

SIMPLE SUGGESTIONS FOR SAVING SOULS **(James 5:20)**

I. Live the message.

A. Matthew 5:16.

1. The only way to let our lights shine is to live the message of Jesus.
2. It is only through being faithful to the teachings of the New Testament that God will ever be glorified.

B. No one will listen to someone tell them how they need to change their lives when they feel the life they are living is better than the one telling them how to change.

C. You and I are to be examples to those around us.

D. We are to be living out the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12).

E. Have you ever wondered why so many people were converted in the first century?

1. Think about the thousands at a time who were converted back then.
2. No doubt that it had to help that many of our first century brethren were able to perform miracles.
3. But I believe Acts 2:42 tells us a great reason why such growth occurred.
4. Those brethren were steadfast in their adherence to the apostles doctrine.
5. They lived out the message continuously.

F. We must live the message that we are preaching if we want to have a positive effect on others.

II. Love others.

A. We discussed this last week, but it really can't be emphasized enough.

B. Love for others leads to evangelism.

1. It was God's love for us that allowed Jesus to die (Romans 5:8).
2. You and I are to love others as God loves us.

C. I believe the early church had a great grasp on this as well.

1. John taught it a great deal throughout the letters he was inspired to write.
2. Paul expressed the necessity of love often in his letters as well (Romans 13:8; Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 5:2).

D. People need to know they are loved by us in order for us to have a positive effect on them.

III. Look for opportunities.

A. How many people do we know who are hurting right now?

1. I dare say we all know someone who is.
2. Have we reached out to them in any way?

B. A friend who is in the hospital or sick at home is an opportunity.

1. A neighbor who is having difficult financial times is an opportunity.
2. A stranger who is struggling to carry her groceries to the car is an opportunity.

C. Jesus told us to open our eyes (John 4:35).

1. There are people all around us.

2.I may be the world's worst about this.

3.I have to do a better job of looking for the opportunities given by God to evangelize.

D.We all need to open our eyes for opportunities to have a positive effect on others.

IV.Listen to problems.

A.Many people have a problem of talking too much and not listening enough.

B.When we see an opportunity and try to take advantage of it, lets not mess it up by talking too much.

1.What we need to do better is ask questions that will allow people to talk.

2.When they answer our questions, we will hear the problems they are facing.

C.Sometimes all we have to ask is "How are you today?" and we will get to hear all the problems we want to hear.

D.People all around us are hurting.

1.Things don't always go right at work or in the home and they may tell us.

2.People have physical problems or financial problems.

E.It doesn't have to be a stranger.

1.We need to listen to our neighbors and friends that aren't Christians.

2.Many times we get so enchanted with talking with our friends about the mundane things of life that don't matter that we miss opportunities to help them spiritually because we fail to talk about their problems.

F.We need to remember the words of James (James 1:19).

G.If we will listen to hear peoples problems we will be able to have a positive effect on them.

V.Lead people to scripture.

A.If we will listen, we will hear all sorts of problems.

B.What do we do then?

C.We can pat them on the back and tell them we will pray for them and hope things get better.

1.No doubt many of us will do that.

2.But we don't need to stop there.

D.There are a multitude of scriptures dealing with problems we face.

1.Solomon said there is no new thing under the sun.

2.People are facing the same problems other people have always faced.

E.We need to take people to scripture to show them there is an answer from God to their problems.

F.I like the article in the bulletin today.

1.We face problems and, to use the language of the article, there is always a number to call.

G.God is the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3).

1.He does not comfort us miraculously.

2.He does it in different ways, but one way is definitely through His word.

3.He also comforts people by using His people to reach out to others (2 Corinthians 1:4).

H.If we will lead people to scriptures that are relevant to their problems, we can have a positive effect on their souls.

From a book entitled "How To Have Biblical Church Growth" by J.J. Turner