

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Larry R. Ping II

Paul penned, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Similarly, James wrote, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (Jam. 1:21). The words “power” and “able” in these verses carry with them the idea of “force” and “ability. That is, the Gospel is so full of force and power, it has the ability to change one’s life and eternal course. Have you considered the power and ability of God’s Word?

**1) God’s Word Changed Those Who Crucified Christ.** Near the end of Peter’s great Pentecost sermon, he remarked, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the

apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:36-37)? If God’s Word can change those who were responsible for crucifying Christ, it can change you!

**2) God’s Word Changed A Sorcerer.** As Philip came to Samaria, he encountered “Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one” (Acts 8:9). Yet later it is written, “Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized” (Acts 8:13). If God’s Word can change a sorcerer, it can change you!

**3) God’s Word Changed A Government Worker.** Philip was instructed to go and join himself to the “man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure” (Acts 8:27). After having been taught “Jesus” (Acts 8:35), the eunuch confessed “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of

God” (Acts 8:37), Philip baptized him (Acts 8:38-39) and he went on his way rejoicing. If God’s Word can change a government worker, it can change you!

**4) God’s Word Changed A Persecutor.** Saul was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord” (Acts 9:1). Nevertheless, he, after hearing the Gospel through Ananias, was baptized (Acts 22:16). If God’s Word can change a persecutor, it can change you!

**5) God’s Word Changed A Military Man.** Acts 10 records the conversion of Cornelius, “a centurion of the band called the Italian band.” Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and “commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48). If God’s Word can change a military man, it can change you!

May we let God’s Word do its powerful and able work, and stay out of its way!

# TRAITS OF SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL WORKERS

Raymond Harris

**1) A Clear Knowledge Of Jesus As Savior.** The unconverted church member can expect little success at winning others to Christ. You cannot interest others in serving a Savior you have never really served yourself. You cannot lead someone to where you have never been. A clear knowledge of Jesus as Savior includes three things. A knowledge of pardon through the blood of Jesus (II Cor. 13:5; II Tim. 4:6-8). Victory over sin through the risen Christ (Rom. 6:3-11,23). Absolute surrender to Christ as Lord (Rom. 6:17-22).

**2) A Firm Conviction That Every Person Who Has Not Accepted And Obeyed Jesus Is Lost.** Jesus came to seek and to save the lost! His awareness of mankind's lost condition drove him relentlessly onward. In like manner Paul admonished night and day with tears all who would hear him (Acts 20:26-32). We too should be tireless in our efforts to snatch our contemporaries from the flames of hell. We will become active soul winners only if we are motivated by compassion for lost and dying individuals (Acts 17:16).

**3) A Practical Knowledge Of The Bible.** The New Testament was given by God (1) to produce faith in Jesus Christ, (2) to convict man of his sin, and (3) to convey the terms of salvation. For us to be fruitful personal workers we must know our Bibles and know how to use them to produce faith, conviction and conversion.

Too often the zealous do not have the knowledge and the well informed say they do not have the time. Both should be ashamed! To hunger and thirst is to know; and to grow up spiritually is to have the time (Col. 4:6; I Pet. 3:15).

**4) Love.** Nothing wins like love. When we love lost souls enough to tell them of a loving Savior who died for them, souls will be saved! The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). The story of the gospel is that Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected to redeem mankind. Yes, the story of the gospel is that Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected to redeem mankind. Yes, the story of the gospel is the story of a loving Savior who loved us to the point of dying for each and every one. A heart filled with love will continue to tell of Jesus' love (I Cor. 15:1-4).

**5) Self-Denial.** Jesus said, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). Again he said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:34). If we are to be effectively useful in personal work or any other work for the Master, we must put away personal interest, our own comfort, ego, pride and personal feelings. Selfishness is by far the greatest enemy of personal work "Personal work" is submission to Christ for the welfare of others. Personal work will be thwarted and neutralized to the extent that church members allow personal feelings and

and desires to supersede spiritual responsibility. Remember John warned, "Love not the world or the things of the world" (I John 2:15).

**6) Prayer.** Here are some things for which we should pray: (1) The personal worker must pray for wisdom (James 1:5). We will need wisdom in every effort to lead others to Christ. No matter how well we know the Word, no matter how experienced we may become, we need the wisdom from above if we are to succeed. (2) We should pray for those we teach, that their hearts would be receptive to the word. (3) The prayer must be real, earnest and persistent.

**7) Perseverance.** A text that must sink deep into the personal worker's heart is this: "Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). Soul winning requires great patience and perseverance. Yet, no work is more worthy of our endurance and steadfastness. Many think they are personal workers if they extend an invitation here, offer a word of encouragement there, and express sympathy somewhere else. Flitting about here and there with little spiritual pleasantries is not personal work and such will not really convert anyone. Personal work that truly converts will be a consistent work in a situation where the gospel is taught, discussed, and learned.

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## FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm