

Welcome, and Thank you, ...Mark Reeves
Speaker for today

Attention!

**What a great gospel meeting we had with brother
Brent Hunter! Outstanding lessons!
Everyone was edified!**

Review Regularly...

Living a Wise Life...in an “upside down world”

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”

“Don’t be afraid”

“Always do good”

“Love your neighbor as yourself”

“Leave vengeance to God”

November Birthdays

10 Daniel Brown

November Anniversaries

2 Shannon & Susan Hudson

Indio Informer

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SO YOU WANT TO BE A SOUL WINNER?

By Brent Hunter

**Six Key Barriers Which Must be Overcome
(Continued from last week)**

#1. Fear of Rejection. “I don’t feel comfortable.”

#2. A lack of joy and assurance of one’s salvation.

#3. A lack of training and practical instruction. It has always amazed me that most congregations see the need and value of “men’s training classes”, to teach men to be more effective and edifying in our assemblies, and more and more brethren understand the value of “singing schools,” all of which I commend wholeheartedly. However, what about training classes on “How to Teach Others the Gospel”, or “How to Effectively Share one’s Faith?” Too often we forget that the Lord’s plan of evangelism is to “Teach these things unto faithful men, who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2). *Evangelism is not complete, until the evangelized become the evangelist!* How can we obey this command, and “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12) if we don’t regularly provide instruction and training in *how* to do so? Should there not be instruction provided on what we should be doing *outside* of the assembly, and not just what we do *in* our assemblies?

Frankly, I have found that one of the reasons why Christians are so afraid, is that they are not shown or taught how to win souls. Think about it. All of us are filled with fear, in any area of our lives, when we are told to do something, but have no idea what we are doing! Uncertainly, will always lead to inaction! No wonder, so many good hearted, well-meaning Christians do not share their faith.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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Jesus said the field in which we are to be planting the seed is the world (Matthew 13:38), and that the problem is not the harvest, the problem is the lack of reapers going into the field. No wonder Jesus admonished us to “Pray therefore the Lord of harvest that he would send forth workers into His harvest” (Luke 10:2). I pray that prayer frequently, and whenever possible we all need to put feet to our prayers and answer this plea of Jesus personally.

#4. A lack of modeling. May I be perfectly blunt? Perhaps the reason why many congregations do not offer classes on “How to do Personal Work” – is that it is rarely being done, and therefore, who can teach these classes? Who is there to show the way? It is true that soul winning is the privilege of all mature Christians (Hebrews 5:12), not just the preacher, but, if the local evangelist is not willing to set an example and spent a good share of his time teaching the lost, how can he expect the members to do so? Who is going to teach good training classes if the leadership is not engaged, and it is not a part of the lifestyle of those who are to be an example to the flock (I Timothy 4:12, I Peter 5:3)? If winning souls is not even an *expectation* as to something that Christians need to take seriously, and there is no modeling of this behavior by church leaders, it is no wonder that in this type of environment, personal evangelism becomes rare or non-existent.

#5. A lack of joy and assurance of one’s salvation. If the truth were known, many Christians don’t possess assurance of their own salvation! John tells us, “*These things have I written to you, that you might know you have eternal life*” (I John 5:13). God’s intent was for His children to have peace and joy in their hearts. Why? Because we are to trust in Him and God’s grace as we “*walk in the light and He is in the light*” (I John 1:7). Sadly, if Christians don’t possess the assurance of their salvation, they can’t have joy in their hearts. Beloved, this joy and strength found in the Lord, should naturally flow out of us as we have conversations with others. Berating people for not doing “personal evangelism,” and trying to get them to be motivated primarily from guilt, is not a long term solution to changing the culture in a congregation. We must be insightful enough to deal with the real underlying issues, and not just deal with symptoms. A better course, is to encourage and

strengthen personal commitment, and the Christian’s faith in the promises of God, and the “joy of your salvation” (Psalms 51:12). It is noteworthy, that after Isaiah promises us that His word will not return void, He says, “*For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace*” (Isaiah 55:12). Make no mistake, the most effective soul winners are those that go out with joy in their hearts and share the gospel with passion and love in their hearts.

#6. A lack of motivation. Let me summarize the problem this way. Why don’t most Christians share their faith? When my brethren sing “I want to be a soul-winner for Jesus”, I believe they mean it sincerely! The problem is not *motives*, but *motivation*. Local churches and evangelists need to provide appropriate examples and motivation on a regular basis. Secondly, it is not a problem of *want to* but *know how*. Christians need to be provided with evangelistic tools and shown how to use them! Once Christians are given a “track to run on” and begin to see conversions as a result, it is amazing how quickly a congregation can be turned around. It is not long until over time a culture of soul winning is developed that glorifies God and is edifying to all. Success breeds success and enthusiasm. I have seen it happen in several churches! If needed, you can be a part of sparking a revival in your local church as well.

We are saved to serve, won to win, taught to teach!!

