

# The Guardianship Plan

The evangelist has been likened to the obstetrician, the pastor to the pediatrician, and the church members to the family. Conversion can take place in a moment, but it takes time for the new convert to grow to maturity. There is no condition more conducive to spiritual growth than the love of the church family. Fellowship is as vital a factor as doctrine and prayer if the believer is to continue steadfast in the faith.

It takes time for the new believer to grow. New habits must be formed. The simple practice of sundown worship, for example, needs to be taught. The new convert can often establish and learn this habit of sundown worship by taking part in this service in the home of a church member— your home.

If the new believer is the only Sabbath-keeper in their family, it will be desirable for them to be in a Christian atmosphere on Sabbath afternoons. They should be invited to the homes of various church members. As Spiritual Guardian, you should help arrange these invitations.

## *Quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy*

“Those who have newly come to the faith should be patiently and tenderly dealt with, and *it is the duty of the older members of the church to devise ways and means to provide help and sympathy and instruction* for those who have conscientiously withdrawn from other churches for the truth’s sake, and thus cut themselves off from the pastoral labor to which they have been accustomed.”

*Evangelism*, p. 351.

“After individuals have been converted to the truth, they need to be looked after... these newly converted ones need nursing, watchful attention, help and encouragement. These should not be left alone, a prey to Satan’s most powerful temptations; *they need to be educated in regard to their duties, to be kindly dealt with, to be led along, and to be visited and prayed with.* These souls need the meat apportioned to every man in due season.”

*Evangelism*, p. 351

“No wonder that some become discouraged, linger by the way, and are left for wolves to devour. Satan is upon the track of all. He sends his agents forth to gather back to his ranks the souls he has lost. *There should be more fathers and mothers to take these babes in the truth to their hearts, and to encourage them and pray for them,* that their faith be not confused.”

*Evangelism*, p. 351-352

“Preaching is a small part of the work to be done for the salvation of souls. God’s Spirit convicts sinners of the truth, and He places them in the arms of the church. *The ministers may do their part, but they can never perform the work that the church does. God requires His church to nurse those who are young in faith and experience, to go to them, not for the purpose of gossiping with them, but to pray,* to speak unto them words that are ‘like apples of gold in pictures of silver.’ ”

*Evangelism*, p. 352