

Leader's Notes

How to Pray For the Lost

We can win anyone for whom God gives us a burden. If God burdens our heart for a soul, it is evident that He intends to save that soul. It is also evident that He desires to work through us as the human vessel since He gave us the burden. Many times the soul is actually won in prayer. It is one thing to pray, it is another thing to "pray right." Here are seven pointers for praying for the lost to be saved:

1. Pray Believingly

Mark 11:24 *"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Prayer is the key, but faith unlocks the door. We must pray believing that God is working in the sinner's heart and preparing him for our visit.

2. Pray Realizing That With God All Things Are Possible

Mark 10:27 *"And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."*

Recognize God in the picture, for nothing is too hard for God. In our praying most of us never get beyond human limitations and boundaries. We whittle God down to our own size and power. We are like the woman who said, *"It's no use to talk to my husband. He won't listen to me."*

3. Pray Asking the Soul to Be Saved For God's Glory

John 14:13 *"Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."*

We should not pray for a soul to be saved that they may be a better husband or wife. This is selfish praying. We should pray for souls to be saved so they will no longer dishonor God in their sins. Our great concern should be that they will stop trampling over the precious blood of Christ and stop spurning God's love. This should be the real motive in soul winning rather than to put another "notch" on our belt, or add a few more figures to our report.

4. Pray Beseeking God to Awaken Them

Matthew 13:13, 15 *"Because they seeing, see not, and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand. For this people's heart is become gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed. . . ."*

Every sinner needs the Holy Spirit to reveal his sinful condition. Then Christ will be revealed to the heart. We should pray that the Holy Spirit will "quicken" their conscience, plow up their heart, and ring conviction in their soul. We should pray that God will give them "hearing ears" and "believing hearts." Pray that God shall open their understanding.

5. Pray Claiming That Soul Which the Blood of Christ Has Purchased

II Timothy 2:26 *"And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."*

In one sense every soul is God's purchased possession, though still held by Satan through unbelief. We must through prayer claim and take for God that which is rightfully His. This is praying on the ground of redemption.

6. Pray Claiming the Tearing Down Of Satan's Strongholds in That Soul

II Corinthians 10:4 *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."*

The enemy has built up lies, false doctrine, stumbling blocks and many other strongholds in the minds of the unsaved to keep them from receiving Christ. He has them blinded lest the light of the glorious gospel should shine unto them. We must through prayer rebuke the enemy and claim the tearing down of his lies and warped ideas that are keeping the sinner from trusting Christ as Savior. We must exercise our authority in Christ.

7. Pray Perseveringly

Luke 18:7 *"shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?"*

Perseverance is *"not giving up."* We persevere not to persuade God but because of the enemy. In persistent intercession we are pushing back the forces of evil. We are getting the enemy off of God's territory. Daniel prayed for three weeks before he received his answer from God, though the scripture says that God answered his prayer on the first day. Daniel spent three weeks wrestling with the forces of evil and hanging on to God in order that he might receive his *"package."*

Now go pray for that lost soul that God has laid on your heart, claiming these truths.

Praying for the Lost

Goal:

To get the church to be concerned for the lost to the point of prayer and outreach.

Instruction:

Talk briefly to the group on the mandate of Christians praying for the lost. (See handout on *How to Pray for the Lost* for help.)

Pass out *Most Wanted* and *Idea* flyers to the group.

Have each person list two people in each of the categories.

1. Family 2. Friends 3. Neighbors 4. Co-Workers

Ask each person to commit to praying daily for the people on their list for the entire week or month.

Have them target one person that they will make personal contact with this week.

Encourage them to put their list in a prominent place that they see daily. (refrigerator, mirror, etc.)

Items Needed:

Most Wanted Flyer

Idea Flyer (could easily be printed on the back of the *Most Wanted*)

How to Pray for the Lost prayer guide

Pens

Ideas for Making Personal Contact

Bake cookies or a cake for someone

Have a neighborhood bar-b-q

Take someone to lunch

Send a card or note

Make a phone call

Invite someone to the a church function
(church picnic, auction, etc.)

Mow someone's lawn

Invite neighborhood kids to Sunday school

Learn the name of an employee of
a business you frequent

Most Wanted

Please list two people in each of the following categories that you will faithfully pray for daily to be saved.

Family:

- 1.
- 2.

Friends:

- 1.
- 2.

Neighbors:

- 1.
- 2.

Co-worker:

- 1.
- 2.

"To pray without action is hypocrisy. To act without prayer is pagan. Effective prayer involves the balanced tension between total dependence on God and responsible action by the one who prays."

This week, I will make contact with: