

# Back To Basics

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Number 6

A Monthly Journal Dedicated To Teaching First Principles

## SPECIAL ISSUE: SOUL WINNING

*Johnie Edwards*

**T**here is probably nothing any greater you can do for a person than being concerned about helping save their soul! The wise man penned, “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30). It is the purpose of this special issue of *Back To Basics* to stir and stimulate you to become a soul winner.

**1) SOUL WINNING PLACES YOU AMONG THE WISE.** We just read, “he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30). God puts folks in either the foolish or wise group. If God is to look upon us as being wise, we must be busy winning souls.

**2) SOUL WINNING INVOLVES TEACHING OTHERS.** Paul wrote young Timothy, “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). We have been taught to teach!

**3) SOUL WINNING IS ESSENTIAL TO SAVING YOURSELF.** Apostolic teaching says, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt

both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). It’s going to be hard to go to heaven alone for we have been saved to save!

**4) SOUL WINNING SHOWS THE VALUE OF A SOUL.** How much do you think a soul is worth – yours? Jesus stated, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mt. 16:26). When we begin to realize the value of just one soul, we will become soul winners.

**5) SOUL WINNING IS ESSENTIAL FOR CHURCH GROWTH.** Soul winning has almost become a lost art, and the results are that most churches are not growing and many are dwindling. Ever wonder why this is? We are just not winning enough souls these days – that’s why.

**6) SOUL WINNING REQUIRES AN HONEST AND GOOD HEART.** In the Parable of the Sower, when seed fell in four different soils, only one was productive. Soil in this story is the hearts of men. Until you find the right kind of soil in which to put the seed, “the word of God” (Lk. 8:11), there will be no harvest.

# Soul Winning Tool Kit



**Soul  
Winning**

**Tool Kit**

**Contents**

- Soul Winning Lesson Book
- Home Bible Study
- Correspondence Course
- Making Your Life Right With God
- Is The Church Of Christ A Denomination?
- The Blessings Of God
- Answering Religious Error
- Wood & Ruler

"...he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

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It is common to hear brethren express concern for lack of growth. Do you ever wonder why so many churches are not growing? Could it be that we are just not putting the seed, which is the word of God (Lk. 8:11), in the soil? Too many are content to leave the seed in the barn (Hag. 2:19).

Johnie and John Isaac Edwards have put together a *Soul Winning Tool Kit*, designed to help in the conversion of lost souls. The wise man said, "He that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30). The *Soul Winning Tool Kit* contains an eight-lesson Soul Winning instructional workbook and the following Soul Winning tools: Home Bible Study, Correspondence Course, Making Your Life Right With God, Is The Church of Christ a Denomination?, The Blessings of God, Answering Religious Error, Wood & Ruler.

The cost for the *Soul Winning Tool Kit* is only \$9.95 (plus shipping & handling). Order today and begin seeing the difference in conversions and church growth as these tools are put to use. Johnie and John Isaac are in position to come spend a weekend with the church where you worship to teach this Soul Winning material. To schedule a time for the Edwards' to come work with you, call 1-800-889-0338.

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# THE SOUL WINNING CHAPTER

John Isaac Edwards

The fourth chapter of John is one of the finest places to learn about soul winning. Here are three lessons from the soul winning chapter:

## 1) SOUL WINNING CAN BE DONE ANYWHERE.

Jesus came to a city of Samaria and was found sitting on Jacob's well (Jn. 4:5-6). A well may not seem like an ideal place for soul winning, but it was where the Teacher was and where the person needing to be taught was. So, He took advantage of it.

## 2) SOUL WINNING CAN BE DONE ANYTIME.

Jesus, "being wearied with his journey" was tired (Jn. 4:6). He must have been thirsty as He said to the woman at the well, "Give me to drink" (Jn. 4:7). It was lunch time as well for it was "about the sixth hour" or around noon (Jn. 4:6). The disciples had gone to buy meat (Jn. 4:8). When they returned, they prayed that He eat (Jn. 4:31-33). So, Jesus was tired, thirsty, and hungry. This might not seem like a very good time for soul winning, but it was when the two were together. We need to forget our own needs and see the deeper need of soul winning. Have you ever missed a meal to seize an opportunity to teach another?

## 3) SOUL WINNING CAN BE DONE WITH ANYONE.

The woman said to Jesus, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (Jn. 4:9). When the disciples returned from the meat market, they "marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?" (Jn. 4:27). The woman of Samaria may not seem like a very good prospect.

We do not pick our subjects based on our belief that they will respond, but on the basis that they are available and need the gospel. There may be those with whom many have no dealings, but they may be the very ones who will believe.

Soul winning can be done anywhere, anytime, with anyone, and it is as easy as saying, "Come." The soul winning chapter shows the power of an invitation as the woman of Samaria said to the men of the city, "Come," and they came (Jn. 4:29-30). Many believed as a result (Jn. 4:39). Can you say *Come*? Jesus provides the motivation and the challenge for soul winning. "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (Jn. 4:35).

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## WOMEN CAN BE SOUL WINNERS

Melba Edwards

**S**oul winning is not just for men. Women can win souls to Christ as well. Here are some ways women can be soul winners.

**1) WOMEN CAN BE SOUL WINNERS BY BEING GOOD EXAMPLES.** Paul told Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). The young and old alike can win others to Christ by living in proper conduct and setting the right example. In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world.” Then He said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” For some, we may be the only Bible they may read.

**2) WOMEN CAN BE SOUL WINNERS BY WINNING THEIR HUSBANDS TO CHRIST.** Peter tells us this in 1 Peter 3:1-2 which says, “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” Our husbands should see us as holy and pure in all things that we do. Peter also said, in verses 3-4, it is not the outward things we put on, but “rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” Are we winning our husbands to Christ?

**3) WOMEN CAN BE SOUL WINNERS BY TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN.** Who has more influence on her children than the mother since she is with them so much? What do they see when I am busy with the affairs of this life? How do they see me treat their father and others? Am I busy doing things for the Lord? Do I read to them the Bible? Would they rise up and call me blessed (Prov. 31:28)? Am I teaching them how to become a Christian? Am I teaching them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and that they should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Ti. 2:12)? We need to make good use of every minute we have with our children.

**4) WOMEN CAN BE SOUL WINNERS BY TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST.** The woman of Samaria did just that in John 4:1-30. After conversing with the Lord, she “left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’” Are we as eager as this woman was to tell others about the Christ, or are we among the fearful? A great motivating song is “You Never Mentioned Him To Me.” This song can take away any fear or excuse we may have for not telling others about Christ.

We can help win so many young children to Christ by teaching them in Bible classes. We can help win teenage girls, young wives and mothers to Christ or help them stay in the strait and narrow.

## FIRST CENTURY SOUL WINNERS

*David McPherson*

**M**any a wise soul winner carried the gospel to the lost in the first century. Please consider a few of them with me.

1) **ANDREW.** When the identity of Jesus as “the Lamb of God” was being announced by John, Andrew was seeking Him (Jn. 1:35-40). After finding the Lord, it was a priority for Andrew to share Jesus with others. “He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone” (Jn. 1:41-42). When you consider how greatly Peter would later impact the Lord’s church, Andrew’s leading him to Christ was no small feat. Is leading others to Christ a “first-thing” with you? Oh how we need to emulate the example of this first century soul winner!

2) **JERUSALEM SAINTS.** During the early days of the church much havoc was dished out at the disciples of Christ. With the stoning of Stephen, the persecution of the Jerusalem saints was taken to a higher level. But in the face of such oppression, these brethren did not back down but rather “went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Why willingly endure hardships to preach the gospel? Why not find a dark cave, hide out, keep quiet, and live peaceably? The value of a soul. Thanks be to God for their conviction and devotion to the furtherance of the word. May we go and do likewise.

3) **PAUL.** Paul the apostle came to be a very special soul winner of the first century. So

much could be said of his evangelistic efforts that are summed up well in his words to the Ephesian elders. “And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:18-21). Both publicly and privately, Paul courageously won souls to the Lord. Was it worth all the sweat, tears, and temptation? Those who have hope in heaven as a result must think so. Are previously lost souls closer to eternal life due to your instruction? If not, why not? Dear brethren, go and teach!

Truly, “he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30). May God help us to follow the example of these and other first century soul winners.

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# WHY ARE WE NOT WINNING MORE SOULS?

John Isaac Edwards

In the first century, “churches increased in number daily” (Acts 16:5). Today, weeks and even months may pass without a single person obeying the gospel in local churches. Our study takes a look at some things that may account for why we are not winning more souls.

## 1) IT IS NOT BECAUSE...

\* *Of any fault with God.* God will have all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:3-4). He is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9). It is God that giveth the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-7).

\* *Of any shortcoming on the part of Christ.* Christ came to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10). Christ died for sinners (Rom. 5:8).

\* *Of any failing of the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit has done His part in revealing the will of God to man (Eph. 3:3-6). This revelation is the gospel of salvation (Eph. 1:13; Rom. 1:16).

\* *There are no more souls to win.* Surely we do not think that all the souls to be won have already been won. Paul said, “All have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). As long as people are living, there will be souls to win. One just needs to open his eyes to see fields white unto harvest (Jn. 4:35).

\* *The gospel is no longer effective.* Brethren sometimes lament that the gospel isn’t as effective as it once was. The gospel has the same power it has always had. It is still “the power of God unto salvation” (Rom. 1:16). We just need to use it!

## 2) IT MAY BE...

\* *We’re not bold enough.* Early disciples were “bold to speak the word without fear” (Phil. 1:14). There is a great need for us to teach the gospel without fear or favor of men. Fear has a paralyzing effect on us. It keeps us from

doing (Mt. 25:25). We must learn to conquer our fears (2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 13:5-6).

\* *We’re not on fire.* Many seem to have lost their burning intensity of feeling; their ardor. The word of God was in the heart of Jeremiah as a burning fire shut up in his bones (Jer. 20:9). We need to kindle in our hearts a zeal that is on fire for the Lord (Ti. 2:14; Rev. 3:15-16).

\* *We’re too easily discouraged.* The devil will try to deprive us of our confidence, hope, and spirit. We often allow little things to get us down and we lose courage. We may get one “no” and give up. Don’t give up so easy. Be persistent! Remember Galatians 6:9, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

\* *We’re prejudice.* Some have a tendency to rule out people before even giving them a chance. We just do not know another person’s heart (1 Cor. 2:11). God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34); neither should we be! Many of those converted in the first century may have seemed like unlikely prospects. Take, for example, those on Pentecost, who crucified the Son of God (Acts 2), and Saul of Tarsus, who persecuted Christians (Acts 9, 22, & 26).

\* *We have turned heads.* Perhaps we are not looking for opportunities to tell others the good news. Many times opportunity knocks but once. There’s no telling how many soul winning opportunities knock at our door every day! Let’s “look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (Jn. 4:35).

\* *We’ve lost sight of heaven.* Sometimes we forget this world is not our home (Heb. 11:13). We have become materialistic; wrapped up in worldly pursuits. There is a real need for us to stay focused on heaven (Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-2).

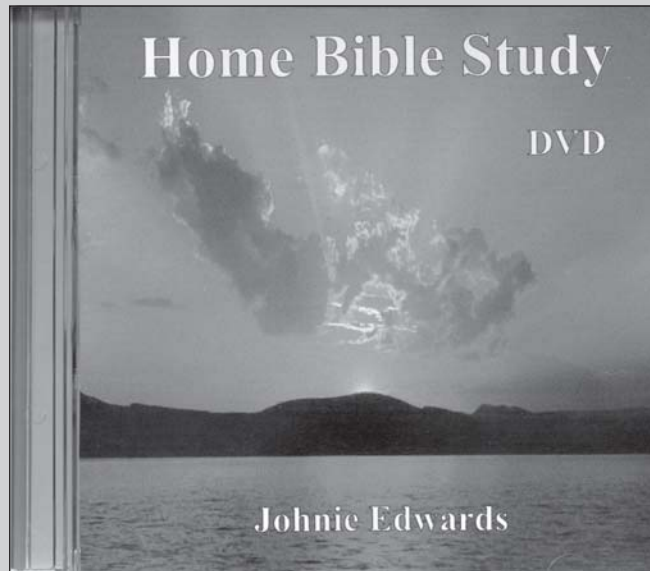
★ *We're selfish.* The modern philosophy is, "Look out for number one!" We need to learn to think of others; to share the gospel with others. "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Phil. 2:4). "And the things that thou hast heard of me...the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

★ *We lack know-how.* Know-how is the knowledge and skills necessary to do something effectively. Soul winning classes are needed from time to time, to help us become more effective personal workers. It is important that we learn how to win souls. How a thing is said and done is important. Paul wrote, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Col.

4:6). Do you really think you will ever learn how, if you don't ever try?

★ *There's a shortage of workers.* This is what it all boils down to. Let's face it – soul winning is hard work! Many times, we just don't want to put forth the time and effort required to do the job as it needs to be done. We would no doubt accomplish more if we would only work at it. The harvest is great, but the labourers are few (Lk. 10:2). Will you step forward and help solve the labor crisis?

Now that you know what the problem is, what are you going to do about it? "Go ye therefore, and *teach* all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Mt. 28:19).



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# WHY SHOULD I BE A SOUL WINNER?

*Tom O'Neal*

One might ask, "Why should I be a soul winner" when others could do the job?

1) **TO BE LIKE JESUS.** He came to seek and save the lost, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk. 19:10).

2) **BECAUSE GOD WANTS EVERYONE SAVED.** "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour: Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:3-4). "The Lord is not...willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

3) **BECAUSE MEN ARE LOST.** In Romans one, Paul shows that the Gentile world is lost in sin. In chapter two, he turns his attention to the Jews and shows that they too are lost. In chapter three verse 23 he says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Men may not know they are lost without Christ, but such does not change the fact that they are.

4) **THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FALSE SCHEMES OF SALVATION.** Upon every hand, there are all kinds of false schemes of salvation from men teaching error. Every false teacher has his own way for me to be saved. Men become confused with so many different ways of being saved advocated by false teachers. Such false teachers never tell men what Jesus Christ said for them to do to be saved. Christians need to be soul winners in order to teach men the truth which is heaven's way of saving them. There is only one way to salvation. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6).

5) **TO SAVE MYSELF.** Is it possible for one to go to heaven without taking someone with them? Imagine, if you can, standing before God in the judgment and saying that you have lived a long life but you have not been responsible for saving another soul. Paul told Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (1 Tim. 4:16).

6) **SOUL WINNING IS THE GREATEST WORK IN THE WORLD.** There are a lot of important jobs in the world: selling, teaching, practicing medicine, operating a company, and being President. However, none are as important as teaching people what to do to be saved. After this life, all people will spend eternity in one of two places – either in heaven or hell. Jesus said of the wicked, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal" (Mt. 25:46). James wrote, "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (Jas. 5:19-20). The "death" of which James speaks is the "second death" or hell of which John speaks in Revelation 21:8.

Somebody, sometime, at some place took time to teach us the gospel to the saving of our soul. They saved the most precious possession that we have (Mt. 16:26). The only way that we can ever repay that debt is to teach someone else the truth to the saving of their soul.

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# SOUL WINNING PROSPECTS

Donnie V. Rader

Without prospects there is no soul winning. Finding the prospect to teach is perhaps the hardest part of winning souls. There are prospects all around us. Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Mt. 9:37-38). Are there any people in your circle of influence that are not faithful Christians? Surely there are. If so, you have prospects right in front of you.

## 1) PROBLEMS IN LOOKING FOR PROSPECTS.

Some of the problems we have in finding people to teach are of our own making. Often we don't really view those around us as being lost in sin. Oh, if we were asked, we would give the right answer that those who are not faithful Christians are lost and on the road to hell. However, I wonder if we don't have a tendency to think of our friends, co-workers, etc. as being good people, fun to be with, who just believe a little differently than we do – with little attention given to the fact that they are lost (Eph. 2:12).

Another problem is that we plan our regular services and gospel meetings and expect the world to come just because we have put an ad in the paper. Some may, but most will not. We must go to the people. As Paul traveled in his missionary journeys, he went to the river bank or synagogue where the people were gathered to take the gospel to them (Acts 16-17).

Often we mark people off as not being interested, before we make any effort to reach them with the gospel. Sometimes the most unlikely candidate turns out to be the one who will be converted. Who would have thought that those who crucified Jesus would ever obey (Acts 2)? Who would have dreamed that those who were

adulterers, thieves, and homosexuals would change (Acts 18:8; 1 Cor. 6:9-11)?

2) **SEEKING THE LOST.** We must do as the Lord and *seek* those who are lost (Lk. 19:10). We must become fishers of men (Mk. 1:17). A good salesperson does not sit in his office waiting for a buyer to come to him, rather he goes looking for potential buyers for his product. We must do the same. Good fishermen don't wait at the bank for the fish to show up, rather they go looking for where the "school" of fish may be.

3) **WHO IS A GOOD PROSPECT?** Any person who is not a faithful Christian (which includes unfaithful Christians) is a good prospect. Let's consider some possible prospects:

- \* Friend
- \* Visitor
- \* Someone who attends regularly
- \* Co-worker
- \* Friend of some member
- \* Relative
- \* Former members
- \* Someone who has been disciplined
- \* New residents in town
- \* Husband or wife of a member

With these suggestions in mind, make a list of some possible prospects that you could approach about a home Bible study. Do this before you lay this Journal aside and you will be more likely to follow through with your list.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Kids Activity Page

Paul Adams

Memory Verse: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

## Soul Winning

P G Y N O T S G O O D A  
I O C V H S H O V X N P  
L V C K S J U O Q D E A  
I A N A N I A S R T H U  
H W A Y S I D E E N B L  
P V N M L X W R N J S B

Answer the questions below. Then find the answer words in the word search above.

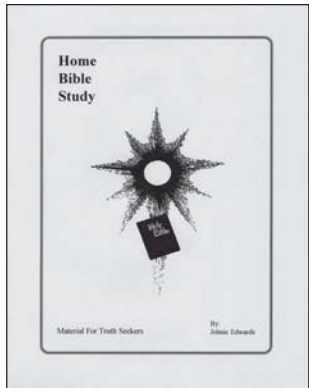
1. \_\_\_\_\_ found Nathanael (Jn. 1:45)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ found Simon Peter (Jn. 1:40-42)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ taught a Samaritan woman (Jn. 4:7-14)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ taught Saul (Acts 22:12-16)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ taught Cornelius (Acts 10:25-27)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ taught Lydia (Acts 16:6-15)
7. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ are 4 kinds of hearts people may have (Lk. 8:5-15).

Note: Only 3 of the hearts are found in the puzzle.

***"Suffer the little children to come unto me,  
and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).***

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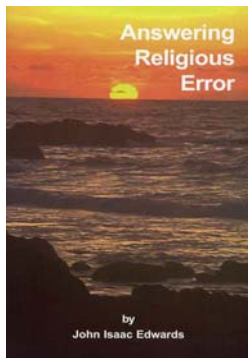
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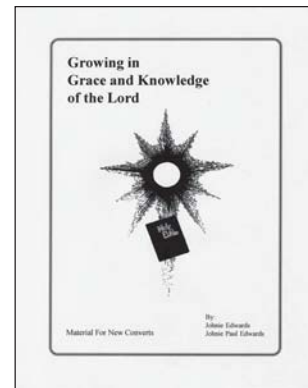
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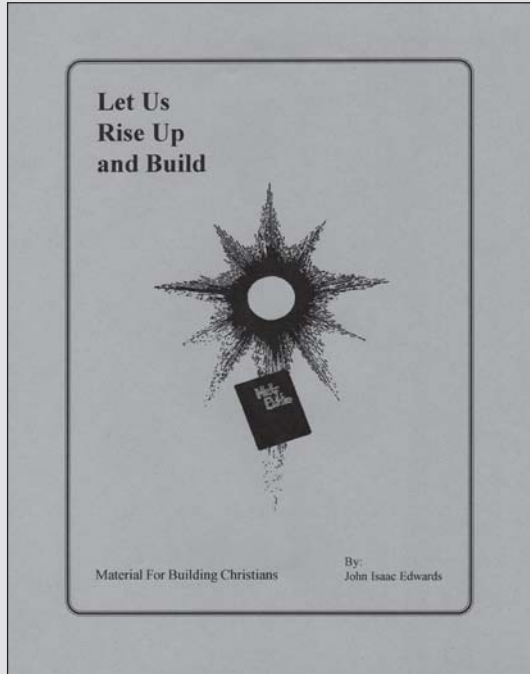
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