

Telling the Gift of God

I. WHY WITNESS?

God tells us to. I Thess. 2:4, II Cor. 5:19, I Cor. 1:17, II Tim. 4:1, 2.

God leads us to. Jer. 20:9, I Cor. 9:16, Acts 4:20.

God's Words brings faith. Rom. 10:17, Eph. 1:13, Psa. 119:130, Jn. 5:24, I Pet. 1:23.

God receives glory when we witness. John 15:8.

II. WHO SHOULD WITNESS?

Every Christian. II Cor. 4:13, Jn.17:8, 9, 18, 19, Acts 1:8.

III. HOW TO WITNESS

Clear message. I Tim. 1:3, (Eph. 2:8, 9), Gal. 1:6-9, Jude v. 3, II Cor 11:3.

Simple words. II Cor. 3:12, I Cor. 14:8-9, I Cor. 2:4.

Boldly. Eph. 6:19, I Thess. 2:2.

With love. II Cor.5:14; Eph. 5:14.

Good testimony. Titus 2:7, 2:11, 12, 3:8,14, II Cor. 6:3.

Use the Bible and the right verses for the persons needs. II Tim. 2:15, Heb. 4:12, Matt. 13:23, Col.4:6, I Peter 3:15, Prov. 22: 17-21.

Be faithful. I Cor 4:2, I Tim. 1:12, Jer. 23:28, Eccl. 11:4, Luke 16:10.

IV. YOUR ARMOUR

Study your Bible. II Tim. 2:15, 3:16, Proverbs 15:28.

Pray for strength and wisdom. Eph. 6:10-19, James 1:5, Prov. 2:6, Col 2:3.

Meet with other Christians. Heb 10:25, Rom. 1:12, Philipians 1:3-5, Acts 20:7.

Rely on God the Holy Spirit. Zech. 4:6, I Cor. 3:6, 7, I Cor. 2:13.

V. HELPFUL HINTS

Memorize verses so you can watch their faces as they read while you quote.

Have salvation verses marked in red. It catches their attention.

Use illustrations with your verses. It helps them understand. Christ did this.

Constantly emphasize that this is what God, in the Bible, says.

Have two or three good opening phrases.

Talk naturally. Don't preach or use ecclesiastical terms.

Dress neatly. Be clean and smell clean. Look alive.

Be careful how you speak of other religions. Show respect.

Ask questions to see if they are understanding it. You often need repetition.

Offer to give him Christian literature. (Be sure it is clear on salvation.)

Read and apply Dale Carnegie's book, "How To Win Friends And Influence People."

VI. A FEW "DON'TS"

Do not argue, ever. This will drive him away.

Do not get off on side issues. Stay with the gospel. Answer objection briefly and get back to salvation.

Do not ask him to join your church.

Do not ask him for money.

Do not be self righteous or legalistic; do not be self condemnatory either.

Do not ask him to change his life. He cannot, and it would not help save him anyway.

Do not embarrass him, especially in front of his friends.

Do not preach your experience as necessary for salvation; but use your testimony as a way to witness without "bite."

Don't try to "close" until you feel sure he understands the gospel and really sees it in the Bible. But when he does understand it - don't wait- ask him to trust Christ then.

Do not leave him comfortable if he does not trust the Lord; but let pressure come from the Word of God. John 3:18, I John 5:12, Acts 13:39-41.

Do not tell him he is saved, even after he receives Christ as Savior. Let him see it in the Bible, so his assurance will come from God's Word, not yours.

VII. THIS IS A "MUST"

A. ALWAYS distinguish between grace and works. Romans 11:6.

B. NEVER mix salvation and service. Gal. 5:1-9. NEVER compromise on this.

C. NEVER mix the two for salvation. Gal. 2:4, II Cor. 11:13-15, Gal 3:3.

D. Point out the correct place for works, after salvation, for service. Eph 2:10.

VIII. POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS OF THE DAY

A. Some teach that a person must "turn from sin," "be sorry for sin," or at least be "willing to turn from sin" to

- be saved. They say you must REPENT.
- B. Because of this unscriptural teaching, it is best not to use the word “repent” when you witness, If the other person brings it up, point out that the word in the language the Bible was written, Greek, is “metanoia” (μετάνοια) and means “a change of mind.”
 - C. For salvation, a person must change his mind from any idea of religion he may have to save him, and accept God’s way of salvation. He must trust Christ’s payment for everything he has done wrong. He does not have to turn from sin, be sorry for sin, or be willing to turn from sin, for salvation. (Acts 20; 21).
 - D. Any of this would have to do with service, which can only come after salvation, and has nothing to do with salvation. Salvation is always a gift; nothing we do ourselves. Salvation is receiving Christ as your Savior.
 - E. Any teaching that demands a change of conduct either toward God or man for salvation is to add works or human effort to faith: this contradicts Scripture and is an accursed message. (Gal. 1:8, 9). Study the book of Galatians.

IX. POINTS TO COVER IN LEADING A PERSON TO THE LORD.

- A. The Bible is the Word of God. (Cover this only as necessary).
 - 1. It says so. Example: Jeremiah 30:1, 2.
 - 2. Prophecy always comes to pass. History proves the Bible.
 - 3. Scientific facts, long before human wisdom acknowledged them as so. Job 26:7, Jer. 10:12, Job 28:25, Jer. 33:22, Job 38:7, Job 38:24.
- B. Everyone is a sinner, less perfect than God. Rom. 3:23, Eccl. 7:20, Isa. 64:6, John 7:19, James 2:10.
- C. Result and penalty of sin is death; separation from God. Rom. 6:23, II Thess. 1:8, 9, Isaiah 64:6, John 7: 19, James 2:10.
- D. Absolute perfection is required to have eternal life. Heaven is perfect. Psalms 5:4, Rev. 21:27, Habakkuk 1:13, II Peter 3:13.

- E. Cannot earn perfection by what you do. Eph. 2:8, 9, Romans 4:5, Titus 3:5, Romans 3:28, Gal. 2:16.
- F. Christ made a complete payment for all sin and offers His righteousness. II Cor. 5:21, Philippians 3:9, I Pet. 3:18, Isa. 53:6, 10, 11, Col. 2:14, Rom. 4:6, 23-25.
- G. When a person believes that Jesus was the Lord who made the complete payment his sin, he is saved. Eternal life is the Gift of God through belief alone. John 3:16, Acts 16:31, John 6:47, Acts 13:38, 39, John 3:36, Gal. 3:22-26.
- H. Man can know he has eternal life now, because eternal life IS eternal, and once you trust Christ as your Saviour, God himself guarantees eternal life to you.
- I. Eternal life can never be lost. A saved person never becomes unsaved. John 6:37, 39, I Peter 1:5, II Timothy 1:12, 4:18.
- J. God corrects His disobedient children so they will bear fruit. John 15:2, Luke 12:47, Heb 12:5, 6, Luke 13:6-9.
- K. No matter how poorly the Christian behaves, he is still saved (though chastised). I Cor. 3:11-15, I Cor. 5:1, 5, I Cor. 11:30, 32.

NOTE: Of course, there are no set steps in leading a person to Christ. This is a general plan that has been successful in actual practice, the emphasis being shifted from one point to another, depending upon the need of the individual.

X. IMPORTANT FOR A CHRISTIAN TO KNOW

- A. Every saved person has two natures; two births. I Cor. 15:44-50, John 3:6, John 1:12, 13.
- B. To be a happy Christian you must serve the Lord. You must discipline your life by feeding and exercising your new nature, to bear fruit. John 13:17, Gal. 5:16, I Peter 4:2, I Cor. 6:19, 20, II Cor. 5:15, Gal. 5:22, 23,
- C. Refer to Paragraph 4, “Your Armor.”
- D. In physical life, and also in the Christian life, one does not go from being a baby to a mature adult in one step. Maturity is a process of consistent effort and growth. Don’t give up. II Cor. 4:1, Isa. 40:28-31.