

“Evangelism”
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“Building Courage to Tell Others About Christ”
(Overcoming the Fear of Rejection)

Coming after a lack of motivation, a major reason why more people do not engage in personal evangelism is the fear of rejection. Afraid of being turned down, laughed at, or looked upon by others as “religious fanatics” has hindered many Christians in their efforts to tell others about Christ.

How does one overcome the fear of rejection?

- Try to Please God, Not Man

If we are serious in our desire to be the servants of Christ, then we must make sure it is God we are trying to please, and not man. We should be more concerned about what God thinks, rather than what people may think. (Galatians 1:10)

- Pray for Boldness

Paul wrote about his own fears when it came to sharing the gospel with others (1 Colossians 2:1-3), but he believed in the power of prayer to provide boldness and asked others to pray for him, also (Ephesians 6:18-19). When Peter and John had been threatened, the Lord answered their prayer for boldness, and (Acts 4:29-31).

So, as we prepare ourselves to engage in personal evangelism, if we find ourselves lacking courage, let our preparation include diligent prayer for boldness.

Brent Hunter, in “Personal Work 101”, listed three steps in building courage to tell others about Christ:

- I. Start out sharing Christ in a way which will not bring you face to face with people. Select some printed material you feel are good and carry them in your pocket, purse, or car.
 - When you go into a public restaurant, leave it on your table with your tip.
 - Include it in the envelope when writing letters to friends, relatives, and the bills you pay.
 - Leave material at a laundromat, on the seat of an Uber or Lyft ride, etc..

What happens to the material should not concern you. You've sown the seed and done what you are supposed to do.

II. Let your light shine naturally when around non-Christians (Matthew 5:16).

Do not make a spectacle of yourself, but quietly confess through your actions and normal speech that you are a Christian. There is a difference between doing things to be seen of men, and doing things that are seen by men. Some examples:

- When you eat in public places, silently, with a bowed head, offer thanks for your food.
- Keep a Bible with you at all times and don't be ashamed to be seen reading it. Keep a New Testament and read it as you have opportunity.
- In our conversation, casually make mention of things which indicate your faith in God.

III. Personally hand your friend (prospect) a brochure, booklet, CD or DVD.

You are not directly teaching, yet, but you are beginning to face people.

- Give a tract to a friend and say, "This is a short explanation of the gospel of Christ. We've been friends for some time now and I would like for you to read this and tell me what you think."
- Ask them if they are interested in studying the Bible on their own time, at their own pace, in their home, through a correspondence course.
- Offer to give them a CD or DVD of a sermon and ask them if they would be interested in hearing what the Bible says about...

CONCLUSION:

At this point you are actively involved in sharing the gospel with others, even though you may only use indirect methods. From here, you may decide to try to set up home studies to be taught by yourself, or to set up studies for others to teach. In either case, you are doing much for the Lord!

Principles for Teaching in Evangelism (Tips to Remember When Trying to Teach Others)

Should you decide you are ready to begin teaching others, have an idea of what material and method you plan to use. There are several principles to keep in mind that can increase the likelihood of success.

➤ Be “Class” Conscious

Rather than getting into religious discussions when it is not convenient, always think in terms of turning religious inquiries into an opportunity to set up a class or home study with the person.

- Those who are not seriously interested in spiritual matters will not consent to a study; this will distinguish between the truth seekers and those who are not.
- It gives you time to carefully prepare your lesson(s)
- A discussion of religious matters is more productive when there is ample time, and the Bible is open to answer any questions
- There will be fewer hindrances should the person decide to obey the gospel at that time.

How do you set up a class or study with someone? Just ask! If the person says no, then just leave them with an open invitation anytime in the future.

➤ Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

This principle is key to any effective communication:

- Ask questions, then listen carefully to what the other person is saying.
- Occasionally repeat what they say, to make sure you properly understand them.
- Attempt to know their own doctrine as well if not better than they do themselves.
- Try putting yourself in their place by imagining what they must feel like to have their cherished beliefs challenged.

This will not only improve your ability to effectively communicate with them, but will also increase the likelihood they will reciprocate by carefully listening to you!

➤ Disagree Without Being Disagreeable

People will frequently disagree with you, though some may later change their minds. How can we disagree without being “disagreeable?”:

- Maintain a spirit of gentleness and humility. Remember, without the grace of God, we would be lost too! (Galatians 6:1)
- Refuse to be drawn into religious quarrels; if a discussion degenerates into one, admit your own faults and suggest the study continue at another time (2 Timothy 2:23-24a)
- Don't try to teach until you are able to teach (2 Timothy 2:24; James 3:1-2)
- Be patient; some people take longer than others (2 Timothy 2:24)
- If it's necessary to correct someone who opposes you, do so with humility (2 Timothy 2:25)

Remember the wisdom of Solomon in Proverbs 15:1-2, and be sure to maintain patience and humility.

➤ Answer Questions by Letting Inquirers Read It for Themselves

When people ask questions, it is best to answer them with the Scriptures. Have them read it out of their own Bibles. There are several reasons for doing this:

- They are more likely to understand the point you are trying to make if they can both read and hear it.
- It is hard for them to disagree with what they can read for themselves in their own Bible.
- You gain their respect and confidence that you are only teaching the Word of God, and not the ideas of men.

➤ Use Difficult Questions to Set Up Future Studies

Many people fear that they will be asked a question they do not know the answer. But such questions can be advantageous if handled properly.

- Don't try to bluff your way through a subject you are not prepared for. Gain respect for honesty by admitting your need to study further.
- Use that difficult question as a reason to continue the study on another occasion. Explain that to give an answer the question deserves, you will need to study more and come back at another time.

What might at first appear to be a stumbling block to a teacher can actually be a stepping-stone for increased opportunities.

➤ Close Effectively

After you have presented the material in your lesson(s), ask for a response. Now you are asking the person to make a judgment about the truthfulness of what you have been saying, and to make a decision as to whether they will obey it. You might ask the person the following questions...

- “Does this make sense?”
- “Is there anything I have said that you do not understand?”
- “Have I been teaching you anything other than what the Bible teaches?”

Assuming the person answers favorably, you then need to make the actual request.

Some approaches often sound like subtle ways to move someone to do something they really don't want to do. Since conversion occurs only when our faith is working in cooperation with God's power (Colossians 2:12), it is absolutely necessary that the prospect has truly come to faith and repentance before they are baptized.

A simple and direct question is all that is necessary: “Would you like to obey Christ now and be baptized for the remission of your sins?”

If the person says no, you might ask why not, and depending upon the answer, set up a time for future study. Let the person know that you are always ready to study further should they be interested.

Remember, what you sow today may take time before it finally brings forth a harvest.

➤ Overcoming Objections

While we should prepare and be ready and willing to answer objections that are commonly given, we need to be careful and not apply undue pressure. While we want to encourage others to obey the gospel, we must make sure that the decision is theirs.

Be careful to let the gospel of Christ be the converting power, not “*persuasive words of human wisdom*” (1 Corinthians 2:4). If a person understands what the gospel says, a simple request accompanied with an earnest plea for obedience to Jesus Christ should suffice.



RESOURCES

Resource	Website	Price
“From House to House: A Manual on Personal Work”	https://onestone.com/	\$9.95
“Evangelism Explosion”	https://evangelismexplosion.org/	\$15.95
“Jule Miller Visualized Bible Study Set-DVD”	https://onestone.com/	\$169.99
“Jule Miller Visualized Correspondence Course”	https://onestone.com/	Set of all 5 (\$6.99), or individually (\$1.99)
“Muscle and a Shovel”	www.michaelshankministries.com/	\$25.95 \$10.95
“Open Bible Study Correspondence Course Set”	https://onestone.com/	\$0.50 per set
“World Bible School”	http://Worldbibleschool.net	
“Living Waters”	https://www.livingwaters.com/	