

## How to share your faith

Tonight we're going to look at some very easy and practical ways to share our faith. I say easy and practical because the word evangelism put butterflies in people stomachs. The moment some people hear this word they disqualify themselves. They say I'm too shy, I'm not smart enough or they might say, I don't have good oratory skills. Most people think this because they have a wrong understanding of God and evangelism. They put all the pressure on themselves not allowing God to open doors, and do the work, thus they often become discouraged.

Also many have a wrong understanding of evangelism. When most people think of evangelism they think of stadium preaching, or they think of the crazy guy yelling on the street. God does give some the gift of Evangelism to preach to large crowds, if God has called you to do this then you'll know and you will also have a desire to do this. So don't worry about that!

Also don't think of evangelism as the crazy person going around yelling at people.

When we think of evangelism we should think of the book of Acts. We see in that book, people were focused and excited about Jesus. As they went about their day they could not help but to get into conversations about Jesus. This is evangelism. It's living for Jesus and talking about Him when you feel led or when God opens the door.

Sadly many poles show us that most Christians don't share their faith, I think one major reason is doctrinal. Some doctrines cancel out evangelism. Also I think some other reasons are a lack of understanding of the importance of sharing our faith, and also the lack of understanding how to share our faith.

Tonight we will address these two topics by looking at two questions.

1. Why is it important to share our faith?
2. How do we share our faith?

So let's look at our first question, 1. Why is it important to share our faith?

The Apostle Paul answers our question with a question in Romans 10:13-15 he said,

13. For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

14. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15. And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

These three verses can show us why it's important to share our faith, we see the following things.

1. It shows us that people are God's method of evangelism: God could have sent angels to preach the gospel, or He could have spoke from heaven, instead God choose to use people. God's method of evangelism is to save a person, fill them with the Holy Spirit, then send to them back into the world to bear witness with their changed life and with a simple life changing message. Were God's messengers!

2. We have the message that saves soul's: It's important to understand that the message we have can change someone's life form an eternity in hell to an eternity in heaven.

Paul said in Romans 1:16-17,

16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Paul in this passage said He was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it's the power of God to salvation. When we really believe the message we proclaim nothing but God's will can hinder us from preaching the gospel. Remember the message we have been entrusted!

3. It blesses us: verse 15 says "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

We shouldn't look at sharing our faith as a legalistic burden, instead we should see it as a blessing from God. It's a blessing for the

following reasons.

1. I get to take part in God's work. God in His love and grace wants to save people, He is willing that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. God is working on peoples hearts all we have to do is be willing and available. When we are God will use us like we have never thought. Let's trust Him by faith and allow Him to use us.

2. It keeps us from getting in grown. There's a danger in always taking in and never giving out, it can make us dull and stagnant, one way to stay stirred and on fire is to share our faith.

So we see why it's important to share our faith now let's look at our second question.

2. How do we share our faith?

Before we share our faith it's important to make sure were prepared. What I mean by prepare is you don't have to go and become a Bible scholar, or go and get a Doctor of Divinity degree, but you should be prepared in the following things.

1. You need to born again, and be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit: Jesus promised us in Acts 1:8 that He would give us power to be witnesses of Him. we need His power! We can't have a dynamic ministry apart from the Holy Spirit.

2. Prayer: We need to be in tune with God to see what He wants to do and where He wants us to go. This is what made Jesus' ministry so effective. We see this in Mark 1:35-38

35. Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

36. And Simon and those *who were* with Him searched for Him.

37. When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

38. But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

3. Memorize the gospel: You can memorize the following scriptures John 3;16, Romans 10:9-10. If you know these scriptures you'll be more personal and clear when your sharing your faith. Also it's important to know the gospel by heart so you can communicate it

simplify and clearly to the none believer.

So we've prepared, now what do we say to someone when it time to talk?

I have found personally, to start sharing the gospel is always the hardest thing to do. I always feel awkward, this is why you need to know some ice breakers.

Well see that each situation will be different so you need to be lead by the Lord and talk about what He puts on your heart.

These are some ways that I have found personally effective in breaking the ice.

#### 1. Street evangelism:

In street evangelism, most of the time when you talk to people there antsy, so I usually getting straight it. I Start my conversation by giving them an invite to church this breaks the ice. I then ask them if they go to church? Weather they say yes or no, I ask them if they have ever been born again? If they say no, ask them if they're perfect? They will say No! Then say if your not perfect you cant go to heaven because God and heaven are perfect. Tell them there's good news! God in His love sent His only Son Jesus to die on the cross, for our sin. tell them Bible says that if they believe that their a sinner and that Jesus died for them on the cross, and if they are will to turn from their sin and follow Jesus they can be born again and know for a fact that if they died they would go to heaven.

Now at work and at school or with family it's a little different because you'll generally have more time. The first thing I recommend is get the church invites out. Do this! They have the gospel on them and they let people know that you're a Christian. God can use these to open up doors for us to share our faith and for questions about God.

If God opens a door have a conversation with them and get to know the person. Getting to know the person can help you know how to talk to them, Greg Laurie recommends this in his book "How to share your faith" he says this, " If someone is strung out on drugs or alcohol, you might emphasize that only Jesus can fill the void that person has tried to fill with these substances. If you once struggled with these yourself, you could share your own personal story of how God filled the void in your life you once tried to fill with

these cheap worldly imitations. If it is not your own personal experience, you could mention the stories of some you probably know personally who came out of this kind of background and are now walking with the Lord.

If you are speaking to a person who is terminally ill or is on his or her death bed, obviously the most important thing to that person is not so much filling a void in his or her life but preparing for eternity. You could share the great promises of scripture concerning life beyond the grave when we put our complete faith and trust in Jesus Christ. And if you come upon a person who has gone from relationship to relationship trying to fill the void of God with a man or a woman, you could speak of what it is to have a relationship with a living God who will never abandon or dump him or her.

This is good incite because this is what Jesus did! He always knew the people He was talking to, whether, it was the woman at the well, Nicodemous, the multitudes or the Pharisees and Sadducees. It 's important that we know the people we're talking to so we can know how to share with them.

Some other things you can do is tell them your testimony. This is how the Apostle Paul often started sharing the gospel, He would tell his testimony then share the gospel at the end. We should never despise our testimony all of us have one. Whether we were heathens or unsaved home schoolers.

Once you know the person and have shared your testimony, preach the gospel.

The first thing you should do is show them that their a sinner in need of a savior. This is how Paul preached the gospel in the book of Romans chapters 1-8. In these chapters Paul told them they were sinners in need of a savior, he told them how to be saved, then he told them the effects of doing so.

We should do the same, we can do so by taking them through the law like Ray Comfort dose. Or you can just ask them if they're perfect. The answer will always be if they are honest no. If they say yes refute their basis by using the law.

Tell them that sense their not perfect they're a sinner. That means they've missed God's mark which is perfection. Tell them because they're not perfect they cant go to heaven.

After that tell them the good news! Tell them that God sent Jesus who was perfect to take our sin and to die in our place. Tell them that the Bible says that if we believe that Jesus died for them, and they're willing to turn from their sin and follow Him, God will forgive them all their sins. Tell them all they have to do is ask Jesus in their heart, if they do they will be born again and know for fact that if they died they would go to heaven.

If they say no don't panic! Ask them if their sure. Tell them by rejecting the gospel they're rejecting God's offer of forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.

If they say yes! Then lead them in a prayer to ask Jesus in their heart. Ask them to repeat after you, you can say, "Jesus I am sorry for my sin I choose to turn from it this day and follow you. I pray that you would come into my heart and be my savior and master in Jesus name amen."

After they pray that prayer you can encourage them to do the following things.

1. They should get plugged into a church. **(Calvary Hanford)!!**
2. They should read the Bible because this is how they can get to know God.
3. They should pray, tell them this is how they can have a relationship with God. He speaks to us through His word and we talk to Him through prayer.
4. They should tell someone that they gave their life to Jesus.

After this make it a priority to pray for that person, and watch God change them and use them for His glory.