“WINNING SOULS AND GETTING THEM DOWN THE AISLE”
By Dr. Curtis Hutson

Dr. Curtis Hutson’s primary purpose in this booklet *Winning Souls and Getting Them Down the Aisle* was to emphasize the importance of soul winning and his subsequent emphasis on getting converts to walk down the aisle.

The principal objective of the church and our personal responsibility as Christians is to give the Gospel and lead others to a saving faith in Christ. This is one of the major premises of this booklet. An important point Dr. Hutson made early on was that soul winning is not a leading but a command. Every Christian is to win souls and the excuse of not having some special gift to lead others to Christ in order to negate our personal accountability in soul winning is unbiblical. Dr. Hutson offered a helpful suggestion when he encouraged the mentor to write down in the margin beside John 5:24 the date and time of the new believers conversion as a reminder of their spiritual birthday (p. 21). This idea is an excellent aid in giving Bible assurance to a new believer.

Dr. Hutson not only stressed the importance of soul winning, he also placed great emphasis on getting new believers to walk down the aisle. Dr. Hutson gave his readers the following statement to use when trying to persuade souls out of their seats, “I know it will not be easy for you, but even though you are a little nervous about coming forward in a church service, you still ought to do it because Christ asked you to do so” (pp. 24-25). Where are the biblical references for the statement, “because Christ asked you to do so?” For Dr. Hutson to equate walking down an aisle as a request of Christ is misleading and places upon the convert a compulsion that is not found in the Scriptures. An individual is saved by placing his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that can be done...
anywhere, at any time, without the aisle experience.

Many churches place spiritual significance on walking down the aisle. Throughout the New Testament baptism is illustrated as the public profession of an inward faith in Jesus Christ, not walking down an aisle. Dr. Hutson seemed to equate walking down the aisle as important as baptism. Baptism is a command from our Savior (Mt. 28:19), but our Lord did not command or “ask” converts to walk down an aisle in a church house.

Dr. Hutson gave many practical suggestions of things to say to lead a person to Christ and to help them with Bible assurance. He also reviewed the plan of salvation and broke it into very simple language to understand. Dr. Hutson stressed the importance of following-up the new believer and also gave several tactful ways of handling a person who promises to commit to Christ but does not follow through. Overall, this book was fragmented in layout but practical in application, especially in regards to soul winning.