

(Guidelines for Winning Souls) How to Win a Soul

by Denny Kenaston

Denny Kenaston teaches practical guidelines for effectively winning souls for Christ through understanding scripture and personal engagement.

Duration: 40:14

Topics: "Soul Winning"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of repentance in receiving salvation. He references Matthew 4:17 and Luke 13:3-5 to highlight Jesus' call for repentance. The preacher emphasizes that forgiveness is only possible through repentance and urges the listener to respond to God's call. The sermon concludes by encouraging the listener to preach the gospel and share the message of salvation with others.

Transcript

Hello, this is Brother Denny. Welcome to Charity Ministries. Our desire is that your life would be blessed and changed by this message.

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These messages are offered to all without charge by the free will offerings of God's people. A special thank you to all who support this ministry. Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord for an assembly where you can't get done singing. That's a blessing. Why don't we kneel for prayer and begin? Our Heavenly Father, we give you praise, Lord.

We praise you and thank you for Jesus who died and is now gone above. We thank you, Father, that you made a way through the Lord Jesus for men to be well in their souls. We thank you for that, Father.

O God, tonight we come to you again at the beginning of this service, and Lord, we desire your blessing to be upon us. We desire, Father, for the anointing of your Spirit to be with each one of us. Lord, I pray, give

us a vision again tonight of what can be done.

Lord, what can be done in the kingdom of God? What can be done in the lives of men and women? Father, give us a vision of this. And dear God, we pray tonight that you'll teach us how to win souls, Lord. We want to win souls.

You've given us so many things, Lord. We want to tell others. We want to learn how we can tell them, how they also can have everything well with their soul.

Father, we commit the service, the teaching time, the discussion into your hands. In the name of Jesus, we ask this blessing. Amen.

I greet you in the name of the Lord Jesus. This evening, we're going to continue on with our lessons on winning souls. And this evening, the lesson will be on how to win a soul.

I'd like us to read a few verses in Romans chapter 10. To begin with, Romans 10, verse 13 through 17. How to win a soul.

Romans chapter 10, verse 13. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. That's quite an awesome statement.

If we just take it right where it sits, what an awesome statement. What a motivation to our hearts to go out and tell others. Because whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

That's a good enough motivation right there. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things. But they have not all obeyed the gospel, for Isaiah saith, Lord who hath believed our report, so then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Now, I don't know what the statistics are, but I think if we just took a raise of hands here this evening, I think most hands would say that it was through the word of God lighting upon their heart that faith was born within their heart that they finally saw their need of a Savior. How many of you would give that testimony by raising your hand? It was through the word of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

How shall they hear if nobody will go and tell them? How will they hear the words of God if nobody goes and tells them? But faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And I believe with all my heart tonight that if we would just believe God's word and go in faith and sow the seeds of the word of God, that we would see results in our activities. Now, I'm not sure this evening how many able-bodied, understanding people we have in this room who could win a soul.

I'm not sure. I think I could estimate that there would be maybe 70. Maybe 70 people in this room that could win a soul.

This matter of winning souls... I still have a little throat from the weekend. This matter of winning souls is very important. But it's not such a big task that you can't do it.

It's not such a big task. I'd like you to think about this as we move into teaching this evening how to win a soul. I'd like you to think about this.

And some of you have pondered these thoughts, but some of you have not. There are 70 people in this room. Who could win a soul? 70 people.

If the 70 people that are in this room would just win one soul in one year, just one, now that's not too hard to win one. Imagine what it would be like if each person of these 70 souls in this room got burdened that they would win one soul in one year's time, and began to pray, and began to seek the Lord, and began to seek after that soul. Where is my one soul for this year? If every one of us in the room would do that, and then when we got that one soul, we nurtured that soul, and trained, and called them, and prayed for them, and had them in our home, and disciplined them for an entire year.

If 70 would win one each at the end of the year, if those 140 would then just go out. I mean, I'm not talking about selling your business tonight. I'm not talking about letting all the hay lay in the field and rot, so that you can win a soul.

I'm not talking about that. I'm just talking about winning one soul in one year. We all have enough time for that.

Every one of us. Then at the end of the second year, that's 280. Now, if those 280 would just get burdened to win one soul for the whole year, and pray over that soul, and disciple that soul, then at the end of the third year, that's 160.

560? 560? That's 1,120. 1,120? Winning one soul in one year is 2,240. How far shall I go? In six years, that's over 5,000 souls.

Now, that's not a big task. It's not. You that are in this room today, who know what it's like to win souls, is that a big task to win one in one year? Just one.

I'm not saying that to weight you down. I'm saying that to stir you up tonight. To stir you up.

You can win one. How to win souls? Now, there are several ways that we can win a soul to Christ. And at the end of this lesson, I plan to give you several.

But we're going to go through one way to win a soul to Jesus. And I'd like to say this in beginning. I'm going to present an ideal situation this evening just for the sake of the instruction.

We're going to assume this evening that we have a soul, an interested soul, and they're sitting in our living room, and they want to learn about how they can receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. We're going to assume that tonight. I don't know if I go through all of what I'm going to tell you if I was standing out on a street corner somewhere and I had ten minutes and that's all I had to tell somebody how they can be saved.

I don't know if I do it all this way. But we're just going to assume that we have found an individual who's lost, who is seeking the Lord, who wants to know how they can be converted, and you've got them sitting in your living room and you've got all the time you need to just sit down and take them all the way through step by step by step and show them all the things they need to know. What do they need to know in order to become a Christian? There are five basic things that they need to know.

Five things. Number one, this person who's sitting in your living room, he needs to know that he is a sinner. He's got to see that he is a sinner.

That's number one. Number two, he needs to see that sinners go to hell. How can he ever be saved until he's lost? You need to show him that he's lost.

Sinners go to hell. Number three, he needs to see that Jesus is the sacrifice. Jesus is the way that he may escape hell, escape his sin, escape his self, and be translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son.

Jesus is the way for him to escape. That's number three. Number four, he needs to know that he must repent.

He must repent. He is a sinner. Sinners go to hell.

Sinners have offended God. Jesus is the way, and he needs to repent. And number five, he needs to believe.

He needs to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and then he'll be saved. Now, I want to say this as we begin. God must make him aware of all five of these things.

We can't do a thing for him in ourselves, by ourselves. We cannot do a thing for him to see all these things. But, God has chosen by the foolishness of preaching or proclaiming His Word to save souls.

So what we do is we go forth in faith. And here we have a soul sitting in our living room who's lost. He needs to hear about Jesus.

And God said, I've chosen by the foolishness of preaching to save men and women, so we're going to tell him the things that he needs to learn. No, and we're going to trust the Spirit of God to make each one of those things come to light in his heart so that he can become converted. So number one, he needs to know that he is a sinner.

We're going to take him to Romans 3. And you can just turn there very quickly. And we're going to show him that he is a sinner. In Romans 3 and verse 10, the Bible says, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. Verse 12, They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable, there is none that doeth good, no, not one. And then also, turn down to verse 23 in the same chapter, Romans 3.23, For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

These are some verses. These verses are so clear, they don't need much explanation at all. Anybody who has an open heart who will read these verses together with you will be able to acknowledge, yes, it is so.

If they have an open heart, they'll be able to acknowledge, yes, it is so, I am a sinner. But they need to see that they are a sinner. And what I would do is I would sit somebody down and show them these verses and after we read several of these verses, I would explain to them how that, well, we probably ought to go to 5.12 first, Romans 5.12 where it says, Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

I would use this verse and the others to show them that they are a sinner. That they were born into this world a sinner because of the fall of Adam and Eve, sin began and was transferred on through all the generations and here they are today alive and a sinner. And then I would begin to ask them questions.

Do you realize that you are a sinner? And I'd wait for them to answer. Some people will say, Yes. Some people will say, No, no, I'm not a sinner.

I love my fellow man. I go to my church. I give when the offering plate comes by.

No, I don't realize I'm a sinner. I'm a good man. But some will say, Yes, I realize I'm a sinner.

Whichever kind you have, that point needs to be brought clearly home. That they're a sinner, that they are sinning, and that they are sinning against a holy God. They are sinning against a holy God.

And I would use all those kind of words. If you have somebody sitting in your house and they want to know, I'd make it as clear as possible. You're sinning against a holy God.

And I might, even if they have an openness, I might even ask them, Can you think of some ways that you have sinned and come short of the glory of God? Can you, sir, today, think of some ways that you have sinned and come short of the glory of God? He may say, Yes, I can. What are some of them? What are some ways, sir? In other words, what we're doing in this first point is we're bringing it clearly home to his heart that he is a sinner and that he's sinning against God. Point number two.

Sinners go to hell. Romans 6.23 is a good verse for that. Also, you can put your finger back on Revelation 21.8. That's also another very good verse.

Romans 6.23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. So just watch how these two move together. Sir, do you realize that you're a sinner and that you have sinned against the Holy God? And what are some of these ways that you've sinned against God? And he's responding while we're talking to him.

Now he's acknowledging that. Then we go over to Romans 6.23 and say, Sir, look what God says about your sin. The wages of sin is death.

And explain that verse to him. That a wage is something that we have earned. Just like when we go to work somewhere and we work so many hours, we draw a wage for the amount of hours that we have worked.

Well, there's also a wage that God deals out to those who sin. And that wage is death. And then explain to him that it's not just physical death here, but it's spiritual death.

It's death in a lake of fire. It's death and hell. So, first he sees that he is a sinner.

He has sinned against God. Now he sees that God is requiring a just punishment upon him for his sin, and that just punishment is death and hell for eternity. Revelation 21.8 In Revelation 21.8, But the fearful and unbelieving and the abominable and murderers and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

That's a good verse for you to read. That to let them to know that that's where sinners go shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. I guess that takes care of everybody that says that

hell is just a state of death, doesn't it? I had someone share that with me on Saturday, that hell is just a state of death.

No, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death, spiritual death. So, you want to show them that sinners go to hell, and then ask them questions like this. Do you see that these verses apply to you? And wait for an affirmative.

And when you get an affirmative, then ask him this question. Sir, based on these verses, where would you go if you died right now? You say, well, that's a little bit strong right in here. Oh, but you'll need this a little later.

He may want to push the whole thing off and think about it. Then you'll want to refer back to this question that you asked him. You see, we're moving through this plan of salvation, and he's seeing from God's Word and God's Spirit is revealing to him, yes, you are a sinner.

While you're saying, sir, do you realize you're a sinner? The Holy Spirit is there saying, yes, you are a sinner. You are a sinner. You are a sinner.

Sir, do you realize that this applies to you and that you'll go to hell? The Holy Spirit is right there saying, you will go to hell. You will go to hell. I'm so glad that we are co-laborers with Christ in this matter of winning souls and that we have a voice, the voice of God that speaks in the heart of an individual while we are sharing these things with them.

So, those questions are good to ask. Where would you go if you died right now? Well, if his heart is open and he is looking and facing the things you're sharing with him, he's going to say, I'd go to hell. I am going to hell.

That's what you want him to say. He needs to see that. He needs to be able to acknowledge it and even say it with his mouth.

I am going to go to hell. If you're not sure how important that is, let me read these verses to you and just apply them. We will read them again, but let's just apply them.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. Well, we're not to that point yet, but I think it's very important that this sinner confess with his mouth and believe in his heart that he is a sinner and that he is on his way to hell. Let him confess it with his mouth.

I am going to hell. It's very important. Do you believe that? Yes, I do.

I'm going to hell. Number three. He needs to see that Jesus is the way.

At this point, he wants to hear that there is an answer. He needs to hear that there is an answer to all this. Jesus is the way.

He is the way of salvation. Romans chapter 5, verse 6 through 8. These are some good verses that you can read to him at this point. Sir, you don't have to go to hell.

I've got good news for you. You don't have to go to hell. Romans chapter 5, verse 6. For when we were yet without strength in due time, Christ died for the ungodly.

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commended His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God commended His love toward us.

God expressed His love toward us. How much love did God have for us? So much that He sent His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners. We were an abomination in His sight.

We were living in wickedness, but God sent His Son. God expressed His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, living in sin, living in absolute contrary to God, God sent His Son Jesus to die for us. That shows how much God loves us.

But these are some good verses that you can use to show them that Jesus is the sacrifice. He is the one who came and shed His blood and died on the cross for our sins. And I would say at this point that you shouldn't just simply explain a little bit about these verses here, but preach the Gospel to this individual.

Preach the Gospel to him. Lift up the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Tell him about God's love for sinners.

Tell him about the finished work of Christ. Just preach the simple Gospel to him. How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture and was buried and rose again on the third day, and all who will believe in Him can have the gift of eternal life and be freed from the condemnation and the judgment and the wrath that is already upon their lives.

I would say in this third point that it's time for you, and if you could just put a little bit of this mentality on, and I know that all of you cannot completely understand what I'm saying, but if you could just put on the mentality that you have when you're in New York City. You're standing behind a pulpit, some of you brethren. There's a bunch of people out there.

They need to hear the message. You need to do the same thing in your living room. Just preach the Gospel to them and tell them about Jesus, and tell them He is the way and that they can be converted if they'll just put their faith in the sacrifice that was already made for them on Calvary.

Jesus is the way. And then you need to ask them this question. Do you believe if you'd cry out to God that He'd save you? Do you believe that? That's a good question to ask Him.

You see, He's seen that He's a sinner. He's seen that sinners go to hell. He's seen that judgment is lying upon Him.

He's made the confession with His mouth that He believes if He died, He'd go to hell. And now you've told Him there is a way for Him to escape the wrath to come and be translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. And now it's good to ask Him, do you believe if you cried out to God that He would save you? And by the way, it's a good thing for you to believe it also.

It's a good thing for you to believe it also, I said again. You must believe that this Gospel that you're sharing with this person is able to save his soul. You must believe it.

By the way, if you do, you're at one of the most exciting points in a soul winner's life you could ever be at. You're sharing these things with Him. He's just opened up His mouth and said, yes, I believe if I cried out to God that He'd save me.

You're at a most exciting place. Alright? Number four. We're not done with the sad news.

We've given Him some good news, but we're not done with the sad news. Number four. He must repent.

He must repent. Turn to Matthew 4.17. Just look at a couple of different verses to show Him clearly what God is requiring of Him. Matthew 4.17 From that time, Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Also in Luke 13.3-5 Jesus said these words, Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. It's good to bring out to the individual at this time that there's no forgiveness where there's no repentance.

You see, if His heart is sincere, He wants to be forgiven now. You've showed Him that He's a sinner. You've shown Him that He's on His way to hell.

But you've shown Him the good news that Jesus has made a way for Him. And if His heart is open and right, He wants to be forgiven now. But we know that He can never be forgiven until He repents.

Because God's forgiveness is based on repentance. Otherwise, God could just forgive the whole world without Him doing anything. God's forgiveness is based on repentance.

So we must bring home to the individual this matter of repentance. In Acts 26, there's another verse that I wanted to look at. It so clearly brings the balance of repentance and faith.

Acts 26.20 Paul speaking, But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coast of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. Now, there's a good verse for us to use to show an individual how serious God is about this matter of repentance. And if I could just bring this point home a little more.

There are many, many, many spurious conversions because this point is left out. It's left out. If you could just look at it with this point left out.

You showed Him He is a sinner. You showed Him that sinners go to hell. You showed Him that Jesus is the way of salvation.

If you skip this point, then you say all you need to do is call on the Lord. Well, who won't do that? No cost involved in that. No.

There's a little more to it than that. They must repent. If I could just share my own experience in this matter of repentance, when I was in school, in Bible school, we had to go soul winning every week.

If we didn't go soul winning, if you didn't go soul winning for two weeks, you'd be kicked out of school. You'd get enough demerit that they would kick you out of school in two weeks if you didn't go for at least two hours. So it was a priority for us and we went soul winning every week.

And we had to make a little report of how many souls we won. And before I learned this matter of repentance, I was able to fill my activity report out real nice and put down there at the bottom of it soul winning six hours or seven hours and souls won six and five and eight and seven. And oh, it really looked good, you know.

Turn in my activity report. Won eight souls on Saturday. Well, I got to examining the souls that I was winning because none of them wanted to come to church and none of them hardly would get baptized.

And I began to question all this. I was young in the faith then and I was just trusting what they were telling us to do. Like a good Baptist student in school, I was trusting what they were telling us to do, but yet I was questioning in my own mind, why aren't these people, if they're getting converted, why aren't they coming to church? When I got converted, I wanted to go to church.

If they're converted, why aren't they getting baptized? When I got converted, I wanted to get baptized. My life changed when I got converted. Why doesn't their life change? And I began to study the Bible and God opened this up to me and I realized, they need to repent.

What about repentance? I saw it all the way through the Bible, so I started bringing this point in when I was out winning souls and when I'd get somebody who sat down in the living room somewhere and began to share with them the Gospel, I'd come to this point right here and say, what do you think, sir? Are you willing to repent? And I don't know how many times, but it was many times they'd look me dead in the eye and say, no way. No way. I'm willing to repent.

That's a nice message you have and I'll be glad to call on the Lord, but I'm not repenting. And I had to say, well then, sir, you can't be saved. And my activity report went from 5, 7, 8 down to 1 and 0 and 0 and 1 and that's the way it went.

But one thing that I noticed, the ones that I won, they'd come to church and the ones that I won, they'd go forward and get baptized before they wouldn't. Repentance. If you want true conversion, you've got to have repentance.

And you see, this matter of soul winning, all this isn't real pleasant, is it? To sit somebody down to be much nicer just to say, hey, Jesus is the Savior, wouldn't you like to call on Him? That'd be easy to do. But no, we're sitting Him down now and we're showing Him from God's Word that He must be willing to repent and when we get done showing Him, now we're going to ask Him again, sir, are you willing to repent? Some of these things you mentioned, are you willing to repent of them? And explain to them what repentance is. It's a change of direction, a completely 180 degree turn.

It's to turn away from your sins and to turn to God. That's what repentance is. And Acts 26.20 clearly shows that.

That repentance is not only turning away, but it's turning to. Sir, are you willing to do that? And from that point, you can go two different directions. But this evening, we're going to assume that this individual said, yes, I am willing to repent.

Very good. Now we're going to go on to point number five. They must believe on the Lord.

And we'll go to Romans 10 again. If they're willing to repent, now they're ready to call on the Lord. Now they're ready to acknowledge that Jesus died for them and let that death and that salvation become theirs.

They're ready. Romans 10.9-10 and then down to verse 13. And at this point, you need to show them these verses.

These are good verses to show them at this point as you've taken them through the others. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart, man believeth unto righteousness.

And with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation. Verse 13. Well, verse 12 would be good to read also.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek. For the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. So can you see in your mind where we have this individual? He's lost.

He knows he's lost. He's on his way to hell. He knows he is.

He knows that Jesus died for him. He's willing to repent of his sins. And now we lay it out to him, Sir, this is what you need to do.

You need to get down. You need to get down on your knees and you need to call out to God. You need to get down on your knees and confess your sins to God and cry out to Him and ask Him to have mercy upon you.

It says right here that He is rich unto all that call upon Him. Sir, are you willing to call upon Him tonight? Do you believe that He would save you if you'd call upon Him tonight in sincerity of heart? Are you ready? Do you believe that He would do that? And I'd like to emphasize also here that in these verses, it says the Lord Jesus. They must be willing to make Him the Lord.

But I believe if you got through this matter of repentance, the matter of making Him the Lord, it's already done. If they're willing to repent, there's no problem there. But still, it needs to be emphasized to him.

Jesus is not only the Savior, He's the Lord. He is the God of Heaven. He is the only wise God.

Are you willing to make Him your Lord? And of course, they need to make an affirmative if we're going to go ahead and pray. And I might say this. I had an opportunity, I think Brother Vernon and I were in the Lancaster knocking on some doors and visiting people, and we had a beautiful opportunity to share with a Catholic boy, 14 years old, the Gospel.

And we went down through all these things and when we got to repentance and the Lordship of Jesus Christ and began to explain to him what it meant to make Him the Lord, and this boy had a marijuana t-shirt on. I smoke marijuana is what the t-shirt said. And we told him, here's what it means to repent.

Here's what it means to make Jesus the Lord of your life. It may mean you'll have to take that t-shirt off. It may mean you'll have to change the friends you have.

Are you willing to do whatever God says? And he looked at us and said, not yet. Not yet, I'm not ready. Okay, that's good.

You may say, oh, wouldn't it have been nice to win that one, but look where we brought him. He probably never sat down in a quiet room and had all those things brought into his mind and acknowledged all these truths that we brought him through, and we brought him right up to the point of salvation, and he says, no, I'm not ready. All right.

If he's not ready, then we just let him know. Go back over the points with him and say, but now you realize where you're at. You acknowledge this, and you know you're a sinner, and you know you're on your way to hell.

Do you realize that if you step out of here tonight, you have no hope of tomorrow? You could die tonight, you'd go right to hell. Do you realize that, young man? And we did that with him, and he said, yes, I realize it, but I need to think about it. So, we let him.

We let him from there. I think he lived in Philadelphia or somewhere. He was visiting his grandmother.

We left him right there. But the point we're making here, in point number five, is that God is waiting on a response from him. God is waiting on a response from him, and we're bringing them up to making a decision.

They're either going to say, yea, or they're going to say, nay, to the gospel message, the gospel call that is upon their heart. Now, it's a whole other lesson to go from here, and we're going to stop the lesson this evening right there. That's the presentation of the plan of salvation.

We'll have another lesson on drawing the net, bringing the soul in. But from here, for this evening, we just wanted to go over the presentation of the gospel, and how you can take somebody from point A to point B, which is acknowledging that they are ready, that they need a Savior, that they're ready to call upon Him. That's where we wanted to go this evening.

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