**Appendix**

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**Introduction**

**Our Personal Evangelism heritage**

Our first impulse toward soul-winning comes from God. We learn to love the souls of other people because God is love and has taught us how to love (1 John 4:19-21). The stories of godly people who have lived before us encourage us to take up the challenge and joy of soul-winning (Hebrews 11:1-40). When we consider that it was the love of a Christian that directed us to God, we feel the obligation and joy of teaching others about salvation in Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 1:5-6).

Our primary example of personal evangelism is the life of Jesus Christ. He came to earth on a mission from God. He taught multitudes, but He also taught individuals. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world (John 3:16). However, the sacrifice of Christ can only be fully realized and appreciated when each person considers that Christ died for individual human beings (Galatians 2:20). Every person who is saved comes to the same realization: “Jesus died for the masses, but He also died for me.” It is the realization of personal salvation that will urge individual Christians to bring individual sinners to Christ. In doing so, they are imitating the example of Christ who said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

The New Testament describes personal evangelism as a transferring of the mission of Jesus Christ. Our Lord came to earth to bring the message of salvation from God. The Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 16:15) transferred this mission to the apostles. When the apostles preached the gospel, the mission of making disciples was transferred to those who were saved. The chain of preaching and salvation has continued down to our time, and it is our mission to win souls for Christ until the Lord returns.

**Impediments to Personal Evangelism**

Those who are concerned about the salvation of souls and the progress of the church often face discouragement. A general enthusiasm for personal evangelism simply does not exist in many modern churches. Most Christians have become quite passive in their service and worship. There is a widely-held perception that only preachers, elders, and other appointed leaders are responsible for soul winning. This mind set tends to stagnate church growth and encourages worldly ways and attitudes. Gene Taylor (2005) has noted five reasons why more Christians are not involved in personal evangelism.

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