

Conversational Witnessing

(Witnessing for “Ordinary” Christians)

For those who don't know they can witness to and have people commit their faith and spiritual hope to Jesus Christ and receive Eternal Life by merely talking with and listening to them.

(Discipleship: Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way)
Dr. Kenneth Hammonds, Director of Christian Discipleship

The Ordinary Believer's Assignment: BECOMING A WITNESS (NOT THE RECOMMENDED APPROACH FOR STREET OR DOOR-TO-DOOR WITNESSING)



“Conversational Witnessing” – Sharing the Great Spiritual Wealth of the Gospel

This concept has great potential for getting the “average” disciple of Jesus to talk about God's work of salvation in a personal and loving way and thereby moving it from a “chore” to a “joy.” My attempt here is to have an “average” Christian understand that the Calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ does not mean being an “extraordinary” individual with great personal gifts — with a “Super Calling,” or an SC – (Super Christian) written on the chest, complete with an accessorized cape. But rather, that doing (being, living) as a disciple is the natural extension of an “average” individual with an extraordinary (indeed, a **magnificent**) God, Savior and Salvation which speak to every human need and concern.

Conversational Witnessing is — Sharing your personal concern and love for another individual's life journey; his or her needs, hopes, dreams, and aspirations. And then revealing to the individual “Good News” — their deepest heart felt needs and personal desires only can be answered by Jesus Christ and fully answered and supplied only when God (Jesus) is acknowledged and given proper (first) place. In my view, Conversational Witnessing focuses upon an INDIVIDUAL at the core of the dialogue and is not a one-sided sermonette where YOU are the center of attention.

Conversational Witnessing – An Overview of the Three Parts

BEGINNING – It's About HIM/HER. The individual's life's journey (natural & spiritual); his or her needs, hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

“What are some of the things you'd really like to be doing with your life to make your life fulfilling?”

MIDDLE – It's about HIM/HER. The Individual's Relationship to God through Jesus Christ.

“What's the first and most important thing in your life?”

ENDING – It's about HIM/HER. You'll Be PERSONALLY Praying for him or her.

“May I place you on my prayer list and pray for you each week?”

Conversational Witnessing – Three Parts Details

BEGINNING – It's About HIM/HER. – Your ATTITUDE and POSTURE HERE ARE [Not the words to SAY] God has placed within me His Love for people. How are things going in your life right now? Tell me, I'm really listening and concerned.

“Conversational Witnessing” = Sharing your personal concern and love for another individual's life journey (natural & spiritual); his or her needs, hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

MIDDLE – It's about HIM/HER – Relationship to God through Jesus Christ (What's First in their Lives?)

And revealing to the individual the Good News that their heart-felt needs and personal desires can only be answered by Jesus Christ and fully answered and supplied ONLY when God (Jesus) is acknowledged and given proper (first) place.

Con conversationally mentioning, placing God first. The MESSAGE (not - literal quotation) of Proverbs 3:5-6 might work well here. But by NO means, “Thus saith the Lord.” How about something like: “You know God’s Word, the Bible, talks about putting God first and that seems to be a difficulty for many people. One of the wise men of the Bible correctly says . . .” At this point, quote (conversationally) Proverbs 3:5-6 (in all your ways acknowledge God) or Matthew 6:33 (“Seek FIRST” . . . or better “First work on God and your spiritual life and then everything else.”)

SIDEBAR: YES – JESUS REALLY IS THE ANSWER!

It’s about ANSWERS FOR HIM/HER.

It all goes back to Jesus: The ANSWER to every need, concern or problem of human life is – JESUS. Every need (and problem) of human nature, as I see it, can be answered by the access to and empowerment of our Magnificent (complete, perfect) Salvation and Savior and if they are out of fellowship with God, encourage them to get back in.

Then, if you find out they have NO present or prior relationship to God you must present the plan of salvation in a unique way that ties DIRECTLY into their basic needs.

The spiritual relationship to God through his Sent Son is the KEY to life with God eternally. Note: There is the Romans Road Approach and Other Approaches in Sharing the Good News of Salvation in Christ.

ENDING – It’s About HIM/HER – You’ll Be PERSONALLY Praying for THEM.

Ending with prayer with the individual is a powerful personal “love key” showing your concern here. And keeping a prayer list going can be an advanced way to keep the individual in mind.

If personal information is gathered and shared you’ll be building quite a group of individuals ready to be mentored, taught, and shown the way to live for the Lord.

Conversation, NOT Sermon

In my view, Conversational Witnessing is with the INDIVIDUAL (the one being witnessed to) at the core of the dialogue and not a one-sided sermonette where YOU are the center of attention.

Remember, this is WITNESSING 101 and not PREACHING 101.

A witness merely tells a story, he does not give a speech. He answers questions and speaks engagingly with the individual who needs facts concerning some thing, individual or event.

The A, B, Cs’ of Salvation: It’s a Simple OR Hard as A, B, C - Acknowledge, Believe, Confess

Acknowledge (Admit) I’m a sinner. We all have come short of God’s standard of right behavior. He is Holy we are Unholy.

Believe the Message of the Gospel – God Jesus Sent into the world. He Died, Rose Again. Be Committed to following Jesus Christ, the Master and Savior (He provides God’s answer, deliverance from our sin and personal and societal problems.)

GIVE A BIT OF YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY (Apostle Paul frequently did this – the dramatic and not-so-dramatic conversion testimonies. The Dramatic: Acts 26:19 ff. The Not-So-Dramatic: 1 Cor. 15:8-11 and 1 Timothy 1:12-16): You know, I was somewhat (a little) like you in that I too _____, but now I have acknowledged my need of Jesus Christ and firmly believe in Him as the answer, the way to the divide (gulf, separation) from a close spiritual relationship with God. I am committed to Him and His Way. My personal goals now revolve around bettering myself and my family and friends by seeking to please Him. It’s a wonderful life with Jesus. Even when things seem wrong, he makes them right.

Confess Him as Lord (His divine nature, His being the Son of God). Jesus is God’s Son, chosen just for the task of bringing us back to the Father.