

PHILIP: MOST WORTHWHILE WORK IN THE WORLD *John 1:35-51*

by Francis Dixon

In this study we see how Philip brought Nathanael to Jesus, and how we, as followers of Christ, are to engage in the task of soul-winning. From our reading, John and Andrew found the Lord through John the Baptist (verses 35-37); second, Andrew found Peter (verses 40-42); third, Jesus found Philip (verse 43); and fourth, Philip found Nathanael (verse 45). Each of these individuals was found by someone. What do we learn as we look at Philip who found Nathanael?

There are three tremendous words in verse 45: "Philip found Nathanael". Think what it meant for Nathanael when Philip found him: it meant he was saved, brought into fellowship with the Lord, transformed and thrust out into His service. Think what this work means in the light of James 5:19-20 and Daniel 12:3. An evangelist once asked himself, "What shall I, in thousands of years' time, wish I had done?" We may judge the importance and greatness of this work when we remember that Jesus left Heaven and went to Calvary – to win souls.

THE MOST RECENTLY-CONVERTED PERSON CAN AND SHOULD ENGAGE IN THE WORK OF SOUL-WINNING.

PRISONER TESTIMONY:

All my life my grandma kept her grand kids in church. I always thought it was boring so I skipped out. After reading "Hustling for Jesus" in the Challenge newspaper that came into the prison, it felt like they were talking to me. I felt every word they were saying. I held back tears cause everything they were saying was true. It wasn't until I received Challenge that I really believed people of my kind of sins can be forgiven. I prayed that night if there really is a God he had to know my addiction. I asked God for forgiveness and to wash my sins away. I want to let you know one more sheep has been found by Jesus! Prisoner M in Ohio

PRAISE the Lord for:

- ★ A number of significant gifts coming in for specific overseas projects. This funding enables us to continue developing and growing the paper in the nominated countries
- ★ His protection over the Challenge building as we closed the office for a week over Christmas period
- ★ A number of really encouraging notes and phone calls regarding our Christmas edition of Challenge. We always strive to get the right content balance

Philip had only just found the Lord himself, and at once he set out to seek Nathanael (verses 44-46). He certainly lost no time, but why should he lose any time? He had made a tremendous discovery. How long should he have waited before sharing his discovery with someone else? Philip had the prime qualification for being a soul-winner – he knew the Lord personally; and if you know the Lord as your own personal Saviour you are at once qualified to begin this work of soul-winning. The best preparation for this is a heart full of love for the Lord Himself, so do not imagine that you are too young a Christian or do not have the necessary gifts to tell someone what you know of the Lord and to commend Him to them – and the best time to start is now!

THE MOST POWERFUL MEDIUM THAT GOD BLESSES IN THE SALVATION OF SINNERS IS THE PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF BELIEVERS.

The Lord always uses His Word to produce the miracle of conversation – look up Psalm 19:7, and compare 1 Corinthians 1:21; but often the first contact or impression is made upon a soul by the personal testimony of a Christian. It was so here, and verse 45 tells us about the kind of testimony we should give:-

Continued over

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

WWW.CHALLENGENEWS.ORG

PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311
Email: info@challengenews.org

1. Our testimony should be INFORMAL, as Philip's was. There was nothing sophisticated or clever about it; it was given in simple, heart-to-heart language.
2. Our testimony must be INFORMED. Verse 45 indicates this. Philip knew his man, but he also knew the scriptures and he was therefore able to draw upon his knowledge of the Word of God when seeking to make a point of contact with Nathanael.
3. Our testimony must be INFECTIOUS. It is obvious from verse 45 that Philip was passionate in his appeal to Nathanael; he meant business, and doubtless when he spoke his eyes flashed, his face lit up and his words were warm and moving.

If all God's people had a testimony like this and gave it like this there would soon be a very wonderful movement of the Spirit of God upon the hearts and lives of many who are now dead in their trespasses and sins.

THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF MEETING OBJECTIONS IS FOR THE ONE WE ARE TRYING TO WIN TO COME AND SEE FOR HIMSELF.

See what it says in verse 46. Nathanael was a sincere thinker, what might be called "an honest doubter", and Philip knew this. He knew that argument would not win him, but he also knew that if Nathanael could meet with Jesus that would do it! Most people whom we seek to win to the Lord have problems, but the important thing is never to argue with them! Do what the man born blind did – look up John 9:25; say to the soul you are seeking to win, "Come and see for yourself!"

THE MOST GLORIOUS ASSURANCE WE HAVE AS WE TRY TO WIN SOMEONE TO THE LORD IS THE CONFIDENCE THAT HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT THEM ALREADY.

This is brought before us in verses 47 and 48. Long before Philip thought of Nathanael the Lord knew all about him and longed for his salvation – look up and study Mark 16:19-20 carefully. Soul-winning work is not primarily man's work but the Lord's, and He does that through us, His servants.

THE MOST THRILLING MOMENT THAT CAN COME TO US IS WHEN THE PERSON WE ARE DEALING WITH CONFESSES THE LORD.

Read verse 49, and try to picture the joy that must have filled Philip's heart at this moment. It is important to remember, however, that even if we have been faithful in our witness for the Lord it may not be our privilege to lead that one to Christ. Sometimes He uses us just as a link in the chain before He finally brings that soul to Himself.

THE MOST ENCOURAGING INCENTIVE TO WIN OTHERS IS THAT THE LORD HAS A GLORIOUS PURPOSE FOR THAT PERSON.

Read verses 50 and 51. When we set out to win anyone we never know what the Lord will make of that one. Nathanael became a disciple of Jesus, one of the Twelve. We may be winning a Wesley, a Hudson Taylor or a David Livingstone – but what matters most is that we should be trying to win one more soul for whom the Saviour died.

CONDENSED FROM FRANCIS DIXON'S WRITINGS. ALL BIBLE REFERENCES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.WORDSOFLIFE.CO.UK/BIBLE-STUDIES/](http://www.wordsoflife.co.uk/bible-studies/)

PRAYER needed for:

- ★ Upcoming trip [Feb. 22 - March 28] to USA for Carl and John, speaking at a number of churches and mission conferences
- ★ A full time Editor to free Carl up to concentrate on promotion and development of the ministry in Australia and overseas
- ★ Continued open doors to the gospel and the growth of the church in Cuba
- ★ The Spanish edition and discipleship materials to continue being allowed into Cuba



MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

With God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge financially :

Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of: \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

To be used for _____

Visa Mastercard

Expiry Date ___ / ___ / ___

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____