

Marks of a Successful Soulwinner

Acts 25:1-26:32

"...he who wins souls is wise." – Proverbs 11:30

6 Characteristics from Acts 25-26 that will help you be a more effective witness for Jesus:

I. **TRUST** (Acts 26:22) *(in God's sovereignty and timing)*

- Acts 26:22 - "Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand" - "help" (Gk – *epicouria*), which means "help in battle" or "reinforcement." Paul saw himself as a soldier in God's army, receiving supernatural reinforcements at just the right moment. God's help is available to every believer who trusts in His sovereignty.
- See also Proverbs 3:5-6.
- **APPLICATION** - Ask God to open doors for you to witness, and trust Him for when the time is right. Your job is to be ready to share (1 Peter 3:15).

II. **TACT** (Acts 26:2-3) *(wisdom in approach and timing)*

- Acts 26:2-3 - "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I may answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently."
- See also Colossians 4:6.
- **APPLICATION** - Learn to read people and adapt your approach accordingly. What works with one person may not work with another.

III. **TESTIMONY** (Acts 26:9-16)

- See also 1 Timothy 1:15-16.
- "I gave my voice against them," he said. According to biblical law, when someone was to be stoned to death, "the hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death" (Deut. 17:7). Paul had on his hands the blood of those he had brought to death in his hatred of Christianity in its early days.¹

¹ John Phillips, *Exploring Acts: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp., 2009), Ac 26:10.

- “I gave my voice against them” literally means “I cast my vote.” The phrase means he threw down his pebble in the ancient voting system. Black pebbles meant death; white pebbles meant acquittal.
- **APPLICATION** - Practice telling your salvation story clearly and convincingly. Focus on what your life was like before Christ, how you met Him, and what He's done since then. Practice makes permanent.

IV. **TRUTH** (Acts 25:19; 26:18, 23)

- Acts 26:18 - “to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me”
- Acts 26:23 - “that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”
- Acts 25:19 - “they had some questions against him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.”
- See also Romans 1:16.
- **APPLICATION** - While you should be tactful in your approach, never water down the truth. The gospel includes the reality of sin, the necessity of repentance, and salvation through Christ alone.

V. **TENACITY** (Acts 26:19-20)

- See also 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- “repent” (Gk - *metanoeo*) in v. 19 – “to change one's mind completely, resulting in a change of direction.”
- **APPLICATION** - Expect opposition when you witness for Christ. Some will reject your message, others will ridicule you, but don't give up. Your faithfulness may plant seeds that others will water.

VI. **TENDERNESS** (Acts 26:26-29) (*genuine love for the lost*)

- Acts 26:29 - “And Paul said, 'I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.'”
- Romans 9:2-3 - “that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh”
- **APPLICATION** – Ask yourself the question, “Are you witnessing because you love people or because you want to win arguments?” Genuine love will make your witness more effective and credible.

***Almost persuaded, now to believe, Almost persuaded, Christ to receive.
Seems now some soul to say, Go, Spirit, go thy way; Some more convenient day,
On Thee I'll call.
(an evangelistic hymn based on Agrippa's "almost persuaded" response)***