

# Evangelism

*“We make the mistake when we think of witnessing as something we do; in reality it is something that we are. So often witnessing is associated with passing out tracts on the corner, or going door to door to declare the gospel, or sharing the spiritual laws with our neighbor over a cup of coffee. These are all forms of sharing our faith, but doing them does not make us witnesses of Jesus Christ. Being a witness is more than speaking word; it is a living life.”*

**By Chuck Smith**

## 1. OBJECTIVES FOR EVANGELISM

- A. Reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- B. Meet the people as the Apostle Paul met the men of Athens (Acts 17:22-31). This means crossing any racial, social, or religious barriers that may exist.
- C. To equip the church through evangelism training to effectively reach the community.
- D. To join with other Bible Teaching churches that desire to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- E. To plug them into a Bible teaching church.
- F. To teach those that are weaker in the faith, by example and Biblical instruction, how to evangelize and share basic Biblical truth with others.
- G. Develop a follow-up program to disciple and encourage new believers, i.e. Foundations in the Faith.
- H. To PRAY, PRAY, and PRAY. Nothing could be more essential than aligning ourselves with the heart and will of God.

## 2. PERSONAL OBJECTIVES

A. Have a strong prayer life.

(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

B. Have a vision; faith begins with vision. We need to have an idea of what God wants us to do and of what God can accomplish through our efforts. We can learn from Joshua and Caleb. (Numbers 13-14)

1. Vision inspires courage. Faith in God enables us to overcome any obstacle.

2. Courage results in action. Real faith produces action.

C. Be committed. It starts in the heart, it is by actions and it opens the door to achievement.

D. Have a willingness to start in any capacity.

(John 13:13-17)

If you just prayed that prayer and really meant it, Jesus Christ has now taken residence in your heart! Not only that, but He has forgiven you of all your sin. The Bible tells us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God also promises, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgression from us." (Psalms 103:12)

to accept this gift? Simply receive it!

Matthew 11:28-30 states "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me... for My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

E. His invitation is clear. We must come to Him. All that remains is a response. In Romans 6:23 we read, "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." What do we have to do to receive that gift? Take it! Revelation 3:20 states "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he will with Me." Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks, seeking entrance into our lives. John 1:12 states, "For as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God." If you would like to receive Jesus Christ into your heart and life right now, pray a prayer something like this from the sincerity of your heart...

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I know that You came to save sinners. Jesus save me. I believe that You died for my sins. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I receive You as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me. Amen"

### 3. NEED FOR EVANGELISM

#### A. Effectiveness.

1. You play a vital roll in the lives of those you know: Family, Friends and Co-workers.

#### B. Urgency.

1. Man, by nature, is condemned; regardless of how "good" they are, unless they repent. Romans 3:23 - "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."
2. The consequence of sin is an eternity of torment. Romans 6:23 - "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

### 4. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN EVANGELISM

#### A. The Great Commission.

1. Every Christian is commanded to communicate the Word of God to anyone, anywhere, at anytime. Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you..."
2. We are to go in the power and the full assurance of the Holy Spirit to reach Jerusalem (family and friends), Judea (neighbors and our community), Samaria

(surrounding communities) and the ends of the earth (outside our state and country-missions). Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

3. We don't need the gift of evangelism in order to evangelize, but God will enable you at the moment. 2 Timothy 4:5 - "But be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

#### B. Christ's Commandment To Love.

1. What greater love can we show a person than by warning them of the dangers of hell and offering to them the hope of salvation. Matthew 22:39 - "love one another."
2. The mark of a true Christian is measured by the amount of love we show for one another. John 13:35- "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

- B. What is the result of sin? In Romans 6:23 we read, "The wages of sin is death ..." Every one of us has missed God's mark. Everyone of us falls short of being perfect. We are getting only what we deserve, and we are bringing judgment upon ourselves. One thing we need to remember is that God never sends anyone to hell. We send ourselves there by rejecting His truth.
- C. Since we can never measure up to God's standards on our own, God has reached out to man. We cannot solve the problem of sin, but God, who is perfect, can and has. He has become a bridge for us. John 3:16-17 states "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved..." In Romans 5:8 we read, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
- D. If a person acknowledges that he is a sinner, and he accepts the promise that Christ is the solution, he is at a crossroads. Either the person must reject God's solution and accept the consequences, or he must accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. What must a person do

- O. If they accept the Lord, be sure to encourage them to do the following.
  1. Take a firm stand for Jesus as Lord and Savior.
  2. Tell someone about their decision.
  3. Read and study the Bible (God's Word) daily.
  4. Pray every day.
  5. Identify with a Bible teaching church for worship, fellowship, and service.
- P. Follow up with a person that accepts the Lord. Our responsibility is not just to get them to confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, but to disciple (teach) them on how to walk in the Lord.
- Q. Don't try to go out witnessing alone.
- R. Don't wander off from the person you are with, stay in the general vicinity. (There is safety and strength in numbers)

### 10. How can a person know Jesus?

- A. Admit your spiritual need. We are all sinners ... people don't always like that title. The one word that defines all sin is the Greek word "harmatia" which means, "to miss the mark." What is God's mark? Jesus said, "Be perfect as My Father in heaven is perfect." Unless a person is perfect, he has missed the mark; therefore he is a sinner. Romans 3:23 states "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

### 5. OUR RESERVATIONS IN EVANGELISM

- A. **Rejection** - We are often afraid that someone will turn us down or mock us. We have to keep in mind that they are not rejecting us but Christ. Jesus is our example; He was despised and rejected. (Isaiah 53:3)
- B. **Intimidation** - Many people are afraid that they are going to meet someone that is more knowledgeable than they are. We should remember that what we do know is the truth and has far greater benefits than the wisdom of this world. (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)
- C. **Inadequacy** - Some feel that they do not know enough or lack the confidence to share their faith with others. Sharing Christ is a step of faith, but we are only required to share what we do know and not the things we don't know. (John 3:11)

### 6. BASICS OF EVANGELISM

- A. Strong prayer life.
  1. The Lord's first objective was prayer. Luke 10:2 - "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of harvest to send laborers into His harvest."

2. Through prayer we ask that the Holy Spirit will go before us to those people who we will be speaking with. We will never convert anyone. God, through the Holy Spirit, is the One that converts people. We are instruments for Him to use. Zechariah 4:6 - "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts."

**B. Strong devotional life.**

1. To equip yourself for the work of ministry. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."
2. To show yourself approved. 2 Timothy 2:15a - "Be diligent to present yourself approved by God."
3. To rightly divide the Word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15b - "a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
4. To understand the mind and heart of God. Psalm 40:8 - "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."

2. By listening you can find out where a person is and discern how to approach the situation.
3. People are more willing to talk when they sense that you are listening to them and not just telling them what they should believe.
4. Real communication involves two people speaking, not just you dominating the conversation.

- L.** Introduce yourself and remember their name. When you forget a person's name immediately after asking them, it shows your lack of interest and that you aren't really listening.
- M.** Don't get upset if a person doesn't accept the Lord right then and there. Many times we are just being used to plant a seed. (Remember - God's Word never comes back void)
- N.** If after sharing with a person you feel that you were unable to answer them effectively or felt inadequate when sharing the Gospel, don't give up!
1. Pray that the Lord will show you how to minister better.
  2. Take time to study the Bible that you may know God's Word and be equipped to give an answer for the hope that is in you. (1 Peter 3:15)

- G. Stick to the main subject – their need for Christ. Many people will try to lead you into talking about non-essential and controversial subjects. Remember that you are not an apologist.
- H. Focus in on their overall sin and not just one particular sin. Even if you convince someone that it is wrong to take drugs, you still haven't given them the hope of salvation. Give them the Gospel.
- I. Be courteous and loving.
  1. How willing and open a person is to talking with you may depend on your demeanor and attitude towards them. We can encourage them to be open or cause them to be defensive.
  2. Be even-tempered. It's easy to get upset at someone because they aren't willing to try to understand or because they are argumentative.
- J. If you are with another person that is sharing with someone, never interrupt him or her. You should remain silent and be praying for the person sharing and for the person being shared with.
- K. Be a good listener.
  1. Many times we are ready to say something before the person even finishes speaking. This should be a warning to us that we are not really listening.

## 7. UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

### A. The Gospel Message.

1. What is the Gospel? It is the "Good News" that Jesus paid the price for our sins and offers us eternal life. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 – "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Peter, then by the twelve."
2. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."
  - a) Notice that the Gospel is simple but yet profound. We are to let God's Word and His Holy Spirit do the work. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 – "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
  - b) Paul trusted that the Gospel was sufficient. Paul set his mind solely upon communicating the Gospel message and

nothing else. 1 Corinthians 2:2 - "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

**B. The Gospel and its relationship to man.**

**1. God's plan - peace and life.**

a) God loves us and wants us to have eternal life. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

b) God calls us all to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slacking concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

**2. Man's Problem - separation from God.**

a) Man is a sinner by nature. Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

b) Man lives in a fallen world. Romans 5:18 - "Therefore, as through one man's offense (Adam) judgment came to all men."

c) The consequence of sin is eternal punishment. Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death"

**C. Using your personal testimony.**

1. How to use your personal testimony to share what Christ has done in your life.

a) Share your spiritual condition before coming to Christ. Keep it simple. **(1 min.)**

b) Share what caused you to come to Christ. **(1 min.)**

c) Share how Christ has changed your life. **(3 min.)**

**9. PRACTICAL TIPS**

A. Generally deal with people that are your own sex and age.

B. Focus on what you do know and not on what you don't know.

C. Be genuine. We are not there to use tactics or gimmicks, but to show genuine love and concern.

D. Trust that God will give you the words and give to you remembrance of the things you need to say.

E. Try not to just quote scriptures, but show them in the Bible what the Word of God says. Allow the person to read and see for himself or herself.

F. Focus in on a few scriptures, repeating them and explaining them so that after you are done, that passage will stick in the person's mind.

- (4) Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."
- (5) Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- (6) Romans 10: 9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
- (7) Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

## 2. Tracts

- a) Our objective isn't just to pass out a flyer, but to communicate the Gospel to them while we have an opportunity.
- b) We are not always given the opportunity to communicate verbally the Gospel to the individual so the tracts are something they can take and read for themselves.

## 3. **God's remedy** – the cross

a) God's love bridges the gap of separation between God and man.

b) Jesus paid the penalty for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24 – "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed."

(1) God's love for us. Romans 5:8 – "But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

(2) God's gift is freely offered to all men. Romans 5:18 – "...Even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life."

## 4. **Man's Response** – Receive Jesus as Lord and Savior

a) How do we receive this gift? Romans 10:9-10 – "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

b) Is this gift for everyone? John 1:12 – "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

## 8. COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

### A. Ask questions that narrow the focus.

#### 1. Do you believe in God?

a) **Yes!** Do you know for sure that if you were to die right now that you would go to heaven?

b) If Yes! What are God's requirements?

#### POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

(1) **Relationship:** they tell you the correct way. John 1:12

(2) **Religion:** they tell you the wrong way (example: baptism, good person, all roads lead to God, relativism etc.)

(3) They don't know. 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 of works, lest anyone should boast."

c) If No! What is stopping you from having that assurance?

#### POSSIBLE ANSWERS:

(1) They have sin in their life. All have sinned. Romans 3: 23-26

(2) They don't know the way. John 14:6  
"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' "

d) If **No!** What is your reasoning for not believing in God?

2. When asking these types of questions you can discern where a person is in their beliefs and how you can minister to them.

3. Memorize John 3.

### B. Tools to communicate- Flyers, Tracts, etc.

#### 1. **Flyers**

a) Flyers are a tool to help "break the ice". It gives you a starting point to share your faith.

b) Please do not leave flyers in the following places:

(1) Don't put flyers on cars.

(2) Don't leave flyers in public places unless you get permission first.

(3) Don't hand out flyers in public malls unless you get prior permission.

(4) Don't leave flyers on the doorstep of peoples homes or mailboxes.

c) The Roman Road (memorize)

(1) Romans 3:10, "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one.' "

(2) Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

(3) Romans 5:8, "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."