

SOUL WINNING ACTS 13:42-52

Every Christian must wrestle with soul winning and will in one way or the other!

Soul winning as a technique	Soul winning+	No soul winning
Decisions &/ Numbers	Conversions &/ Fruit that remains	Miracle

1. No soul winning

- Rarely is this theoretical Hyper-Calvinism
- Usually this come from more practical causes

Things such as:

Isolated	Self-preoccupied	Extreme fear of conflict
Need to be liked	Need to fit in	Need to go under the radar
Shame	Fear	Age
Failure	Disappointment	Conflict
Pressure		

- **This is quite common for many / most Christians!**

2. Soul winning as a technique

- **This is the most common practice in the USA**
- **This come from the 2nd Great Awakening & Arminianism**
- **This view has the numbers & decisions to prove it!**
- **This view is dominated by numbers, decisions & excitement**
- **This view is always looking for never& better techniques!**

Sales:

Christian lite:

Positive message only:

Cultural compromise:

Music for the masses:

➤ **This view redefines success!**

If at first you don't succeed, redefine success!!!

John 15:16 Ye have **not** chosen me, **but** I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and **the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.** **Acts 2:42** And they **continued stedfastly** in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; **and the number of the men (τῶν ἀνδρῶν) was about five thousand.**

3. Soul winning⁺

This is, to me, obviously Biblical but also quite difficult!

Characteristics of Biblical soul winning:

A. The necessity of sharing / preaching / proclaiming the gospel!

This can and should be done in many different ways: special services, special meetings, Bible studies, relationships. . .

What ways are you involved in?

Acts 13:42 And when the **Jews** were gone out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles** besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. **Acts 13:43** Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. **Acts 13:44** And the next sabbath day **came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.** **Acts 13:45** But when the Jews saw **the multitudes**, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. **Acts 13:46** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, **It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you:** but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. **Acts 13:47** For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. **Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. **Acts 13:49** **And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.** **Acts 13:50** But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. **Acts 13:51** But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. **Acts 13:52** And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

Do we need to repeat the obvious?

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Matthew 28:20** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. **Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, **Luke 24:46** And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved

Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **Luke 24:47** **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:48** And ye are witnesses of these things.

John 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

B. A variety of responses

Acts 13:42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the **Gentiles** besought **that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Acts 13:43** Now when the congregation was broken up, **many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. Acts 13:44** And the next sabbath day came **almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. Acts 13:45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with **envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, **they were glad,** and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. **Acts 13:50** **But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.**

Such as:

- **Wait**
- **Conversion**
- **Fruit that remains**
- **Interest**
- **Persecution**
- **Opposition**
- **Confusion**

Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. Acts 17:33** So Paul departed from among them. **Acts 17:34** **Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed:** among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, **and others with them.**

C. An intensity of emotion / emotional responses

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, **they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Acts 13:46** Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. **Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, **they were glad,** and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. **Acts 13:50** **But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.**

It is impossible to discuss eternal matters and not stir up extreme emotions.

Is this why most Christians stop witnessing?

D. The sovereignty of God (grace) in salvation

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: **and as many as were ordained (τεταγμένοι) to eternal life believed.**

[Matthew 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus **had appointed (ἐτάξατο)** them.

Acts 15:2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, **they determined (ἔταξαν)** that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which **are appointed (τέτακται)** for thee to do.

Acts 28:23 And **when they had appointed (Ταξάμενοι)** him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers **that be are ordained (ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ τεταγμένοι εἰσὶν)** of God.]

Everyone engaged in Biblical evangelism experiences the same things:

- **People who are open & who never get saved**
- **People who are closed & who get saved**

Most people miss the obvious: No one is really open!!!

Some people are open to talking endlessly about salvation and some hate you immediately but all are closed apart from a work of God / miracle.

Why we believe:

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: **and as many as were ordained (τεταγμένοι) to eternal life believed.**

1 Corinthians 1:22 For the **Jews** require a sign, and the **Greeks** seek after wisdom: **1 Corinthians 1:23** But we preach Christ crucified, **unto the Jews** a stumblingblock, and **unto the Greeks** foolishness; **1 Corinthians 1:24** But **unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

When we believe:

Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: **whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.**

Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, **and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.**

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, **for to give (δοῦναι μετάνοιαν) repentance to Israel,** and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, **Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted (ἔδωκεν εἰς ζωὴν) repentance unto life.**

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, **2 Timothy 2:25** In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; **if God peradventure will give (δῶ) them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;** **2 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.

Philippians 1:29 For unto you it is given (ἐχαρίσθη) in the behalf of Christ, **not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the **author (ἀρχηγὸν) and finisher (τελειωτὴν)** of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

How we believe:

Acts 18:27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much **which had believed through grace:**

How does one explain this?

Not understanding → understanding

Disobedience → obedience

Unwilling → willing

Unbelieving → believing

Rebelling → following

Hating → loving

Rejecting → embracing

Running away → running after / to

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except his own inherent depravity and voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Of grace in Regeneration. We believe That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated or born again; **that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.**

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith. We believe that **repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;** whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Saviour.

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace. We believe That Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

Luke 24:31 And **their eyes were opened**, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. **Luke 24:32** And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, **and while he opened to us the scriptures?** **Luke 24:44** And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. **Luke 24:45** **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,**