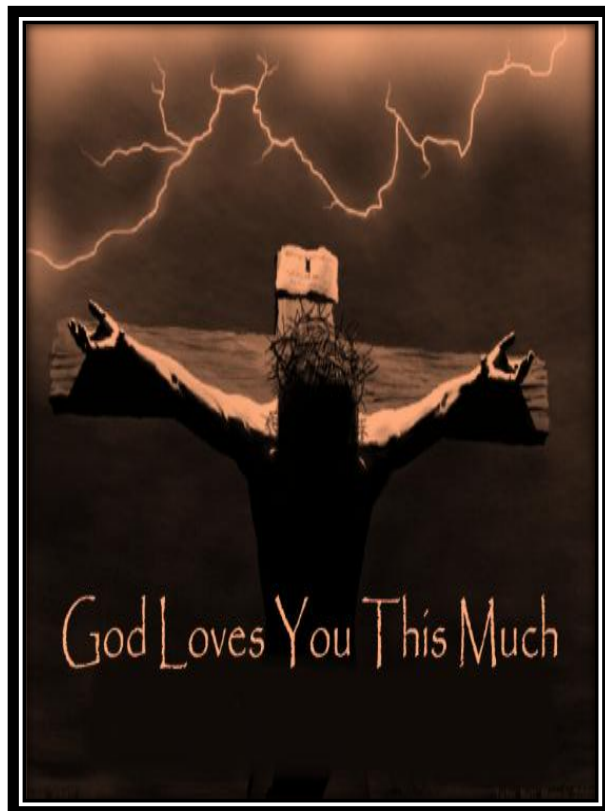


Introduction

What's your first reaction to this word "evangelism?" Whether you are a Christian or not, I'll bet it's not positive. Do you remember someone sharing a Gospel tract with you? Do you recall someone knocking on your door to share the Gospel with you? Do you remember being terrified as someone made you go door to door to talk with others about Christ? Most Christians do not enjoy or feel comfortable in sharing the Gospel message.

This is tragic because evangelism isn't supposed to be this way at all. To "evangelize" means to share good news. Everyone likes to hear good news, and most people like to share good news. If we perceive evangelism in a negative light, it's probably because we've seen a caricature of it rather than the real thing.

God's Love for Us



We cannot be properly motivated to lead others to Christ until we understand God's love toward us. In **Romans 5**, Paul writes about this love. Though we were ungodly, though we were totally helpless, though we were hostile to and enemies of the Creator, yet "*God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (**Romans 5:8**).

This love of God for us is the only force that can motivate us to fulfill our commission.

For the love of Christ controls us ...
(**2 Corinthians 5:14**)

"The love of Christ" is not love for Him that we produce. It is God's undying, eternal, infinite love for us, manifested to us through the Lord Jesus Christ, and produced in us by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22**).

When Paul says that this love "controls" us, he uses the Greek word *sunecho*. *Sun* means "together," *echo* means "to have and to hold, to possess and to control." The word can be translated "hold together," "constrain,"

"press on every side", "urge," "impel."

It carries the idea of someone possessing something and controlling it for his benefit. In this case, it is God's love that possesses and controls us, that drives us continually upward in spiritual growth for our good and His glory.

This driving force is available to every one of us. However, it will only be activated in our lives when we begin to understand it through the study of the Word of God. As we study, we see Jesus Christ more clearly. We understand, with progressively more depth and intimacy, what it took for Jesus to lay aside the riches of eternity and step in the flesh into time.

God has given man (men and women) a primary objective to accomplish while he lives on earth. Man is to represent God (act as God's visible stand-in) through rulership and reflection. Rulership means God has chosen man to be His agent and authority on earth. Reflection means that man should be a mirror so that creation can see God. Therefore, man should demonstrate and mirror by his thoughts, by his priorities, and by his actions, God's character - what God is like (divine attributes), God's greatness (positive superiority), and God's authority (kingship and ownership) to angelic and human creation (*Genesis 1:26-28; Job 1:6-2:10; Psalm 8:3-6; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:16; 1 Peter 4:11*).

What is Witnessing?

Witnessing is the communication of the Gospel to the unbeliever on a personal basis. It is the responsibility of every believer (members of the Royal Family of God; believers in the Church Age). *Acts 1:8; Ephesians 6:15, 20; 2 Timothy 4:5*

The Role of the Trinity in Evangelism

God the Father is the author of the Plan, *John 3:16; Romans 5:8*.

God the Son executed God the Father's Plan for Salvation and became the Savior by becoming true humanity, bearing our sins in His body on the Cross, and being judged by God the Father.

God the Holy Spirit convicts and reveals the Plan of Salvation (witnesses to unbelievers). He makes the Gospel understandable through common grace (witnessing through salvation) and then makes our faith effective through grace (after salvation, undeserved grace). The unbeliever is spiritually brain dead, and God the Holy Spirit must make Gospel information understandable. The Holy Spirit only makes real that which is actually part of the Gospel, *John 16:8-11*.

The Threefold Character of Witnessing

1 Thessalonians 1:4, 5

Witnessing includes the function of every believer as a Royal Ambassador. As a Royal Ambassador, you have a sphere of Christian service related to witnessing. Your particular spiritual gift is not an issue in witnessing; for it is the responsibility of every believer.

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

1. Witness of the lips (verbal communication): *2 Corinthians 5:14-21; 6:2; Colossians 4:6*

2. Witness of the life (a life of full conviction): *2 Corinthians 3:3; 6:3; Colossians 4:5*

3. Witness of the Holy Spirit (in power): *Romans 8:16; Acts 5:32; 1 Corinthians 2:12*

The Holy Spirit is the sovereign executive of witnessing: The Holy Spirit convicts "of sin, and righteousness, and judgment;" *John 16:8*

Doctrine of Evangelism

2 Corinthians 2:14

Gospel Message: Life, Death, Burial and Resurrection

Jesus Christ, in ***Matthew 28:18-20***, commissioned believers to make disciples. He authorized witnessing and teaching as the two ways in which we are to make disciples.

A. There are three categories of evangelism that have occurred since the beginning of man's sinfulness.

1. Personal evangelism conducted by all believers
2. Evangelism or witnessing is the communication of eternal salvation Gospel information to the unbeliever.
3. This results in an understanding that " *'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners' (1 Timothy 1:15)* and " *'whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life' (John 3:16)*.
4. Evangelism through the function of the spiritual gift
5. National evangelism through missionary activity

B. Personal Evangelism or Witnessing

1. Personal evangelism has three characteristics in ***1 Thessalonians 1:4-5***
 - a. Verbal witnessing (as God opens a door, you should be willing to share the Gospel and your testimony about what Christ has done for you.
 - b. Witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit, i.e., the filling of the Spirit
 - c. The correct mental attitude toward evangelism is expressed by Paul in ***Romans 1:14-16***. *I am under obligation; I am eager; I am not ashamed.*
 - d. The witness of your life (how people see you in everyday life)
2. The Holy Spirit is the sovereign executive of witnessing. Since the unbeliever has no human spirit, the Holy Spirit acts as a human spirit to make the Gospel real to him. (***John 16:8-11***)
 - a. The only sin that is an issue in witnessing is the sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ. Rejection of Christ results in judgment and condemnation at the Great White Throne. Personal sins are *not the issue*.
 - b. Common grace is the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in making the Gospel clear to the mind of the unbeliever.

- c. Grace is the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in making the Gospel simple and clear so the unbeliever can understand the Gospel message and accept (by faith) the Lord Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior.
 - d. According to **1 Corinthians 2:14**, the unbeliever cannot understand the Gospel apart from God the Holy Spirit.
3. Pertinent Bible doctrine, i.e., the Gospel, is the weapon in witnessing. The response to the Gospel that provides eternal salvation is faith in Jesus Christ as Savior (**John 3:16; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9**).

Romans 1:16 (NASB) *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* The Gospel is the power with reference to salvation, not our personality of presentation of that Gospel. (**1 Corinthians 1:18**)

- a. The weapon used in evangelism is the Word of God (**2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:22-25**).
 - b. The Bible is the absolute norm for truth. (**2 Peter 1:12-21**)
 - c. The Bible is the source of the Gospel. (**Luke 16:28-31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4**)
 - d. The Bible is the mind of Christ. (**1 Corinthians 2:16**)
 - e. The Bible is divine power. (**Hebrews 4:12**)
 - f. God's Word never returns void. (**Isaiah 55:1**)
 - g. God's Word endures forever. (**Luke 21:33; 1 Peter 1:25**)
4. The believer is an agent in witnessing. (**2 Corinthians 5:11-21**)
- a. Witnessing is the responsibility of every royal family member.
 - b. The witness of the life is found in **2 Corinthians 3:3, 6:3** and of the lips in **2 Corinthians 5:14-21, 6:2**.
 - c. The content or the core message is found in **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** "*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...*"
 - d. The believer must witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he must exclude every system of human salesmanship (over-emphasis of the Gospel message; not making it clear; causing confusion) so as to not create any false issue.
 - e. The believer must understand how a person is saved biblically.
 - f. Correct and accurate information is always the effective power.

- g. ***Romans 1:14-16*** declares our responsibility and mental attitude in witnessing.
- h. Believers must have assurance of their eternal security; this provides stability in the Gospel presentation. (***Romans 8:38-39; 1 Peter 1:4-5***)
- 5. Witnessing is the function of the Royal Ambassadorship. The motivation for witnessing comes from our priesthood and our love for God. (***2 Corinthians 5:18-20***)
- 6. Failing to make the issue clear is the great tragedy of witnessing.
 - a. Remember, Christ is the issue; not renunciation of sins, not argumentation and not giving up bad habits. *All of that is salvation by works.*
 - b. ***First Corinthians 15*** declares the Gospel's boundaries. Sin is not the issue; only faith and *Faith Alone in Christ Alone* is the issue. Don't add to the Gospel of grace.
 - c. Changing one's behavior pattern, personality, or certain sins accomplishes nothing toward salvation. Feeling sorry for sins and being baptized are false issues in salvation. Avoid using gimmicks which confuse the issue, such as emotional begging, public invitation, walking of aisles, raising hands, etc.
- 7. Effective witnessing depends on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in His convincing or convicting ministry. The Holy Spirit makes the presentation of the Gospel understandable and real in common grace.
 - a. The prerequisite of personal witnessing is knowledge of the pertinent doctrine, which is the Gospel.
 - b. The effectiveness of the message depends on the ministry of God the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Responsibility for witnessing belongs to three categories: the Royal Ambassador, the evangelist, and the missionary.
 - d. The dynamics of witnessing depends on motivation and mental attitude.
- 8. The Biblical pattern for witnessing is found in ***1 Thessalonians 2***.

C. The Gift of Evangelism

- 1. Some believers have the communication gift of evangelism.
- 2. This spectacular gift gives the evangelist the ability to gain the attention of crowds.

3. However, if the evangelist does not clearly present the issue of the Gospel, then receiving the attention of the crowd is meaningless.

D. National Evangelism or Missionary Activity

1. Missionaries face a language barrier. Therefore, they must first learn a new language.
2. Their second problem is one of strategy. The Lord knows where positive volition is going to be. It moves in every generation. The missionary must be very sensitive to where the Lord leads him.
3. Missionaries should be the greatest and highest of believers. They must be mature in every possible way, well-trained in all fields of Bible doctrine, languages, customs, and have great virtue.
4. The missionary must never become involved in the politics of the country where he serves. Nor can he become distracted by social work, the philosophy of the government, or any form of politics. The social Gospel and social reform is not his emphasis.
5. The missionary must depend on the Lord.

E. Remember

1. The Holy Spirit is the convincer, the one who makes the Gospel clear to the unbeliever (*John 16:8-11*).
2. The response to the Gospel that provides eternal salvation is faith in Jesus Christ As Savior (*John 3:14; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9*).
3. All right results in evangelism come from God (*1 Corinthians 3:6-7; 15:10*).

Christian Ministry



1. All Christians should have an agenda and as part of that agenda we should proclaim Christ in the most effective way possible.
2. We should desire to see people converted and become well established in their Christian journey through life.
3. We should want to see people grow in their spiritual understanding and live a life that pleases God.
4. We should want to see our church grow, mature, and serve the world by reaching out to it with the Gospel and with works of compassion.
5. We should have an impact on our local communities through evangelism and ministries of caring.
6. We should want to strengthen our families and to nurture the children in the Gospel.
7. And at the heart of this agenda is the conviction that God has charged us with the Ministry of teaching the Bible as a prime means of achieving these goals.

A preacher said to a farmer, "Do you belong to the Christian family?"

"No." said he, "thy live two farms down."

"No, I mean are you lost?"

"No, I've been here thirty years."

"I mean are you ready for Judgement Day?"

"When is it?"

"It could be today or tomorrow."

"Well, when you find out for sure when it is, you let me know. My wife will probably want to go both days!"

Romans 1:14-16

Evangelism and the Great Commission

1. **Its Origin:** Was given by the resurrected Christ to His disciples, and us, shortly before His ascension to heaven. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
2. **The Command - Given In Three Parts**
 - a. Go
 - b. Preach the Gospel
 - c. Make Disciples
3. **Starting Time:** Began on the day of Pentecost when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit from Heaven to empower His disciples (and us) as promised.
4. **The Goal of Evangelism:** To share the Gospel with the unbelievers of the world.
5. **The Message:** (Cross Work) Death, burial and resurrection of Christ
6. **The Plan - Carried out in stages**
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Judea and Samaria
 - c. To the ends of the earth (*Acts 1:8*)
7. **Power Received to carry out the Plan:** The indwelling Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:4-5, 8*)
8. **Authority to carry out the Plan -** Was given by the Lord Jesus Christ
9. **Never Ending Process:** An ongoing ministry (making disciples)

The Great Commission

Understanding Christ's Call to the Believer

Matthew 28:18-20

I. The First Component

The colossal claim - *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ¹"All authority has been given to Me in ²heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18 (NASB)*

1. **All authority has been given to Me** – In matters of things related to God (every area of our lives)
 - a. **As our teacher:** He has all authority to instruct us [all things pertaining to the Christian way of life]. No teacher has any divine given authority to teach more or less than Jesus taught [the Bible].
 - b. **High Priest:** to forgive sin [no one has that authority].
 - c. **As King:** to reign over our thinking (*1 Corinthians 2:16*) to regulate our moral and our spiritual life.

- d. **As the Resurrected Christ:** He has all “power” to raise our dead bodies.
- e. **As Judge:** to evaluate all Christians at the Bema Seat and to judge all unbelievers at the Great White Throne.

2. *Heaven and on earth*

- a. Note the totality of His authority “*heaven and earth*” i.e., it is universal in its scope.

II. The Second Component

The Lord’s call to make disciples - “*¹Go therefore ²and make disciples of all the nations, ³baptizing them in the name of the ⁴Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19 (NASB)*

1. ***Go*** – imperative – a command. This charge was given to men who were not known beyond the boundary of their own little province (men without power, political or militarily, fishermen, tax collectors). The point is this: they did not need wisdom of men in this journey for they were to declare God’s wisdom!
2. ***and make disciples*** – This is a high priority (if new disciples do not come on board) what is going to become of the Gospel message? Three things to think about:
 - a. When we are not obedient to the mandates of God – there is no evidence of love, reverence or respect.
 - b. If we do not teach new converts the truth about God’s Word (the world system will teach and influence their belief system).
 - c. If we do not pass on God’s truth (train) the coming generations will forget about God! A disciple is a student, one who receives instructions, a learner, someone to pass on the information.
3. ***baptizing them***
 - a. First, we share the Gospel
 - b. If they believe - We baptize them which is a testimony of what took place in the privacy of their mind.
 - c. There is one condition for baptism – FAICA (Faith Alone, in Christ Alone).
4. ***Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit***, - we have the backing of the Godhead.

III. The Third component

The Lord promises His presence: “*¹teaching them ²to observe ³all that I commanded you; and ⁴lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*”

1. ***Teaching them*** – There is one condition for baptism, but there are many conditions for spiritual growth and new converts must be taught!
2. ***To observe*** – means to guard, hold to, to keep, to be a part of

3. *All that I commanded you* – do not dilute the Gospel message.

4. *Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*"

Mission Field

Every church should have a prominent notice over the inside of the door that people use to leave the church, "**You are now entering the mission field.**"

The challenge to those of us who are pastors (and those who train pastors), therefore, is:

- ✓ Are we mobilizing, training and supporting our people for missions—not only by sending some overseas as “missionaries”, but seeing the whole church as engaged in mission in the world every working day of their lives?
- ✓ Are we helping ordinary working Christians to understand the world they live and work in, or just dangling before them the prospect of a better world when they die?
- ✓ Are we teaching our people what the Bible teaches about responsible citizenship?
- ✓ Are we encouraging believers to “seek the welfare of the city” where God has put them?
- ✓ Are we building a biblical worldview for sustaining Christian ethical witness?
- ✓ Are we helping working Christians to wrestle with the ethical issues they face in the workplace, encouraging faithfulness, integrity, courage and perseverance?
- ✓ Are we caring sympathetically for those who get bruised and crushed in their daily conflict with a hostile world, if that is what they face in their work?



The Gospel Is Truth to Be Defended



There is a battle to be fought to make sure that the truth of the Gospel is preserved, clarified and defended against denials, distortions and betrayals.

The fact that the Gospel of Christ is for all people, and not just the privilege of one ethnic community, threatens those who stake their claim on belonging to the “right people”.

The fact that the Gospel is utterly the gift of God’s grace offends those who take pride in their own achievements.

The fact that the Gospel locates the glorious salvation of the living God in the person of One who lived in obscurity

and died in excruciating shame is a laughingstock to those who want their salvation to come from a more reputable religious emporium.

The fact that the Gospel summons people to repentance and a radically changed personal and social ethic, riles those who want the benefits of the Gospel but resist its demands.

The Pattern for Christian Evangelism

The pattern for Christian evangelism is found in the New Testament. Several important principles emerge:

1. Evangelism is the universal responsibility of all believers (*Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 24:44-48; Acts 1:8*). Evangelism is a function of the priesthood of the believer. Every believer is a priest and is called to serve in that capacity (*1 Timothy 2:1*).
2. The activity of evangelism was not restricted to the apostles or special persons. All of the disciples gave testimony of their personal faith in Christ (*Acts 2:42-47; 8:4-6; 11:19-21*). However, Phillip is the only person called an evangelist in the New Testament (*Acts 21:8*).
3. The message the witnesses declared centered on the facts and significance of the ministry of Jesus Christ especially His death and resurrection (*Acts 10:39-43*).
4. Christians are to pay close attention to the message that they have heard and in turn continue to share it with others (*Hebrews 2:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:2*).
5. Effective Christian evangelism requires that individual believers understand suffering and intercessory prayer in order that they might fulfill their calling and thereby have historical impact in honor of Jesus Christ.

Christians who are relaxed create a natural, relaxed atmosphere for soul winning.

Christians who try to witness under extreme tension creates a tense atmosphere and has everything against them. They can't think very clearly, thus, they don't want to witness because they are scared! Their every movement and word are betraying them to the unsaved person. This creates a tense witnessing atmosphere. So the unsaved person puts up a guard because they realize they are being witnessed to.

Any Christian who has a wrong attitude will reap the spirit of fear. A person's attitude can determine his or her manner of thinking, feeling, and actions. Wrong attitudes will lead to fear, defeat, and discouragement in witnessing.

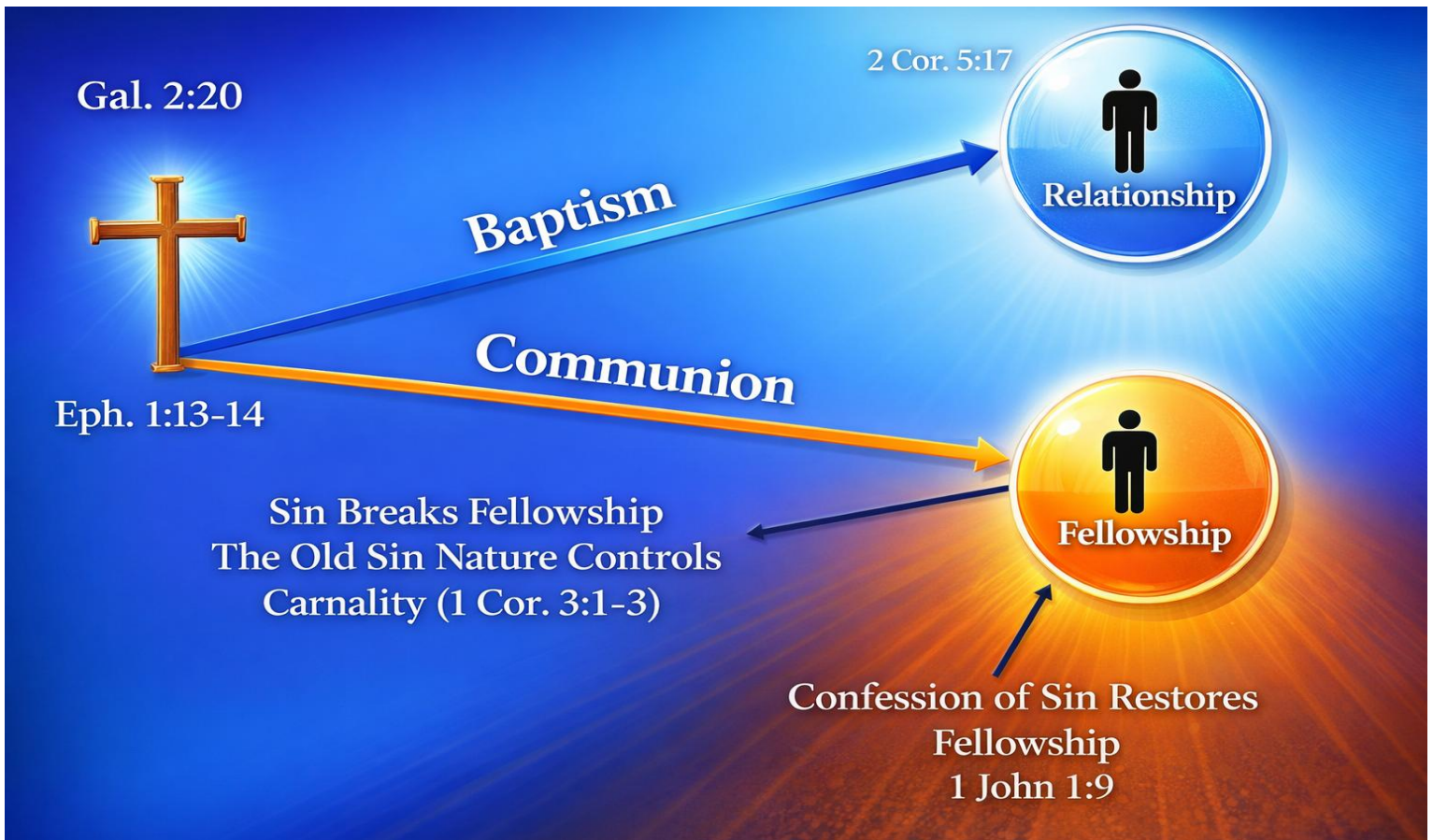


Some attitudes a witness must be on guard against are:

1. Don't feel competent -- Do not let your humility keep you from being a lifestyle witness for the Lord. (*1 John 4:4; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 13:5-6*)
2. Don't feel you are not led to go -- The command is for every Christian to go, and this should be enough if a Christian is living in the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Acts 1:8*)
3. Don't have the attitude soul winning is not important. Remember, God gave His one and only Son. Also remember what Jesus said. (*Mark 8:36*)
4. Don't think soul winning is a special talent for special people. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
5. Don't have the attitude soul winning doesn't do any good. (*1 Corinthians 15:58; Psalms 126:6*)
6. Don't say soul winning is a hard, gruesome job. (*Psalms 12:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:19*)

HOW I WITNESS TO ADULTS!

I start by asking them when their birthday is. I move from their birthday to accountability and what that means. Then talk about the road to heaven and the road to hell. If they tell me they are on the road to hell, I tell them they can move to the road to heaven by *Faith Alone in Christ Alone*.



Sometimes I share my testimony and then the scriptures. Your testimony should be flexible no matter what your approach is. The clearest Scriptures in the Bible on salvation and how to be saved are below. I explain the following verses to them:

Acts 16:31 - They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

"Fishers of Men?"

Matthew 4:19- And He said to them, *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

1. First, HE GIVES THEM A DESIRE FOR FISHING.

No one will ever go fishing unless they want to go. Ever watch a fisherman get up early to go fishing? Just to sit in the rain all day waiting to catch something? What makes them do it? What makes it worth their time? The CATCH! THE THRILL OF CATCHING A FISH MAKES IT ALL WORTH IT! There is a certain excitement, a thrill when you finally catch your first fish, and the next time you go fishing, you don't think of the inconvenience, you think of the catch. There are some inconveniences, some waiting, but when you finally make the catch, it's worth it! But we are not fishing for mere fish - we are fishing for souls!

2. Fishermen must be equipped to fish. You have to know what the Bible says on how to be saved.

- a. If you want to catch fish you must use the proper bait.
- b. One bait – different ways to use it!
- c. The bait we use is the Gospel. The way we use it varies depending upon who we are speaking to and the situation. But we always preach the death, burial and resurrection of Christ!

3. Fishermen must know where fish are located. We are in the world, but not of the world.

4. Fishermen must keep out of sight or he'll frighten the fish. The issue must be the Gospel and not our personality.

5. Fishermen rewarded when he never gives up. (Stay in Fellowship).

When you read:

Fish: think people

Water: think community

Types of fish: think lifestyle

Locations: think where they hang out

Tackle and bait: think evangelistic approach

Structure: think outreach events

Don't spook: don't argue

Clean fish: think discipleship



The ICHTHYS Acronym

I	X	Θ	Υ	Σ
Ιησους	Χριστος	Θεου	Υιος	Σωτηρ
Jesus	Christ	of God	Son	Savior

The fish, Greek *ichthys* (ιχθυς), is a symbol for Christ which has been in use since the days of the early church. In Greek, it is an acronym for Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior.

The origin of this acronym is something else again. It is not in the Bible. No one really knows who first came up with the acronym ICHTHYS standing for the Greek words meaning "Jesus Christ, Son of God, [our] Savior", but probably none of the apostles ever heard of it. We have some representations of the fish in the catacombs as a Christian symbol, but never with any clear indication that it has the meaning above as the early work. "The Shepherd of Hermes" also used the fish.

The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church posits the 2nd Century A.D. as the time when this acronym first came into common use, but opinions are divided. Of one thing I am fairly sure: early Christians - as we do or should do - sought to share their faith in Jesus Christ. They did not try to hide the Gospel "under a bushel". The idea that Christianity was a "secret society" and that members communicated by secret signs with the fish being one such has no basis in historical fact.

Indeed, all we know about martyrdom in the early Church which suggests exactly the opposite. Believers of that day were willing to give their lives for the truth in which they had placed their faith. They were not ashamed of being Christians and they did not feel any compunction to hide the fact.

The Issue Must Be Clearly Presented (John 3:18, 36)

- A. **Give the unbeliever pertinent information regarding salvation.** Christ is the issue; attitude toward Him is the determining factor in salvation.
- B. **Note the boundaries of the Gospel: *1 Corinthians 15:3, 4*** and remember that the Gospel is good news. It is bad news that man is a sinner; the good news is that Christ did something about sin on the Cross. Declare the Gospel clearly so that the person witnessed to is in a position to make a decision for Christ.
- C. **Do not add to the Gospel of grace.** Nothing is accomplished toward salvation by persuading the unbeliever to give up or feel sorry for his sins, improve his personality and behavior pattern, join a church, be baptized or give money. Salvation is ours by grace, not by works (*Ephesians 2:8, 9*).
- D. **Never try to force a decision for Christ. This is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.**

What keeps us from being involved in Evangelism?

- A. **Fear of Man: fear of rejection**
- B. **Reason: No organized approach or plan**
- B. **Reason: No commitment to evangelism**
- C. **Reason to Be Involved: Christ died for all**
- D. **Answer: Need for a Method**
 - 1. **Ability to think under pressure and keep the conversation natural.**
 - 2. **Keeps you focused upon what the Bible says instead of arguing against objections.**
 - 3. **Ability to tailor the method to the circumstances:**
 - a. **Be Folksy!** “People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care!”
 - b. **Stay on Track!** Learn to say, “That is a really good question. Is it all right with you if we put it off to the side and get back to it in just a few moments?”
 - c. **Never, Never, Embarrass Anyone!** “If you can’t win him to Christ, leave him so that someone else can.”
 - d. **Use It or Lose It!** This is true with anything in life – you will not be successful in soul winning if you do not go soul winning!

Keep It Clear and Simple

What does a person have to believe to be saved? I have heard everything from “Believe in God” and “Obey the Ten Commandments”, “Confess your sins” (or “Obey the Sermon on the Mount”) to “Just believe that Jesus loves you.”

Defining the Content of the Gospel Message

Nowhere in the New Testament is the Gospel laid out more clearly than by Paul in *1 Corinthians 15*. Paul reminds the Corinthians about the Gospel that he preached, that they received, and by which they were saved.

Christ died for our sins. The first proposition that He died for our sins implies that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. The word “for” (*hyper*) conveys the idea of “on account of,” i.e., to deal with our sins.

According to the Scriptures. The Old Testament Scriptures pictured or predicted the suffering of God’s Messiah (e.g., *Exodus 12; Leviticus 16; Psalm 22; Isaiah 52-55; especially 53:4-6.*)

And was buried. This statement functions as Jesus’ death certificate. It reminds the reader of the many eyewitnesses to His death. Only dead men are buried. Christ’s death was witnessed by multitudes, including the soldier sent to break His legs. The grave and body were also attended by Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, the women and soldiers sent to guard the tomb.

He arose. The second proposition attests to Christ’s resurrection from the dead, which implies that God accepted the sacrifice. A dead man cannot save anyone. A Savior has to be alive. Only then can His offer effect salvation.

According to the Scriptures. It is harder to find the resurrection of Christ in the Old Testament. However, it is there not only explicitly (e.g., *Psalm 16:89; 110:1*), but also implicitly. The implication is clearly that He rose from the dead.

Scriptures

Ephesians 1:13 - *1In Him, 2you also, 3after listening to the message of truth, 4the Gospel of your salvation—5having also believed, 6you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of 7promise.*

1. “*in Him*” emphasize the person and work of Jesus Christ
2. “*you also*” this is the person you witnessing to
3. “*after listening to the message of truth*” this is a salvation message
4. “*the Gospel of your salvation*” - a personal volitional choice - you must believe personally
5. “*having also believed*” put your faith alone in Christ alone – (now what)
6. “*you were sealed in him*” the Holy Spirit of God picks you up and put you in Christ - the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us
7. “*promise*” God will never break a promise he makes to you

Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

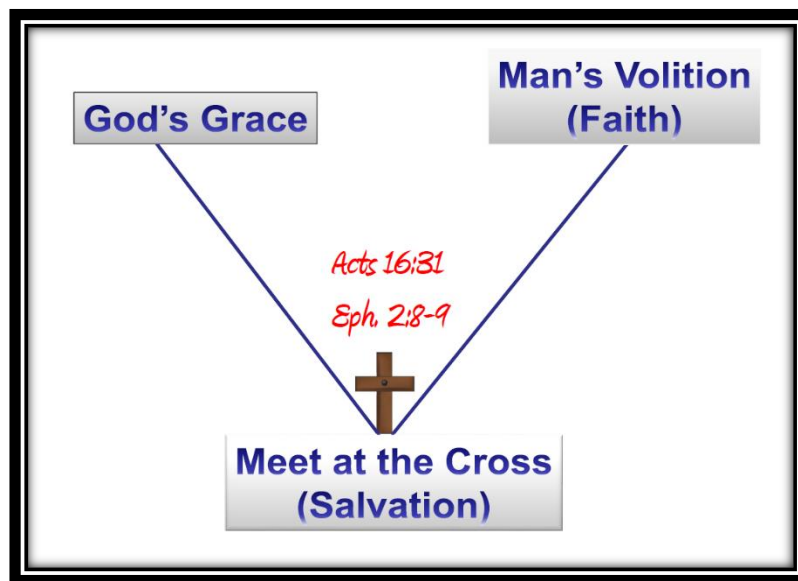
1. "And there is salvation in no one else" they are not many ways to heaven -

Acts 16:30-31 - and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



- God loves us. He wants us in His **family** (John 3:16).
- All of us have done wrong things. These wrong things are called **sins**.
- Our sins **keep us from being part of God's family** (Rom. 3:23).
- God sent Jesus to die for the wrong things we do. He died **to takeaway our sins** (John 3:36).
- The BIBLE says: "**Believe** that Jesus died for our sins and He would save us" (Acts 16:31)
- **When we do this**, He is glad to have us in His family (John 1:12-13).

F.A.I.C.A

Salvation by *Faith Alone in Christ Alone* is always the major presentation in witnessing.

1. Salvation is by *Faith Alone in Christ Alone* and has nothing to do with giving up something or trying to make others over into the kind of person you want them to be. In witnessing, people often want the unbeliever to change their habits, their personality, or something else as a part of the Gospel, but this has nothing to do with the Gospel.
2. When you try to work for salvation, you go deeper into debt as far as your relationship with God is concerned, ***Romans 4:4***. It is your faith that receives credit for righteousness.
3. Salvation by keeping the Mosaic Law represents all the systems of salvation by works.
4. Anything the spiritually dead unbeliever can do is not the way of salvation. Unbelievers can give up all sorts of things and still are not saved.
5. When any system of works is added to faith in Christ for salvation, the Holy Spirit will not and does not make that faith effective for salvation.

Summary

1. The prerequisite for witnessing is knowledge of doctrine pertinent to evangelism.
2. Effectiveness depends on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. A good public relations image is no substitute for the filling of the Holy Spirit. Human rapport doesn't bring a person to Christ.
3. Responsibility for witnessing belongs to the all believers.
4. The dynamics of witnessing depend on the believer's mental attitude related to his spiritual growth.
 - a. ***Romans 1:14, "I am debtor."***
 - b. ***Romans 1:15, "I am ready..."***
 - c. ***Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed..."***
5. Areas of witnessing include the believer's life and lips; both are necessary.

Witnessing is the extension of the believer's ambassadorship:

1. The believer has been given **the ministry of reconciliation**. (***2 Corinthians 5:18***)
2. The believer must **understand the doctrine of reconciliation**. (***2 Corinthians 5:19***)
3. The believer is **an ambassador for Christ** entreating the unsaved to be reconciled to God. (***2 Corinthians 5:20***)

Witnessing (our motivation)

I. Our Knowledge Makes Us Responsible

- A. *Second Timothy 2:15 (KJV)* Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- B. It is right and proper that we earnestly and systematically study the Bible and that we seek to learn all we can about God and His program. However, the knowledge we are given by God is not primarily to make us smart, but to make us useful, efficient and effective in our service for Him.
- C. *Proverbs 11:30 (KJV)* The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
- D. Dr. Lee R. Scarborough, who was a seminary president declared: "Let us evangelize our education and educationalize our evangelism."
 - 1. This is what we know about the lost estate of men.
 - 2. Our knowledge of the Redemptive work of Christ.
 - 3. *Second Corinthians 5:11 (KJV)* Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.
 - 4. What I know about Hell.
 - 5. What I know about Heaven.
- E. What will you do with your knowledge? Jonathan Edwards wrote in his diary:

"Resolved: That every man should live to the glory of God. Resolved second: That whether others do this or not, I will."

II. Our Blessings Make Us Responsible

- A. *Psalms 107:2 (KJV)* Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;
- B. *Psalms 107:8 (KJV)* Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

III. Our Commission Makes Us Responsible

- A. *Matthew 28:19 (KJV)* Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- B. *Matthew 28:20 (KJV)* Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- C. He was not giving advice He was giving orders.
- D. *John 14:15 (KJV)* If ye love me, keep my commandments.

- E. **John 14:23 (KJV)** *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

IV. Our Position Makes Us Responsible

- A. **Second Corinthians 5:18 (KJV)** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*
- B. **Second Corinthians 5:19 (KJV)** *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*
- C. **Second Corinthians 5:20 (KJV)** *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Points on Witnessing

Believers in the church age are to witness for Christ. God accomplishes His purpose, will and plan through us!!

1. In order to witness, you must know that you have been born again yourself. You cannot lead anyone to Christ unless you are born again. We are new creatures – something has happened to us and we want to share that with someone else. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - *Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*
2. Repentance means to change your mind about Christ, not about sins! You cannot do that until you are a Christian. God will then help you work on your sins. (Sins do not send anyone to hell)
3. Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer. **2 Timothy 4:5** - *But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*
4. The effectiveness of your work as an evangelist or a witness – depends upon your understanding of the doctrine of the last judgment. (**Revelation 20**)
5. Witnessing is impossible apart from the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit. Let the Holy Spirit do His work. We witness: give the truth and leave it there – then let the Holy Spirit do the convicting – not us. **1 Thessalonians 1:5** - *for our Gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.*
6. The scripture to use in witnessing is the Gospel message which is the scripture about the life, death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Do not bring up scripture about other issues that don't apply.
7. The dynamics of witnessing depends upon the believer's mental attitude. **Romans 1:16** - *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* I believe there is a real Hell and people are going there because they rejected Christ.

Matthew Study – Witnessing

POD: No sin is too great to prevent a sinner from becoming part of God's Royal Family.

We became part of God's Royal Family by grace through *Faith Alone in Christ Alone*.

No sinner is beyond God's saving grace; we must be faithful to share the Gospel whenever the Lord provides the opportunity! TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY!!

Communicating the Content

Saying too little: People can be told that God loves them, but certainly that is not enough to save them. They can be convinced they are terrible sinners, but still not know how to deal with that sin.

Saying too much: A witness is not the time to dump our "smartness" on a bewildered unbeliever. Too often we try to give too much Biblical data. If we start in Genesis, there's good chance we will lose our audience by Leviticus. How much Bible did Jesus use with the woman at the well, *John 4*, or Paul with the Philippian jailer, *Acts 16*? We can tell people only what they need to know from the Bible to be saved.

Conclusion: We must tell the Gospel as clearly as possible. Not always will we succeed. But isn't it a wonderful fact of life that God can still use us in spite of the misplaced approaches and methods that we use? We know, however, that He can accomplish more through us according to how clear and Biblical our message and our methods are. Given all that is at stake, we want to share the Good News as clearly as possible in a way that is pleasing God, not just convenient to men.

We give the last word to the Bible: *1 Thessalonians 2:4* but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.

Notes on Personal Witnessing

Witnessing for Christ is the responsibility of every believer. *Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Mark 5:18-19*. The effectiveness and clarity of the believer's witnessing depends, in large measure, on his understanding of the Last Judgment. Sins will not be the issue! The only reason that a person will stand at the Last Judgment is that he rejected Christ during his lifetime. *John 3:18, 3:36*. All sins have been judged at the Cross, and there is no double jeopardy. The basis for the indictment of unbelievers is human good, not sins. The witnessing Christian must make the issue clear.

Witnessing is impossible apart from the filling of the Holy Spirit. *John 16:8-11* The Holy Spirit must minister to the unbeliever to apply the doctrine of salvation. The context for witnessing is that part of the Word of God called the Gospel. *1 Corinthians 1:18; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12*.

The dynamics of witnessing depends on the believer's mental attitude. One cannot be an effective witness if he is ashamed of the Gospel, if he does not have the capacity to be occupied with Christ, or if he is not oriented to Grace.

There are two sources for a Christian's witness:

1. The testimony of his life – *2 Corinthians 3:3*
2. The testimony of his lips – *2 Corinthians 5:14-21*

There is a reward for witnessing. *1 Corinthians 3:11-16; 2 Corinthians 5:10*. Rewards in heaven are an extension of edification; the only things that are rewarded in heaven are the things done on the basis of Grace. Thus, every reward in heaven is an eternal memorial to the grace of God.

POD: No sin is too great to remove the believer from God's Royal Family once he has been placed there through faith in Christ. John 7:38; Galatians 4:5; Romans 8:15

Abba Father teaches there is cooperation between the believer and the Holy Spirit

POD: The Holy Spirit is always willing but that is not the case with us.

Old Testament law (visible) – visible mentor, the Lord Jesus Christ to the invisible mentor, the Holy Spirit. You can know but not see! Indwelling (absolute) at the moment of salvation. The Foundation of the Christian Way of Life – growth, advancement, maturity in the Holy Spirit. The Fountainhead from which the leading ministry flows is the filling of the Holy Spirit. You will be at the right place at the right time doing what the Lord wants you to be doing.

The protocol of prayer sets God in motion to answer, for His greatest glory, at the right time, at the right place and where we least expect it.

Go to *Matthew 1:16-18* then *Hebrews 10:5-7* then *1 Peter 2:24*

Before the Royal King enters human history, He has to be announced. This was the job of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:5ff – we found a problem – Zacharias & Elizabeth were childless. Problem Solved: God answered their prayer.

Three things for the believer living today to be at the right place at the right time.

1. Volition – to do what God would have you to do.
2. The Providential Hand of God – to direct the circumstances, to place you where you need to be, when you need to be there.
3. The Leading of the Holy Spirit.

POD: When the believer is fulfilling the responsibilities of his priesthood, he will always be at the right place at the right time, doing what God wants him to do.

Zacharias was doing the will of God in the time in which he lived. *James 5:16b* ...*The effective* (the operational) *prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much* (is accomplishing great things.)

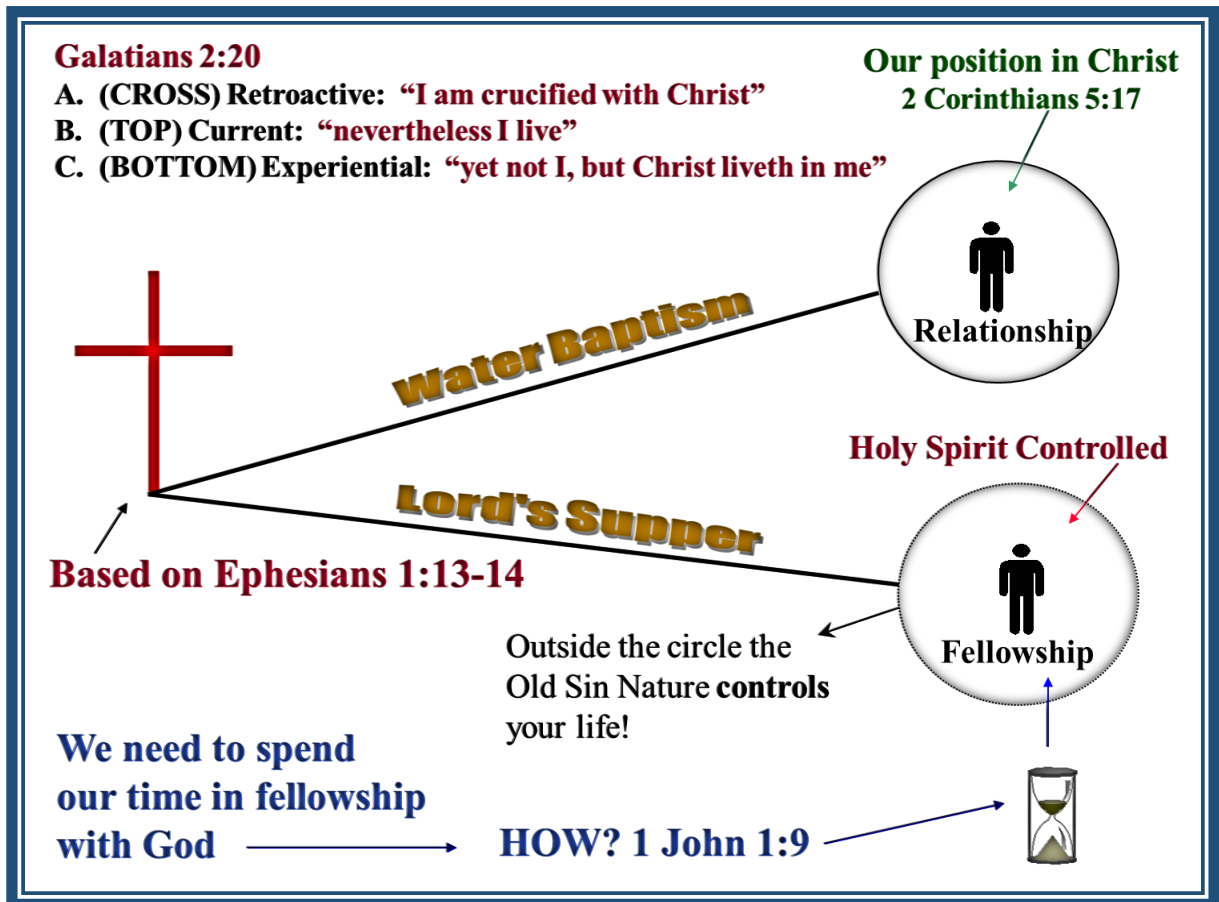
Zacharias did not have the leading ministry of God the Holy Spirit as we do. God the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in every believer in the Church Age at salvation. One of the things the Holy Spirit was sent to do is to lead you in the paths of God's own choosing:

1. To put you where God wants you
2. That leading comes from within

God the Holy Spirit leads us through His bearing witness ministry; a conviction of the will.

We also have Bible Doctrine circulating in our stream of consciousness that allows us to determine if the leading is from God the Holy Spirit (leading is never contrary to the Word of God). When we say "No", you are quenching that which God the Holy Spirit was sent to do in your life.

POD: The Church Age believer will always be at the right place at the right time doing what God wants him to do when he follows the leading of God the Holy Spirit.



You can know when you are being led by the Spirit in this life.

Luke Chapter 1

Positive Volition - Zacharias

Positive volition is defined as faith in its active form responding or initiating through various human expressions.

Luke 1:6 – the principle of the overt expression of positive volition. Zacharias and Elizabeth.

1. They were both righteous before God. (This is the invisible factor of positive volition.)

POD: You always have to have character or quality before you have activity.

2. God can see the mental attitude of positive volition which is invisible to man but man can only see the overt (visible).
3. Being righteous had to do with their position. They were walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord.
 - A. Walking – growth and behavior before man (learned and applied Bible Doctrine).
 - B. Ordinances – moral code, religious code and social code.

Positive volition prepares you to accept Christ as Savior and enables you to stay in fellowship and have spiritual growth.

1. God calls them in their character – righteous and in their behavior – blameless. This is about as mature as you can be.
2. Positive volition has a mental attitude factor and a behavioral factor.
3. God uses the positive volition type and He rewards with service.
 - A. They have a positive volition called righteous.
 - B. They have a positive volition behavior called blameless.
 - C. Positive volition – overt activity function.
4. His (Christ) positive volition was exercised in the office of priest.
5. Our positive volition is exercised in the office of priesthood.
6. He (Christ) had a particular order of service (there was a structure for His ministry).
7. The believer's priesthood needs a structured regulated approach.
 - A. Confession of sin
 - B. Sacrifice
8. Prayer
9. If you regularly and systematically do these things – you can be effective.

POD: Promotion to greater ministry comes as a man faithfully carries out his regular priesthood ministries.

10. When you are exercising in your priesthood, you begin to see what goes on beyond your priesthood and can see the leading of the Lord.
11. In your normal regular priesthood is where you get your breakthroughs. Zacharias was praying as was his regular function when the Lord came to him.
12. Prayer is heard in **Luke 1:13** (God set in motion).
13. Prayer is answered in **Luke 1:13**. Promotion as a father and forerunner to the Messiah.

POD: Positive volition is self-perpetuating and it carries on to others. It keeps on multiplying.

14. Positive volition does have its test. **Luke 1:18**
15. There are times when what you are told is hard to believe. **Luke 1:20**
16. Zacharias was positive but he lacked faith.
17. There was an overt symbol of the certainty of God's plan (**Luke 1:20**) so he:
 - A. Could not forget.
 - B. Would be kept from prematurely exposing God's plan to unprepared types.
18. Zacharias – your prayer has been answered.
19. Elizabeth – the Lord has removed your reproach.
20. They both received super-blessing for their positive volition. Their positive volition took overt application – John the Baptist will be born.
21. **Luke 1:57-64** – the verification of positive volition.
22. Positive volition can be strong, regular and stable but there can be momentary lapses of faith.
23. This lapse of faith can knock you out for a long period of time.
24. When Zacharias was given a unique opportunity, he comes up short and had a lack of faith.
 - A. Operation blank spot - Empty life and no production
25. God's plan goes on even when there are lapses of faith.
26. Zacharias had an overt limitation – he could not speak.
27. Usually, if positive volition is followed through, it will begin with the mental attitude and go on to your behavior, and then it is overt.
28. There was a visible testimony to his faith which was around for almost a year.
29. Your momentary lapse may carry with it pressure for some time and you have to live with the consequences.

POD: Unbelief is the first expression of negative volition.

30. When Zacharias was released from the blank spot, he resumed his ministry by praising God, not explaining himself to those around him. **Luke 1:64**

31. Because the blank spot is overt, there can be a tendency to explain to those who witnessed the blank spot.
32. When climaxed, positive volition has a community effect – FEAR.
33. The cure for Zacharias was public.
34. John went back into seclusion until the time of his showing which would become perfect.
Luke 1:80

Bible Examples of Soul Winners

Jesus and Nicodemus

John 3

1. Did Jesus come to Nicodemus or did Nicodemus come to Jesus (*John 3:1-2*)
2. How did Nicodemus know that God must be with Jesus (*John 3:2*)?
3. How can people know that God is with you (compare *Genesis 39:1-6*) and that you are with God (compare *Acts 4:13*)?
4. Nicodemus was a religious man (a Pharisee, *John 3:1*) and he was one of the leaders of the Jews.
5. Jesus knew that there is a difference between being religious and being saved.
6. If a person has religion, does this mean that he has eternal life?
7. If a person goes to church, does this mean that he will also go to heaven?
8. If a person reads the Bible, does this mean that he must be a child of God?
9. If a person says prayers, does this mean that he is most certainly a saved person?
A. Religion does not save anyone, and Jesus knew this.
10. Therefore, the first thing Jesus said to Nicodemus was this: a man must be born again (*John 3:3, 7*)!
11. “Nicodemus, you need a new birth and a new life!”
A. Sometimes we think that religious people know and understand what salvation is all about.
12. They should know (*John 3:10*) but they may not know. Nicodemus did not understand the new birth (*John 3:4*) and the Lord had to explain salvation to him very carefully (*John 3:5-17*).
13. What must a person do to be born into God's family (*John 1:12*)?
14. What must a person do to have eternal life (*John 3:16*)?
15. Religious people need to believe what God says and receive Christ as their Savior.

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

John 4

1. In *John 4*, we learn that the Lord Jesus came to a city of Samaria where He sat and rested at a well (*John 4:6*). It was noon time and the Lord was very weary from His journey and probably very hungry as well (*John 4:8*).
2. If we had been Jesus on this day, we might have said, “I’m very tired from this journey. All I care about is resting and enjoying some lunch along with a nice cool glass of water!” The Lord Jesus was hungry and tired and thirsty, but He was more concerned about a certain woman than He was about resting or filling His stomach. Doing God’s will was more important to Him than having lunch (*John 4:34*).
3. One of the reasons we do not win souls is that we often make other things more important than soul winning.
4. If you are going to catch fish, you must go fishing. It is very difficult catching fish while doing something else!

Did the woman speak first to Jesus or did Jesus first speak to the woman (John 4:7)?

5. He started the conversation, and what He said really surprised the woman. She was amazed that He even spoke to her! Jesus did something unusual--something which most Jews would never have done. Why was she surprised that He spoke to her (*John 4:9*)?
6. The Jews hated the Samaritans, but Jesus loved this woman! Jesus was concerned for her soul and He dared to be different and to act differently than other Jews. Even today as Christians, people need to see a difference in the way we live and act. They need to see that we have a concern and a compassion that reaches out to all men. There might be a person in your school that hardly anyone likes. You can reach out to this person even as Jesus reached out to the Samaritan woman.
7. As they continued talking, Jesus said some things that really made this woman curious. First, He told her that He would have given her living water (*John 4:10*). She must have thought: “He asked me for water, and now He says that He has water to give to me!” Then He told her that His water was much better than her water. Why was this so (*John 4:13-14*)?

Did she want what Jesus had (John 4:15)?

8. People need to see that we have something that they need to have. We have a great Savior and a great salvation and they need to have what we have!
9. The Samaritan woman was not yet ready to drink from the living water that Jesus offered her, because she did not yet fully realize her need. Jesus very carefully showed this woman her sin (see *John 4:16-19*). Read *Luke 5:30-32*. Who needs a doctor, a healthy person or a sick person? Who needs a Savior, a righteous person or a sinful person?
10. Before a person can be saved, he must first realize how sinful he is. What kind of a person did Jesus come to save (*1 Timothy 1:15*)? Like Jesus, we need to show people their need (show them how spiritually sick they really are and then point them to the Great Physician).

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8)

1. Philip was also in the land of Samaria (several years later). He was preaching the Gospel to the Samaritans and many believed on Christ (*Acts 8:5, 12, 25*). Then God did an amazing thing. He directed Philip away from the crowds and sent him to talk to ONE MAN who was traveling in the desert! This would be like a fisherman leaving his nets (with hundreds of fish in them--see *John 21:6, 11*) and instead grabbing a fishing pole and going to a little pond to catch one small fish!
2. The important thing is not HOW MANY people I can talk to. The important thing is being the right person in the right place at the right time with the right message talking to the right person. God knew what He was doing when He sent Philip to this Ethiopian man!
3. This man was sitting in his chariot reading something. What was he reading (*Acts 8:30*)?
 - A. The newspaper.
 - B. A magazine.
 - C. The prophet Esaias or Isaiah.
 - D. The book of Genesis.
4. Philip ran right up to where he was, heard him reading and asked the logical question: Do you understand what you are reading? (*Acts 8:30*). Did he understand what he was reading (*Acts 8:31*)?
5. Who would be able to help this man understand (*Acts 8:31*)? The Ethiopian man was reading from the book of *Isaiah Chapter 53*. Turn to this chapter and answer this question: WHO IS THE PROPHET ISAAH SPEAKING OF IN THIS CHAPTER (see *Acts 8:34*)? Do you know the answer to this question? The Bible tells us that Philip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture (*Isaiah 53*), and preached unto him (*Acts 8:35*).
6. We need to learn a lesson from Philip. If we are going to help people come to know the Lord, we need to know and understand the Scriptures. The more we know and understand the Bible, the better we will be able to share it with others. Philip was not stupid when it came to the Scriptures. He was able to guide this man to the knowledge of the truth.
7. Suppose Philip had said, "Mr. Eunuch, I have never really understood this passage of Scripture. It has always puzzled me too. I'm not sure who the prophet was speaking of. Maybe someone else will come along and explain these things to us. I'm afraid I can't help you!"

Paul, Silas and the Philippian Jailer (Acts 16)

1. In *Acts 16*, we learn that God's missionaries, Paul and Silas, arrived in the city of Philippi. Before long they were arrested, their clothes were torn off, they were beaten with many stripes, they were thrown into an inner prison and their feet were fastened in the stocks (*Acts 16:22-24*).
2. If this had happened to us, we probably would have cried, complained, grumbled or worried. What did Paul and Silas do (*Acts 16:25*)? They had a wonderful prayer meeting and song service! They were praising God!

3. Paul and Silas acted in a way that unsaved people would never act! The other prisoners (*Acts 16:25*) must have really wondered what was going on! They knew that something was different about these men! These men belonged to the living God!
4. When believers are living right, God will do wonderful things (see *Acts 16:26-30*)! If we are living right, God will give us opportunities to talk to people about Christ.
5. The jailer asked the right question (*Acts 16:30*) and Paul and Silas were ready with the right answer (*Acts 16:31*).
6. God tells us that we are to “*walk in toward them that are without* (those who are unsaved and outside of Christ), *redeeming the time (making the most of every opportunity that God gives us)...that ye may know how ye ought to every man (Colossians 4:5-6)*. If we are going to answer someone, then this means that they are going to ask a question. Answers always follow questions.
7. Do I live in a way that makes other people ask questions? Do people see that there is something different about me? Do people say, “Why are you like that? Why do you do that? Why don't you do that?” And when they ask these kinds of questions, are you ready to give the right answers? Our life should provoke questions; our lips should supply answers (compare *1 Peter 3:15*).

Different Bible Approaches to Witnessing to the Unbeliever Witnessing Based on the Character of the Individual

1. **Peter’s confrontational approach – ready aim fire!**
Blunt and with full force. All Peter needed was to be convinced he was right and there was no stopping him. There are some people who need someone like Peter to witness to them in a very straight forward, firm approach (turn or burn approach).
2. **Paul’s intellectual approach.**
His approach was a logical and reasoned presentation of the Gospel message. Some people don’t want the easy answer like “you just have to accept it on faith”.
3. **The blind man’s testimonial approach (*John 9*).**
Blind since birth - in front of a hostile audience (he explained what happened). It is interesting that the man refused to enter into theological debates (*9:25*).
4. **Matthew interpersonal approach**
In *Luke 5:29* – he put on a big banquet for all of his tax collecting buddies and others in an effort to express them to Jesus and the new life He offered. Didn’t confront or intellectually challenge them, nor is there any mention of him giving his testimony.
5. **Samaritan woman’s invitational approach (*John 4*).**
She went to her town and brought a group of people to the well to hear Jesus for themselves. He stayed two days longer.
6. **Dorcas service approach (*Acts 9:36*)**
She was always doing good in helping the poor. (Loving acts of service)

Service style of evangelism reaches people that nobody else can reach!!

The Importance of Witnessing

A. Romans 1:16-17 - *Not Ashamed*

B. Acts 1:8 - *Power*

C. John 14:15 - *If You Love Me*

D. Second Peter 3:9b - *Not Willing*

E. Matthew 28:19-20 - *A Command*

F. Romans 10:13-15 - *Obedience*

G. Matthew 4:19 - *Fishers of Men*

Six Points on Evangelism - Believers Responsibility

1. God will provide the hearers (for believers) who are fulfilling their ambassadorship responsibilities.
 - A. *John 4 passage* – women at Sychar
 - B. *Acts 2 passage* – Lord saves “adds to their numbers daily”
 - C. *Acts 16 passage* - Philippian Jailer, “what must I do to be saved?”
2. When we perform (take advantage of opportunities) in executing the Protocol Plan of God, we will get to be part of a lot of exciting events in the Spiritual Life.
3. As a believer priest, we have the responsibility to represent God toward man.
4. We (the believer) have three responsibilities as an ambassador in personal evangelism.
 - A. Praying (Royal Priesthood)
 - B. Waiting
 - C. Communicating
5. Prayer starts God in motion – drawing the unbeliever to Gospel hearing on Faith in Christ. God will prepare an individual through circumstances, events, things that may happen in his life, to the soul is ready for the Gospel.
6. We must wait patiently (under the control of the Holy Spirit) from within as God directs the circumstances from without.



Witnessing To Children!!

Witnessing to Children

The following are the main principles found in the Bible dealing with parental responsibilities:

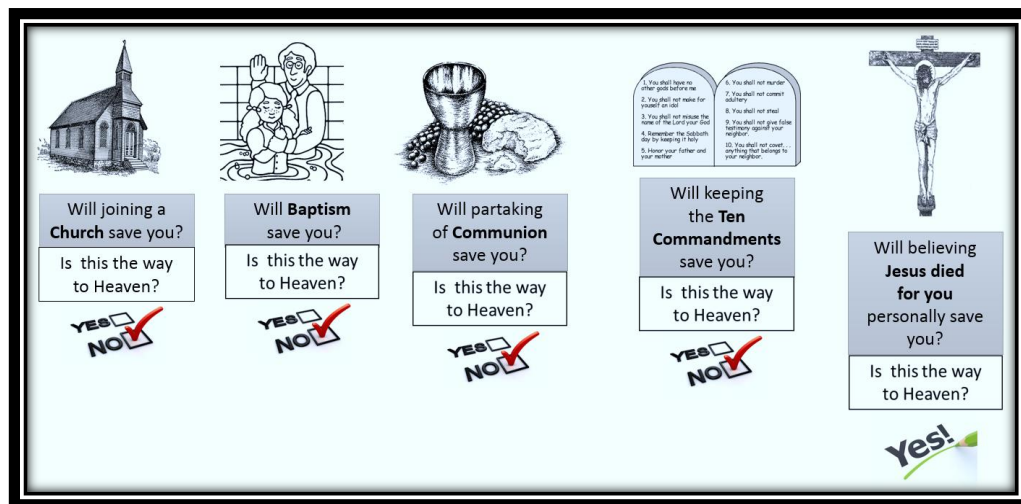
- A. Children are a gift from God to parents. There are both privileges and responsibilities resulting from this gift. **Genesis 48:9; Psalms 127:3; Isaiah 8:18**
- B. The chief responsibility of parents is the teaching and training of their children. **Deuteronomy 6:6,7; Proverbs 22:6; 2 Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Timothy 3:4,12; Titus 2:4; Deuteronomy 4:9; 31:13**
- C. Parents' duties include providing for children's physical needs. **2 Corinthians 12:14**
- D. Parents are expected to administer correction involving discipline. **Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4; Deuteronomy 4:9; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13**
- E. Parents are to teach their children spiritual concepts about life. **Deuteronomy 6:7-9**
"You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.
 - 1. **Personally:** What our children learn in Sunday school and church is important, but we can't rely on this alone. This passage is speaking to parents, not the church. Training is first and foremost the responsibility of the parents. This stresses modeling; what one says is rarely as influential as what one does.
 - 2. **Diligently:** Though parents have many other important task and responsibilities, none are more important with greater implications than this responsibility. It must not be taken lightly.
 - 3. **Accurately:** This is included in the word "diligently" which means to sharpen and then to teach clearly, accurately. Our teaching must be clear and precise and not in general idea concepts.
 - 4. **Repeatedly:** These verses indicate teaching is not a once in a while or a one-time effort. It goes home all the time. The secret to learning is repetition.
 - 5. **Naturally:** It is to be done when we see it, walk, lie down, and rise up. In other words, we are to look for teaching opportunities by word and by example through the everyday activities of life in the home.

How I Witness to Children

Start by letting them know - God loves us. He wants us in His family (**John 3:16**). All of us have done wrong things. These wrong things are called sins. Our sins keep us from being part of God's family (**Romans 3:23**).



God sent Jesus to die for the wrong things we do. He died to take away our sins (**John 3:36**). The Bible says: "**Believe that Jesus died for our sins and He would save us**" (**Acts 16:31; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5-7**). When we do this, He is glad to have us in His family (**John 1:12-13**).



I start by asking a series of questions:

1. If I join a church will I go to heaven?
2. If I get baptized will I go to Heaven?
3. If I partake of communion will I go to heaven?
4. If I keep the Ten Commandments and be a good person will I go to heaven?
5. If I believe Jesus died for me personally on the cross will I go to heaven?

The five questions help me explain Church membership and water baptism, communion and the Ten Commandments - and why these things do not save us! (But are important after we except Christ as our personal savior).

Please let children know that:

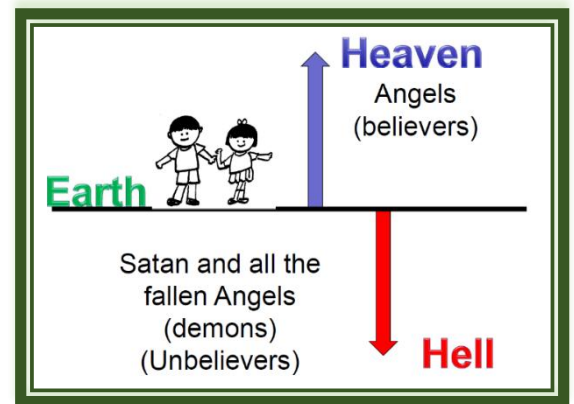
Church Membership--Baptism--Lord's Supper-- Keeping the Ten Commandments

Does Not Save Them!!!

Faith Alone in Christ Alone DOES!!!!

A Few Instructions

- A. Deal with each child individually. Children are unique and their signs of conviction are unique as well.
- B. Use terminology that the child can understand. Remember children are literal thinkers. Avoid symbolic language.
- C. Be conversational. Always ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" response. Encourage children to express their own ideas.
- D. Answer questions honestly and leave the door open for further questions.
- E. Only answer questions the child asks. Allow children to be curious without assuming they are under conviction.
- F. Don't rush a child. Wait for the child to indicate interest before making an effort to talk with the child about conversion.
- G. Use the Bible and rely on it. (*Ephesians 1:13; Acts 4:2; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; John 3:16*)
- H. Do not violate a child's privacy. Having a child name his specific sins is not necessary.
- I. Avoid giving rewards. Children desire to please adults and receive gifts.
- J. Trust God to do His work. In His perfect timing the Holy Spirit will draw children to Jesus.



There are many false issues related to the Gospel. Sin is not an issue in salvation, *Colossians 2:14*; Christ is the issue. The Gospel is the only thing pertinent to the unbeliever. Don't make an issue of anything else.

Illustrate the Following

1. Here is an example using a bow and arrow. If you aim at a target with a bow and arrow, sometimes you "miss the target". This is one of the meanings of the word "sin" in the New Testament. In our lives, we "miss the target" when we don't live, as God wants us to.
2. Explain what Jesus accomplished at the cross. God loves us very much. But because each of us has missed the target in our lives, there is a wall or barrier between God and us.
3. Back in ancient days, whenever someone was found guilty of a crime, the offender was put in jail and a bad behavior list was posted on the jail door. This paper listed all the crimes the offender was found guilty of.
4. Upon release, after serving the prescribed time in jail, the offender was given the bad behavior list, and on it was stamped "Paid in full."
5. Christ took our bad behavior list and nailed it to the cross. Jesus "Paid in full" for all our sins at the cross. Because of Him, the "bad behavior list" of our whole life has been tossed into the trashcan. Our relationship with God is restored.
6. Explain that salvation is a free gift that is received through faith in Jesus. A gift cannot be earned its free. You might illustrate this truth with your child's birthday.
7. Allow your child to ask plenty of questions. Children are naturally inquisitive. If you let them know they're allowed to ask questions about what you are saying, you can count on them to do so. Don't rush your discussion when sharing the Gospel. Allow as much time as it requires.

Welcome to God's Family!

Today, you have become one of
God's very own children!



The New Birth!!