

Kenneth E Hagin on

Evangelism



Kenneth E. Hagin

The Soulwinner's Crown

(Editor's Note: The following is taken from Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin's book *I Believe in Visions*. Rev. Hagin was ministering in Rockwall, Texas, in 1950 and had an open vision in which Jesus spoke to him about being a soulwinner.)

Jesus was standing there, and I stood in His Presence. He was holding a crown in His hands. This crown was so extraordinarily beautiful that human language cannot begin to describe it.

Jesus told me, "This is a soulwinner's crown. My people are so careless and indifferent. This crown is for every one of My children. I speak and say, 'Go speak to this one or pray for that one,' but My people are too busy. They put it off, and souls are lost because they will not obey Me." . . .

Jesus said that people selfishly say they are ready for Heaven. They talk about their mansions and the glories of Heaven while many around them live in darkness and hopelessness. Jesus said I should share my hope with them and invite them to come to Heaven with me.

Then Jesus turned to me and said, "Now let us go down to hell." . . . We went down to hell, and as we went into that place, I saw what appeared to be human beings wrapped in flames. . . . Jesus told me, "Warn men and women about this place," and I cried out with tears that I would.

How to Win Your Unsaved Loved Ones—Part 1

During my years in ministry, one of the questions most frequently asked of me is about how to get unsaved loved ones saved. This is my advice based on God’s Word.

First, realize that the Father draws people through the Holy Spirit. When the Word of God is preached, the Holy Spirit brings conviction upon people through the Word.

Jesus said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44).

Second, pray that God will send someone across your unsaved loved one’s path. Jesus said in Matthew 9:38, “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” We will discuss this more later.

I don’t believe, however, that there are any rules you can establish in soul-winning that will work for everyone. God might lead one person one way and another person another way. We always must bear in mind the vital work of the Holy Spirit in drawing people to Christ.

Sometimes the members of your family are the most difficult people for you to deal with. Very often, they won’t listen to you. Generally speaking, it is better for you not to try to deal with them. Now don’t misunderstand me—sometimes the Spirit of God may lead you differently. I’m just laying down some general guidelines here.

How My Family Was Won

I was a teenager when I was born again. Some of my family were what we call nominal Christians. They knew Jesus was their Savior, but they didn’t know much beyond that. Concerning my unsaved family members—and that included other relatives such as aunts, uncles, and

cousins—I was led by the Spirit of God to never mention anything to them about salvation. One way the Holy Spirit leads us is by an inward witness or inward conviction. I had the conviction in my spirit that if my relatives saw the reality of Jesus Christ in my life, they all would want it. (That’s true in the natural realm too. If you know that someone has a good recipe, for example, you want it.)

According to the Word of God, “Bodily exercise profiteth little: but **GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE** unto all things . . .” (1 Tim. 4:8). “Profitable” means that it pays off. Paul continued in verse 15: “Meditate upon these things . . . that thy **PROFITING** may appear to all.”

I never said one thing about the Lord to any of my near relatives, and I never asked any of them to be saved. I started preaching as a 17-year-old boy, but I never asked them to come hear me preach. They came, but I never asked them. I never said one word to any of them about salvation. I was led not to. I knew in my spirit that I shouldn’t.

Don’t Nag

If you nag your unsaved family, they won’t like being around you. Before I was saved and began to preach, my family never prayed at the table, but afterward they always asked me to say grace. I never said anything else to them. However, through the years, every one of them got born again!

I have noticed that the two most common mistakes people make in dealing with their families are these: (1) they try to be ultra-spiritual and (2) they overdo witnessing.

Yes, the Bible teaches witnessing, but remember the old proverb, “Actions speak louder than words.” That means that what you do speaks so loudly, people very often can’t hear what you say. This is especially true when what you’re doing doesn’t line up with what you’re saying. In other words, people who do a lot of talking may not have enough “living” to back up their witness.

I just let my life witness to my unsaved loved ones, and they saw something in my life that they wanted. I think that's the greatest witness, actually. Your life can influence your spouse, children, and other kinfolks.

Even though I did not witness to my relatives, I did pray for them through the years. I prayed for one relative in particular, who was going through some severe tests over his family.

One day I was in my hometown on some business and thought I saw a familiar figure walking down the street. This person's gait reminded me of that particular relative. As I pulled my car alongside the man, however, I decided it was the wrong person, and I drove on by.

After I had gone several blocks, it suddenly hit me: Momma had said this relative had lost about 50 pounds and that I wouldn't even recognize him anymore. I hadn't; he looked so haggard.

I quickly said out loud, "Dear God, save So-and-so."

A voice in the backseat of the car said, "Well, that's what I'm trying to do." It was so clear, I looked around to see if someone had hidden back there! Then I knew something instantly: I was wasting my time praying such a prayer for that person's salvation, because God had been trying to save him all of this man's life.

Pray for Laborers

A scripture flashed across my mind. Jesus said in Matthew 9:38, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

I pulled over to the side of the road and stopped the car. I bowed my head and prayed, "Dear Lord, I know it wouldn't do much good if I went and talked to this man, because I know he wouldn't listen to me. But there must be someone he will listen to. I don't know who that person is, but You do. Send someone across his path to witness to him."

Fifteen years of praying "God save So-and-so" hadn't worked. I prayed that one time for God to send a laborer across his path, and within two weeks' time, someone had crossed his path, prayed with

him, and influenced him. Momma told me he bought a Bible and started going to church.

After I had that unusual experience, I started examining the Scriptures. In the church circles I was in then, we always prayed, “God, save the lost. God, save the lost. God, save the lost.” But I couldn’t find anywhere in the Bible where it said, “Pray that God will save sinners.”

Instead, I found where Jesus said, “Pray ye . . . the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” The harvest is there just waiting to be harvested! We simply need laborers to reap that harvest.

There is someone who can talk to your relatives when you can’t. You need to realize that.

The Role of Prayer

However, believing for a laborer to cross your unsaved loved one’s path isn’t the only way to get him or her saved. You need to listen to your spirit for instructions on how to reach that person. Something will work for you. One thing you can do is intercede on their behalf.

Often when we pray for unsaved loved ones, we cry or just pray in the Spirit. We’re more or less trying to do it ourselves in the flesh. We’re trying to make God do something; we’re trying to force something to come to pass.

Actually, what we need to do is study the Word and depend upon and trust in the Spirit of God to cause our loved ones to experience salvation. We need to put the Word first. No prayer life is going to be successful if it’s not based on the Word of God.

Realize that getting the answer may depend upon you. The manifestation can come faster if the Word of God is strongly rooted in you. The Bible says, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17). In other words, your faith is stronger if you have a lot of the Word in you.

That’s the reason I don’t pray about some things for several days until I have examined the Word carefully on the subject. (Emergencies

are different.) If the situation has been there for years and hasn't changed, it's still going to be there in a few days, and you've got time to study what the Word has to say about it. Keep examining it. Keep meditating upon it.

Sometimes I have gone for days meditating on just one thing. After three or four days, I've found that faith is so strong in me that I couldn't doubt if I wanted to; the Word had built something into me.

Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." You see, it's after the Word of God gets into you that you're able to pray effectively.

Because the Spirit of God—not us—knows who can be touched, He may lead you to intercede for people you barely know instead of for your unsaved loved ones or friends. In praying this way, after a certain period of time, you will find that the burden of prayer will be lifted, and a spirit of lightness will prevail. Sometimes people begin to laugh. Many times I have laughed or sung in the Spirit. Why? When the burden lifts, that means the answer is assured, even though it hasn't been manifested yet.

How to Win Your Unsaved Loved Ones—Part 2

Some years ago, I was studying what the New Testament has to say about the authority of the believer. I wasn't even thinking about my unsaved relatives. While reading Second Corinthians 4:4, however, I saw where Paul said that the god of this world, Satan, has blinded the minds of those who are lost. I began to see something.

We need to break the power of the devil over our unsaved loved ones, because the devil has their minds blinded.

When I saw this truth, I reasoned, If that's true (and I knew it was because it's in the Word of God)—then if I can make it work on my brother Dub—I can make it work on anyone, because he's the “black sheep” of the family. There are many sinners, but he's the worst case. If it will work on him, it will work on anyone!

I raised my Bible in one hand, lifted my other hand to Heaven, and said, “In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I break the power of the devil over my brother Dub's life and claim Dub's deliverance. That means deliverance from the devil and full salvation in Jesus' Name. Amen.”

I had prayed and occasionally fasted for Dub for 15 years. None of it seemed to work. In fact, he seemed to get worse. But once I prayed that prayer, breaking the power of the devil over Dub's life, it was settled. I wouldn't even touch it in my thought life; I wouldn't even think about it.

About a week went by. Then the thought came to me, Oh, come on now. You don't believe old Dub will ever be saved, do you?

I started to think about the situation. And this is a critical point on salvation, on faith, and on receiving whatever you need from God: As long as Satan can hold you in the arena of reason, he will whip you every time—in every battle, every conflict. But if you will hold him in the arena of faith, you will defeat him every time!

I started to think about it for a moment. Then I shut my mind off and wouldn't think about it. (You can train yourself to do that, but it takes time and diligence.)

From way down inside of me, in my spirit, something sort of bubbled up. It came out of my mouth, and I started laughing—right out of the inside of me.

I said, “No, no, I don't think Dub will be saved. I know it. You see, Satan, I took the Name of Jesus, and I broke your power over Dub and claimed his deliverance from you and his full salvation.”

If the devil could have gotten me to start thinking, Well, I hope he gets saved . . . I don't know whether he will be or not . . . maybe he will, I would have been whipped. But I just shut my mind off and refused to think about it.

Within two weeks, Dub was saved.

This is just one way of praying for the salvation of a loved one. I prayed for other relatives differently as the Lord led me to pray.

It all comes back to the Word and the Spirit. Every Christian needs to get into the Word and study what the Bible says on the subject of interceding for the lost.

Often people pray incorrectly and open the door to the devil. They pray, “Lord, bring them in at any cost.” But Jesus has already paid the cost! People will say about someone, “Well, God used that tragedy to bring him to salvation.” But that kind of thinking is not in line with the Bible.

People have gotten saved in times of war when bombs were dropping, but that wasn't God's way of bringing them in! Of course, He's there when people turn to Him, but you needn't pray tragedies upon people to make them turn to God!

Also, you must depend on the Spirit of God, and you must use wisdom to know when to speak to your unsaved loved ones and when to keep your mouth shut. All the while, of course, you're to pray for them.

I never doubted that my immediate family would be saved. My wife was saved when we were married, and later we had two children. The

thought never occurred to me that my children wouldn't be saved. I knew they would.

God does deal with families, and the man should take the lead. Most of the time, when the husband becomes a Christian, walks with God, is the head of his house, prays, and has family devotions, the family will follow him.

When it comes to parents "claiming" their family, they have to do some things. They must train up a child in the way he should go (Prov. 22:6). They must bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4), teaching him the Word.

Young people trying to minister to their unsaved parents also need to be led by the Spirit. I know of children and teenagers who got saved and then led their parents to the Lord. On the other hand, I know of teenagers who got saved and caused a division between themselves and their parents because they pushed things too fast and too hard in witnessing.

You can be interested in others and be burdened for them, but you can't lay down ironclad rules and say, "I can claim someone else's salvation," just because you want them to be saved. Of course we want everyone to be saved, but the other person has something to do with it. A person's will is involved in accepting or rejecting Christ.

Once the power of the devil is broken over people, if they're free to make a choice, they usually will make the right choice. If their mind is blinded, of course, they can't make the right choice. But as a usual thing, people will come to the Lord once Satan's power over them is broken. You can't say it will happen 100 percent of the time, because some people just willfully won't follow the Lord.

So we do have guidelines, and most of the time you can discover them by studying the Word. Where there are no guidelines, you must depend on what the Holy Spirit tells you to do.

Let the Lord send whom He wills across your unsaved loved ones' paths. You may want them to get saved and attend a certain type of church, but they may get saved and attend a different church. The main thing is to get people saved and get them into Heaven!

Whether or not people get healed or speak in tongues—they can go to Heaven if they're saved. In other words, you can go to Heaven with a sick body, but you can't go to Heaven with a sin-sick spirit. And once you're saved, you can go to Heaven whether or not you have the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Salvation is the most important thing.