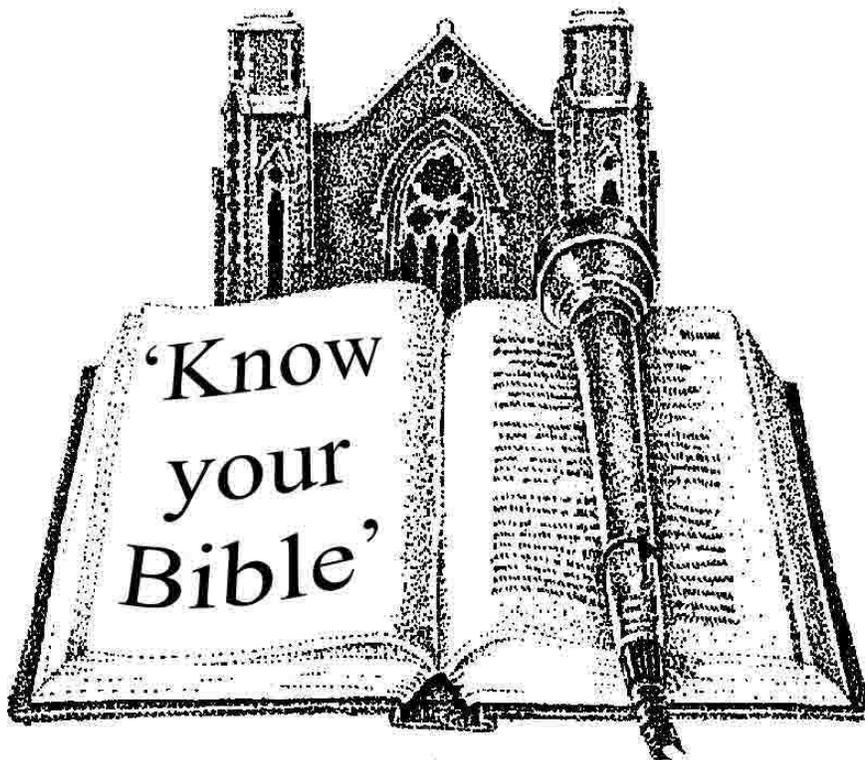


# ***Discussional Bible Study : Personal Evangelism.***

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**Study Notes by Stuart Olyott**



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## **Table of Contents of Study Notes by Stuart Olyott**

<b>Sermon Title</b>	<b>Page No</b>
Prayer :-	
1. The Gospel itself.	3
2. Presenting the Gospel.	4
3. Becoming a Christian.	5
4. Witnessing to individuals.	6
5. Dealing with difficulties	7
6. Helping new converts.	8

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism.**

## **1. The gospel itself.**

For preparation please read Romans 1:16-32, 3:9-26, 5:1-11.

1. What is the content of the gospel message in relation to –
  - a. God Himself?
  - b. man?
  - c. the relationship between them?Consult Romans 1:19 - 2, 11, 5:8. Acts 26:16-19. Luke 15:11-32.
2. How has God acted to restore a relationship with men?  
What has Christ done to provide a basis for man's acceptance before God?.  
Consult 2 Corinthians 5:10-21. Isaiah 53:4-11. 2 Peter 2:24. 2 Peter 3:18.  
Romans 3:21-26. Romans 5:6-11.
3. What are the great historic truths on which the gospel is based?  
See Luke 24:44-48. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.
4. In what terms is the gospel invitation to be put?  
John 3:1-21, 5:24, 6:35-40, 14:6-10. Matthew 11:27-30.
5. How does a person actually go about becoming a Christian?  
Mark 1:15. Acts 16:30-31. John 1:11-12.
6. What is the coat of becoming a Christian?  
Mark 8:34-38. Luke 9:57-62.
7. What is said about the greatness of God's salvation, and how exactly it meets man's needs, in the following verses? Romans 1:16-17, 5:1-5. 1 John 1:5-9. John 10:27-30.

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism**

## **2. Presenting the gospel.**

1. Are all Christians to be engaged in evangelism, or is it the calling of only some?  
Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20, 1 Corinthians 3:5-9,  
Romans 10:14-17, Ephesians 4:11, Acts 8:1, 4.
2. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in evangelism? John 16:7-11, 3:3-8.  
How should this affect our attitude to it? Refer to Acts 8:25-35, 2 Corinthians 4:6  
and Ephesians 2:1-8.
3. What should, and should not, be our motives when we present the message?  
Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:10-15, 1 Corinthians 9:15-23,  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Romans 1:14-16.
4. What does it mean 'to persuade men' (2 Corinthians 5:11), and what dangers are to be  
avoided? Acts 17:2-4, 17, 18:4, 11, 19:8, 28:23. 2 Corinthians 4:1-6.
5. What do we learn from the following passages about the place of prayer in evangelism?  
Acts 4:23-31. Philippians 4:5. Acts 2:42. Ephesians 6:18-20. Colossians 4:2-4.  
1 John 5:14.
6. Do our lives, as well as our lips, have a part to play in winning others?  
Matthew 5:14-16. 1 Peter 1:13-16. 2:11-17. 2 Peter 1:5-8. Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32.

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism.**

## **3. Becoming a Christian.**

1. What are the true signs that the Holy Spirit is working in a non-Christian?  
John 16:8-11, Luke 18:13, 15:21.  
How may we, for example, distinguish between a true sense of sin, and a mere recognition that 'My life is in a mess'?
2. Read John 3:1-21, which gives us Christ's explanation of how a person enters God's kingdom. What does God do? What does the person himself do?
3. With the following texts in mind, define conversion. Acts 26:16-19, 20:21, 17:30, Mark 1:15, John 6:29.
4. Should we ever press a person to repent and believe? If so, under what circumstances? Acts 26:28-29.
5. Should we ever make it hard for a person, or seek to prevent an immediate decision? If so, under what circumstances? Matthew 19:16-23.
6. How can we help a person who asks, 'What must I do to be right with God?'  
Give practical advice, and suggest verses or passages which might be used in helping the person. How would you explain sin, and the cross?

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism.**

## **4. Witnessing to individuals**

1. John 4:1-42. What practical lessons can we learn here about witnessing to individuals?  
e.g. how to open and direct a conversation: aim: attitude: etc..
2. In what ways is the conversation in John 3:1-21 different to that in John chapter 4?  
In what ways the same?  
What does that teach us?
3. In the light of these passages:-
  - a. How do we decide when to speak about Christ?
  - b. Should we make our own openings ; wait for God ; or both?  
Consult 1 Peter 3:15 and Colossians 4:2-6.
  - c. What can we learn from personal conversations in the Acts?
  - d. How do we decide to whom we should speak?
  - e. Should it be to all and sundry?
  - f. What did Christ do in this respect?
  - g. What is the place of friendship in evangelism?
4. How can we tell whether a problem raised is a genuine difficulty, an excuse for unbelief, or a red herring?  
What does Christ's example teach us in John 3 and 4?
5. How far should we go in trying to make the gospel appear reasonable?
6. What encouragements do we have in our task?  
See Jeremiah 136-8. Luke 24:49. Ephesians 3:20. Colossians 1:9-11.

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism.**

## **5. Dealing with difficulties.**

How would you help someone who said the following?

What would you say to them?

To what Scripture references would you turn?

1. 'It seems to me that Christ was just a good man, and one of the world's greatest ethical teachers.'
2. 'You're assuming too much. Who is God?  
How can you prove that He exists?'
3. 'Modern man has outgrown his need for God.'
4. 'All this talk about sin and God's standards is irrelevant.  
There are no absolute standards, and therefore no such thing as sin.'
5. 'It's all psychological. It's your craving for security that makes you believe in God.'
6. 'Why does God allow sin and suffering to ruin people's lives?'
7. 'What about those who have never heard?'
8. 'But no-one accepts the Bible like that today.'
9. 'I don't feel that any of this is relevant to me, and I can't be bothered about it anyway.'
10. 'I would quite like to become a Christian, but it would mean giving up too much.'
11. 'It's all right for you, but I'm not made that way.'
12. 'But I am a Christian: I've been baptised and confirmed, and am no worse than anyone else.'

# **Discussional Bible Study: Personal Evangelism**

## **6. Helping new converts.**

1. Assurance: A friend says that he has become a Christian, but is not sure that he has eternal life. How would you help him?  
Can he expect immediate assurance of salvation?  
Can a person have saving faith, and yet be unsure?
2. Progress in the Christian life: What should we aim at when helping a new convert?  
What marks of Christian character, attitudes and behaviour should we expect to see developing in someone who has recently come to Christ?
3. How would you explain to him his relationship to other Christians, and how it should be expressed?
4. What advice would you give to a new believer concerning prayer?
5. What would you say to him about reading the Bible?
6. What teaching to a young Christian should be given on the subject of temptation?
7. Could YOU have been helped more in the early days of your Christian life?  
In what ways?
8. Are there any things we should NOT say or do to young Christians which we would say or do to more established believers?