

SHARING THE GOSPEL

One of your responsibilities after you are born again is to evangelize other people by sharing your testimony (**Mark 16:15-16**). Tell others what God has done for you. There are many sad and lonely people, living empty lives out there that desperately need the experience you have with God. It is the responsibility of every believer to share the gospel with his family, friends and neighbors who do not know the Lord and are headed for eternity without Christ. The Lord gave us supernatural power to be His witnesses when we received the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**). He told us to go and promised to be with us always (**Luke 15:4-10**).

We are sent forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Jesus told us to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves (**Matthew 10:16**). The gospel must be preached boldly, with love and a great deal of wisdom. The wisest man that ever lived said: "He that wins souls is wise (**Proverbs 11:30**). Soul winning is a spiritual business. It is our duty to prepare ourselves with the word of God and be ready to share it with someone else (**I Peter 3:15**). Some people think that because they do not know much about the Bible, they are not able to share the gospel effectively with anyone. But a person with an argument is no match for a person with an experience. You have had a real, personal experience with God, and that is something that no one can deny. What can they say? It happened to you! You are living proof of the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to change a life (**Romans 1:16**). The thought will come to them, "*if it happened to them, it can happen to me as well.*"

A. How To Be A Witness

Sharing your testimony is the most effective and exciting way of winning souls. If you walk upright before God and men, your words are going to have authority. You can only be an effective soul winner when your words line up with your lifestyle. If you live right and don't tell anyone about it, how will they know unless they are told? On the other hand, if you say you are a Christian but walk in the flesh, and do not have the fruit of the Spirit, it brings reproach to the Lord (**Galatians 5:19-23**).

We should not be ashamed of the gospel or be a shame to the gospel. If you are witnessing to someone and you are committing adultery or having sex with someone outside of marriage, puffing cigarette smoke in his or her face, have a beer can in your hand and are reeking with body odor, do you think you will be a credible witness? When the Lord saves someone, He also wants to set him free from these different strongholds (**Isaiah 61:1-1; John 8:36**). Now let's take a look at some pointers on witnessing.

1. Do Not Argue Or Judge

Keep in mind that we are called to be witnesses, not lawyers who argue, judges who judge people, or defendants who defend the gospel. *You only need to speak the things you have seen and heard* (**Acts 4:20**). People get defensive when you criticize

their doctrines or religious beliefs. Remember they think they are right, and you will never convince them that they are wrong by winning the argument with them. Just tell them that there is a real personal experience with a loving God available to them.

Some of them may be holding on to religious beliefs passed down to them by people they dearly loved. When you criticize their beliefs, in their minds you are criticizing their loved ones. You may win the argument, but you will not win them to the Lord. Try to make them understand that there is more for them than the religious experience they may already have.

2. Use the Before and After Technique

This is the same formula advertising companies use when they want to sell you a product. They don't waste their time trying to explain to you the formulas they used in the product; they just use before and after pictures to convince you. Because most people only seek God when they are in a desperate situation, in your own words describe briefly how you were before the Lord found you, and what led you to seek Him.

For example: *"I had no desire to live anymore", "I had an addiction", or "I felt rejected, lonely and empty deep inside"* and so on. Then share with them in detail what happened to you after you were born again. Be specific, for example: *"I don't feel empty or rejected anymore, now I have joy", "I don't curse anymore, and I feel incredible peace now" "I was bound by addiction, but now I am free"* and so on.

This is what the blind man in the 9th chapter of John did when interrogated by the Jewish court on how Jesus had miraculously given him his sight. He responded to all their difficult theological questions with a simple answer based on his own personal experience. When the Pharisees accused Jesus of being a sinner, he simply replied, *"...whether he is a sinner or not I don't know: one thing I do know, that I was blind and now I see."*

The apostle Paul used this same technique when he was brought before kings and religious leaders to answer for his faith. Of all people, Paul could have tried to influence them with his logic and great knowledge of the scriptures. But instead, he used the most powerful weapon in defense of the gospel: *his personal testimony*. He told them of his life before he knew the Lord Jesus, how he was converted, and what he was like afterwards.

B. How to Lead Others to Jesus

Leading a soul to the feet of the cross of Jesus is one of most important and beautiful moments in the life of a Christian. A soul is worth more than all the gold in the whole world. When we leave this world, we will not be able to take anything with us. Only the souls we have won to the Lord and that which is done for Christ will remain. Let's take a look at what you need to do, depending on the situation.

1. When People Are Hungry And Receptive

There will be times when you share your testimony, that you may find someone who is hungry and receptive to know more about God. A person does not

necessarily have to be in a church altar to be saved. They can be on the job, street, restaurant, in a store, anywhere! When this happens, you need to know how to lead them to salvation by using a few scriptures.

When the opportunity presents itself, say to the person, “*would you mind if I share some scriptures with you?*” Share with them the following scriptures quoting it to them one by one or use a small pocket New Testament: **(a) Romans 3:23 (2) Romans 6:23 (3) Romans 5:8 and finally (4) Acts 2:36-38.** After you share these scriptures with them, you may ask them, “*Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you?*” If they say yes, then say, “*Do you want to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior right now?*” If they say yes, ask them to repent of their sins, and pray with them. Repentance is a very important step to salvation (**Luke 13:5, Acts 17:30, Acts 2:38**).

The reason repentance is so important is because it is the first and most essential step that every soul must take. Without repentance, no one can be born again and receive God’s Spirit. Without repentance, baptism in water is meaningless. We need to lead the souls to the cross first and then to church. Unrepentant souls are usually hesitant about going to church. However, when someone repents, they are more responsive, usually want to go to church and hear more about God. We can lead a soul to Jesus Christ anytime and anyplace.

2. When People Are Hard And Unreceptive

If a person does not respond to anything that we have shared with you so far, maybe it is because they believe that they are good, and don't need to be saved. Many people think that doing good things saves them. Others do not believe in Jesus at all. These need to be persuaded that they are sinners, and without Jesus they are going to hell (**Romans 3:23**).

This is where the law of God plays a very significant role. This is the purpose of the law, to make people feel guilty. Ask them the following questions: **(1) have you ever lied?** Most honest people will answer *yes*. Then you ask them the second question: **(2) what does that make you?** If they are honest, they will say, *a liar*. Then ask them the third question: **(3) do you know that the Bible says that liars will go to hell?**

Repeat this process of asking the person three questions using other commandments like: **Stealing, and adultery**. If the person becomes receptive, then ask them if they believe Jesus Christ died for them? If they say yes, take through the process in the previous section.

If they say no, do not feel rejected, simply say, “I understand your feelings and respect your decision. If you ever decide to give your life to Jesus remember He loves you and will be waiting for you with His arms wide open.” This will release the pressure and leaves the door open for the future. Sometimes you may not be the one to reap the fruit of the seed you planted. However, you will have had a part in the salvation of such a one when they make their decision for Christ in the future and are saved.

Whenever you talk about God and try to win others to the Lord, you will pay a price. Expect to be criticized, persecuted, and rejected even by your own family. His own family called Jesus crazy, and others called Him a glutton and a winebibber. He

told us to expect the same. You must be willing to be rejected and criticized for His sake (*Mathew 10:37-39, 22:37*).

C. Baptism Of Water And Spirit

Once the person has repented, explain this is only the first step, and that there is more for them. Share with the person the importance of being baptized in water and receiving the Holy Spirit baptism. Once again, tell them your personal testimony, and how wonderful it is to have the Spirit of the Lord living within you, and being able to talk to Him in a heavenly tongue.

For more information on water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit, see chapters two and three in this book.