian in every true good deed he has ever done: “The love of Christ *compels* us.”¹

“Let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”²

“We have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:14

² 1 John 4:7–11

perfected among us in this: Because as He is, so are we in this world. We love Him because He first loved us. And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.”¹ “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”² “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”³

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”⁴ “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”⁵ “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”⁶ “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”⁷ “Love one another, as I have loved you. By this all will know that you are My disciples.”⁸ “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God.”⁹

“The fruit of the Spirit is love.”¹⁰ “The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”¹¹ “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.’ This is the first and great

¹ | John 4:16–17,19,21

² | John 5:2

³ | John 15:12

⁴ | John 3:16

⁵ | Romans 5:8

⁶ | John 3:16

⁷ | John 15:13

⁸ | John 13:34–35

⁹ | John 3:1

¹⁰ | Galatians 5:22

¹¹ | Romans 5:5

commandment. And the second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”¹ “All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”² “This is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”³ But it is “faith working through love.”⁴ Therefore “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”⁵ For “the greatest of these is love.”⁶ “Do you love Me? Feed My sheep.”⁷ ... “And His banner over me was love.”⁸ Win with love!

If you can’t love your brother or sister, your husband or wife, your mother or father, or your coworker whom you *have* seen, how are you going to love God or His unsaved children whom you have *not* seen, especially when their looks, language, and customs will be so different from yours? If you can’t win souls in your home country, you’re certainly not going to be able to win them in some other country under even more difficult conditions. Just transporting you to a different country is not going to make a true disciple or missionary out of you if you have no concern for your neighbor at home, or your brothers and sisters in Christ in your present fellowship.⁹ You’re

¹ Matthew 22:37–40

⁶ 1 Corinthians 13:13

² Galatians 5:14

⁷ John 21:17

³ 1 John 5:4

⁸ Song of Solomon 2:4

⁴ Galatians 5:6

⁹ 1 John 4:20

⁵ Romans 8:37

not going to make a good missionary unless you love them enough to lay down your life in loving service for them.

Ah, sweet mystery of life, at last I have found
thee!
At last I've found the reason for it all.
'Tis love and love alone the whole world
yearns for!
And 'tis love that bids them heed Thy call!¹

Love conquers all, and to win some, you must be winsome and willing to become all things to all men.² Love loves the unlovely and casts a veil over countless sins.³ Love prefers the happiness of others to your own. It's hard for you to see anything good in people you don't love, but if you really love them, it's much easier to overlook and forgive their faults.

God's love can love anybody—even your enemies!⁴ Love begets love. Ask God to help you love others with His love that passes all understanding. Love is *not* blind—it has an extra spiritual eye, which sees the good and possibilities that others cannot see. Ask God for His love for others, or you'll never make it as a missionary. Only the love of Christ can compel you!

¹ "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life," by

³ Proverbs 10:12

Rida Johnson Young, *paraphrased* ⁴ Matthew 5:44–45

² 1 Corinthians 9:22

Only God's love will make you strong enough to make it—"Christ in you, the hope of glory."¹ Then you can do all things through Christ, who strengthens you.² But if you have any other motive, you'll fail. You'll fail the people the Lord wants you to win to Him, you'll fail your coworkers, and you'll fail the Lord. But love never fails! "Whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. But love never fails."³ Do you want to be successful for the Lord and with others? Love and you can't lose, for love never fails! Do you want the key to every heart? Try love! It never fails, because God is love and it's impossible for Him to fail!

If you go in God's love, you cannot help but win them, as so many of you have discovered. God's love is the answer to everything: It saves souls, forgives sins, satisfies hearts, purifies minds, redeems bodies, wins friends, and makes life worth living. It's the only truth, the only way, and the only peace! "Love does no harm to a neighbor."⁴ You'll not curse him, cheat him, steal from him, or lie to him, much less hurt him if you love him!

Love even prevents accidents. I gave a safety lecture in college once on how most traffic accidents are caused by a lack of love and consideration for the other driver. Not only wars, but also death on the highways is caused by pride, selfishness, and

¹ Colossians 1:27

³ 1 Corinthians 13:8

² Philippians 4:13

⁴ Romans 13:10

lack of love. Many of our problems are undoubtedly caused by a lack of love and the consequent breaking of His commandments, for if we truly love Him we'll obey Him and avoid these.¹

The only way to win the world is with the love of Jesus. So make each new step to each new country a loving step, and let each new missionary be a loving missionary, and each new team a loving fellowship, and each new team leader a loving one. Then you cannot fail, for love *never* fails. Let's win the world with His love! Love your way in, through, out, and around it! Long live love!

¹ James 4:1; John 14:15,23

AFTERWORD

How can you know beyond a doubt that Jesus Christ really is the Son of God and the way to salvation? The answer is simple: Try Him! Sincerely ask Him to reveal Himself to you. Ask Him to come into your heart, forgive you for all your sins, and fill your life with His love, peace, and joy.

Jesus is real, and He loves you so much that He suffered for your sins and died in your place so that you could have eternal life in Heaven with Him and His Father if you will just receive Him and His forgiveness and His free gift of eternal life. But He can't save you unless you want Him to. His love is all-powerful, but He won't force His way into your life.

Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."¹ He gently knocks at the door of your heart. He doesn't break it down or force His way in. He stands there meekly,

¹ Revelation 3:20

lovingly, patiently, waiting for you to open your life and ask Him in.

Will you receive Him? If so, He will be your closest friend and companion, who will be with you always! He came for love and lived in love and died for love, that we might live and love forever!

You can receive Jesus into your heart right now by sincerely praying this prayer:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I open the door to my heart and invite You to come in. Please come in, Jesus, forgive me for all the wrongs I've done, and give me eternal life. Amen.

God has promised to answer your prayer, so you are now His child. And He has said that He will never leave you nor forsake you! He loves you that much!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Brandt Berg (1919–1994), founder of the worldwide missionary movement known as the Family International, was above all an ambassador of God's love.

His parents were both active Christian pastors and evangelists, and his early years were spent traveling with them in evangelistic work. In 1941 he nearly died of pneumonia, while serving in the U.S. Army. After determining to rededicate his life to Christian service, he experienced a miraculous healing.

For most of the next 27 years he worked as a pastor and evangelist. In 1968 he received God's call to take the Gospel to the hippies of southern California. There he and his then teenaged children began a ministry to the youth that grew and eventually became known as the Family International. Today, members of the Family International engage in missionary and humanitarian work in over 100 countries worldwide.

David Berg called on his followers to devote their full time to spreading the message of Christ's love

and salvation as far and wide as possible, unfettered by convention or tradition, and to teach others to do the same.

He also decried the de-Christianization and decay in moral values of Western society. He viewed the trend towards a New World Order as setting the stage for the rise of the Antichrist, a satanic world dictator whom the Bible predicts will rule the world in the last days before Christ's return.

David Berg's lively, down-to-earth, and sometimes unconventional approach to heavenly matters makes his writings a unique contribution to Christian literature. He once said of his writings that his aim was to leave his readers feeling "mad, sad, or glad." Without a doubt, he succeeded in doing just that.

Want the best job in the world?

If you've received Jesus as your Savior, you're qualified for the best job at the best pay for the greatest boss in the world—Jesus Himself!

"As the Father has sent Me," Jesus told His closest followers, "I also send you" (John 20:21). He says the same to His followers of today, calling us to share His heart and love with those who are seeking for "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). He came to love the world, and He calls us to do likewise.

Will you answer His call? Will you do what you can to win others to Him? Will you help spread the message? Will you help spread His love? *Ambassadors of Love* will help you learn how.

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