

Follow-Up in Soul Winning

Introduction

- A. One of the most crucial periods in the life of a Christian is that time immediately following his conversion. A new Christian must be taught.
- B. God has revealed Himself to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This has been written by divine revelation into the Scripture. It is God's plan that believers receive His grace and help through a knowledge and practice of the Bible. This is how the Christian is to grow, I Peter 2:2.
- C. One of the important facets of soul winning is that of follow-up. We must help the young Christian to walk in fellowship with God, I John 1:7.

I. It Is Important to Pray for the Young Christian, Philippians 1:3-5.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.

Observation: The Apostle Paul prayed for his converts. This verse and many others in the Epistles indicates how he continued through his life to pray for those God had enabled him to win. We are also shown here that Paul showed interest in his converts and enjoyed fellowship with them.

II. It is Important to Be a Good Example to the Young Christian, I Thess. 1:5.

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance, as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Observation: One of the most serious hindrances in the life of the young Christian is the inconsistent life of older Christians. When a new believer sees selfishness instead of love, insensitivity instead of compassion, spiritual passivity instead of involvement and commital, disobedience instead of obedience, pretense and hypocrisy instead of spirituality, he is thrown into confusion.

III. It is Important to Get the Young Christian into the Church, Matt. 28:18-20.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach (disciple) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world, Amen.

Observation: One of the most valuable relationships in the life of the Christian is his involvement in a gospel-preaching church. There is no substitute for a godly pastor, a consistent ministry of the Word, the fellowship of believers, an out-reach ministry of prayer and missionary endeavor, and the opportunity to help other Christian.

IV. It is Important to Teach the Young Christian.

A. The young Christian must be taught the assurance of salvation. I John 5:13.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life

Observation: This is where we begin in follow-up. We must help the young believer to get into the Bible and learn the basic truths related to redemption. It is necessary for him to understand the seriousness of sin and man's fallen state, the nature of the atonement and the grace of God, the meaning of the new birth, of repentance, of obedience, and the Biblical basis for the assurance of salvation.

B. The young Christian must be taught his identification in Christ. Romans 6:3,4.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Observation: If the new believer is not taught this great truth he will not have a Biblical foundation for a successful Christian life. He needs to know that he died in Christ and was raised in His Resurrection. Without the knowledge and experience of this he will eventually begin to flounder in his daily life.

C. The young Christian must be taught the Bible, Acts 20:31,32.

Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Observation: When Paul was at Ephesus he was constantly engaged in teaching the young believers the Word of God. When he had to leave that part of the country he could commend his converts to God and to the Scripture. People need to be taught about God and His attributes, about the Scripture and its authority, about the Lord Jesus and His provision, about the Holy Spirit and His work in our daily lives, about the Christian life and it's abundance.

Conclusion

A. One of the most effective methods of follow-up has to do with recommending good books.

B. Suggestions:

Now that I Believe, Robert Cook. Moody Press

Know Why You Believe, Paul E. Little. Victor Books

Growth in Grace, Victor M. Matthews. Zondervan

The Light of Life Correspondence Course (Studies in John). Christian Literature Inc. Box 388, Midway City, CA, 92665.

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