

Principles of Prayer and Promises

Advanced Seminar

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27:1.

PPP: Lesson 13:

Secrets of Soul Winning Communication

When mankind fell into sin and rebellion and the rule of selfishness settled down upon the Earth like a smothering cloud of smoke, it also affected our communication with one another. Failure to actually sit down and listen to one another has brought much trouble, sorrow and heartbreak into every level of society.

We can see this even in the story of man’s fall in Genesis 3. Right away we see them quarrelling and blaming each other and even God for what they chose to do. It is helpful to remember that sin is always a choice; there is never an excuse for sin; if there was, then it would not be sin. When this whole conflict is finally ended, the entire universe will agree that sin has no reason to exist and never did have. Satan’s rebellion is totally without any excuse.

Until a person is ‘born again’ and given a new heart, their whole nature is selfish, therefore in communication to one another, our aim is to gain our own desires, and serve our own purposes. Far more people like to talk than like to truly listen to the other person. Often, even when we are in a situation where we must at least appear to be listening, we are actually considering what we are going to say next, rather than really hearing what the other person is trying to tell us. Self-centered communication, and misunderstandings, probably break up more families, and cause more heartaches than almost any other factor. The Bible has a lot to say about communication.

A godly woman. **“She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.” Proverbs 31:26.**

“Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” James 3.5.

“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” James 3.2.

“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” Psalms 141.3.

“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” Colossians 4:6

Let’s learn from Jesus, His secrets of winning and helpful communication

1st Secret: JESUS’ METHODS.

Jesus said **“For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” John**

13:15.

What did Jesus talk about? The answer is very simple. When He met a man with leprosy, Jesus talked about cleansing. **“And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.” Matthew 8:2, 3.**

When Jesus met men who were interested in fishing, he discussed fishing.

“Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.” John 21:5, 6.

Jesus did not talk about fishing to a man whose primary interest was cleansing from leprosy. Neither did Jesus discuss leprosy with men whose primary interest was fishing.

We are to ask God for wisdom. **“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5.**

Christ's methods are not out of date. He met men where they were. He conversed with them concerning things in which they themselves wanted Him to speak.

Discover what interest the individual has with whom you chat. Then talk about that interest if it is a legitimate, pure, moral one. Christ's whole ministry was made up of this kind of communication. If a person has a sick child, talk about the restoration of that child. Pray for that child. Ask God to heal that child.

2nd Secret: THE JOY OF JESUS

How do you approach a young person who has lost their way? What would Jesus do, how would He speak, and how would He act? Many people have the impression that He was not a happy man. They overlook such statements of Scripture as these: **“In thy presence is fulness of joy.” Psalm 16: 11.**

“. . . exceeding joy.” Jude 24.

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10.

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.” Psalm 51:12, 13.

“Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded. . .” Jeremiah 31: 16, 17.

Probably one of the main deterrents to Christianity for many folk are the solemn, sad, sorrowful expressions of many Christians. Their faces, their conversation, their lives produced nothing to cause folk to believe that Christianity has any answers to life's problems. A sad, self-loving professed Christian cannot produce a joyful, vibrant, happy convert. To turn people on to joy we must be joyful. To turn people on to happiness we must be happy.

Learning how to ask, believe and claim Bible promises, Christ promised, would make our joy full. **“Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” John 16:24.**

3rd Secret-CHRIST'S HUMILITY

Christ said, One of the best ways, to turn people on is to "humble ourselves." **"He that humbleth himself shall be exalted," Luke 14:11.**

Christ taught the spirit of humble reconciliation. **"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." Matthew 5:23, 24.** This takes place by our obeying the Scripture. **"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16.**

To sit down beside the person and quietly, humbly ask pardon for errors we have committed is an art. It is a Christian art. It is a healing art. Even if we have not hurt their feelings, still humility is essential in not appearing self-righteous. It is important to be so humble that we will "esteem others" "better than ourselves" who may have become alcoholics or drug addicts. **"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Philippians 2:3.** This is extremely important. We are all surrounded by different circumstances in life. Had the circumstances that were theirs been ours, we might not have done nearly as well as they did. We must, within our own hearts, **"Honour all men." 1 Peter 2:17.** And, **"Speak evil of no man." Titus 3:2.**

We are to learn of our Exemplar--Jesus, He descended from the God level, to the man level, to the servant level in attitude. He was born with beasts, and died between criminals.

To win a person we never lecture him, preach at him, belittle him, or appear shocked at any sins he has committed.

4th Secret--CHRIST'S FREEDOM OF CHOICE

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20.

"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Revelation 22:17.

"Choose you this day who ye will serve. . . ." Joshua 24:15

Christ invites. He does not high pressure. He does not manipulate. Christ answers when men ask. He doesn't force instruction on anyone. He inspires others to ask Him by asking them. It is a great art to be like Christ; that is, not to force instruction on anyone, but to do things to cause them to ask. Then when the answer is given it makes an impression never to be forgotten.

5th Secret-CHRIST'S FAITH

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19. What faith to express in men, who afterward toiled all night fishing with no results! His faith in them was rewarded. They baptized 3,000 souls in one day. **"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41.**

To speak suspiciously is to create the very evil we seek to prevent. **"For whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23,** last part. But **"this is the victory that overcometh the world, even - our faith." 1 John 5:4.** Christ's faith was so great in erring men that He promised them they

could go to the entire world and He would never fail them. Let us speak out our confidence in the presence of others. Never speak doubtfully of his sincerity. **"Honour all men." 1 Peter 2:17.**
"Speak evil of no man." Titus 3:2.

6th Secret-CHRIST'S LOVE

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity [love], . . . but the greatest of these is charity [love]." 1 Corinthians 13:13.

"We love him, because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19.

"With loving kindness have I drawn thee." Jeremiah 31:3.

"I drew them ... with bands of love." Hosea 11:4.

Christ's love was selfless. He took an interest in the other man's interests. Selfless love does not try to bribe or shame. Selfless love says in effect, "I am interested in your happiness" and means it. If it is not meant, then it is hypocrisy.

7th Secret-CHRIST'S HOPE

"For thou art my hope, O Lord God." Psalm 71:5.

"We are saved by hope." Romans 8:24.

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." Romans 5:5.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." Hebrews 6:19.

Hope is a blending of faith and love. Therefore, when we lovingly express faith in another, when we believe that he has a mission in life, when we believe he will yet fulfill that mission, this is hope. He will go to sleep at night and think about this expression of faith that he has a mission in life.

A married partner expresses her confidence that the marriage will be highly successful. This can be used mightily to save a marriage. A parent expresses confidence in a son, that he will lead many young people to a beautiful way of life. This is used miraculously to save him from addiction.

In every soul there are limitless possibilities. We are to draw forth from the heart the confidence that these possibilities may be realized. But we are not to add, in a holier-than-thou manner, "You can only find such a happy life if you straighten up and behave yourself." No never! To give hope and yet break Christ's law of humility is to break the whole chain of the seven secrets of beautiful communication.

In order to show faith, hope and love to a soul who seems beyond hope, one must have a personal indwelling of the power of God. Without His indwelling presence we shall use carnal weapons and drive others away.

When we learn to prayerfully take on the attitude of our Lord Jesus Christ, people will come to us. Then when they tell us of their problems, we immediately fix their gaze on the solution. We do not overly discuss the problems; we point them to the Christ-centered solution.