

Conversational Witnessing

(Witnessing for “Ordinary” Christians)

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



(Discipleship: Challenging Believers to Be Complete in Every Way)

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The Ordinary Believer's Assignment: BECOMING A WITNESS

“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 on the chest complete with an accessorized cape. But rather, that doing (being, living) 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. Proverbs 3:5-6 might work here. Ending with prayer with the individual is a powerful personal “love key” showing your concern here. Keeping an active 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 discipled and shown the way to live for the Lord.

In my view, Conversational Witnessing focuses upon with an INDIVIDUAL at the core of the dialogue and is 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 story, he does not give speech. He answers questions and speaks engagingly with the individual who needs facts concerning some thing, individual or event.

SOME SCRIPTURAL PRESENTATIONS TO PRESENTING THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS) MESSAGE

1. THE ROMANS ROAD SALVATION PRESENTATION APPROACH

The Romans Road Salvation Presentation

☞ ROMANS 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

☞ ROMANS 6:23 teaches us about the consequences of sin - "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Spiritual Death = separation from God our Father.

☞ ROMANS 5:8 declares, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." God loves YOU and Jesus' death paid for the price of our sins. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins.

☞ ROMANS 10:9 "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Saved means forgiven, delivered and set free from the penalty and power of their sins.

The final aspect of the Romans Road to salvation is the results of salvation.

☞ ROMANS 5:1 has this wonderful message, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Through Jesus Christ we can have a relationship of peace with God our Father.

☞ ROMANS 8:1 teaches us, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, we will not be condemned for eternity for our sins.

The Romans Road approach (indeed, ANY biblical approach) is great, but it still needs to be presented “conversationally” and probably not best promoted in the giving of verses and the “Book” of Romans. Phrases like the Bible, God’s Word to us says or maybe even God says . . . But, I don’t even prefer these tones. (Of course, if they ask or need the source – tell them!)

But, I actually like the idea of speaking the Truth of God without necessarily giving a lot of “Thus saith the Lord or “The Bible says.” Before you state the Truth. The Word of God is so sharp it cuts deep without the prop of “quotation” *prooftexting* style witnessing or showing that you know so much about the Bible and that your listener is “ignorant.” Just speak the Truth of the Word, either in paraphrase or natural voice discussion still powerfully impacts the hearer as it goes to the heart of his or her situation. Then at some point of course you state the your statements and truths are from the God’s Word to us – called the Bible.

So, please make the “Romans Road Approach” a “Romans Road Conversational Approach” with the INDIVIDUAL at the core of the dialogue and not a one-sided sermonette where YOU are the center of attention. Remember, in my view, this is **WITNESSING 101** and not *PREACHING 101*.

2. OTHER SCRIPTURES AND VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE “GOSPEL” MESSAGE.

Note: Need Modern definitions and explanations of these three key words:
Sin (sinner), Eternal Life, Salvation

Presentation #1 John’s Message – Eternal Life

John 3:13-19 (cf. 1 John 4:9, 5:13 – believe in the Name of the Son of God)

Presentation #2 Peter Repent, Be Baptized for Remission of Sins and to Receive God’s Spirit Acts 2:37-41

Presentation #3 Paul’s Declaration – Christ Died for Our Sins According to the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Presentation #4 Paul - Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ Acts 16:27-32

Presentation #5 Paul’s Declaration – Repent, Judgment Day is Coming Acts 17:30-31

Presentation #6 Paul’s Declaration Confess with Your Mouth, Believe in Your Heart Romans 8:8-17

Presentation #7 James’ Statements – God requires you to Believe, Keep All His Laws and Love Him and Live Pure before God and Mankind – Do you do that? If not, you need Jesus who was sent by God and did live righteously. (A KH attempt to find the Gospel Message in

Three Things God Wants From All Of Us Human Beings On This Planet

- ❖ **Radical (Sincere) Repentance** and Sorrow for Offending God and Hurting Each Other
- ❖ **Radical (Sincere) Commitment** & Belief in His Son for Deliverance from Sin and Eternal Life
- ❖ **Radical (Sincere) Obedience** to Jesus Christ for Righteousness Living here and now

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 - Jesus Sent, Died, Rose Again and 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.

Some Theological Thoughts in Everyday Language and Living

I. YES – JESUS REALLY IS THE ANSWER.

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 Salvation 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.

II. BETTER DEFINING, EXPLAINING "SIN"

By the way, I believe the word "sin" MUST be redefined or explain to the non-churchgoer. Few people believe they are actually sinners, in fact, most feel they believe they are pretty good and definitely better than the "that other guy" over there. Here is my suggestion for dealing with the word "sin" where you instruct first then use the word.

1. Sin is the part of human nature that seeks only selfishness and self-willed and does not want to listen to or obey God. Sin is an enemy of God. There is a nature (a SIN nature, attitude) within the human heart that seeks self (not the Will of God) above all. Just simply not obeying God is a sin.

2. We humans have a vast capacity for sin. It reveals itself in many ways: Greed, hatred, prejudice, murder, lying, idolatry, sexual perversion, inflicting of pain and suffering on other humans, breaking up families, and many other personally and socially destructive activities. [Some have even decided to speak against God's view of marriage and the family – one man for one woman for life.]

3. By the way, idolatry is placing ANYTHING above God and His Will for your life. **Lying and idolatry and the breakup of the family structure** will probably be enough to get the attention of most "sinners." Especially the part about, "Just simply not obeying God is a sin."

4. God sent Jesus to deliver us from Penalty, Power and Pain of Sin.

Other replacement words for “sin”

Selfishness, self-will, disobedient to God, care or concern about spiritual things, rebellious nature, an offense to the holiness, purity of God, you add more as they fit.

Listen to the responses and discuss the challenges humans have with sins – BUT Jesus is the answer. The first thing that needs to be dealt with concerning the sin problem is the spiritual penalty for sin – Death.

Take the discussion from there to the work of Jesus on the cross and His Resurrection from the dead by the power of God. This is the Savior God has sent and the gift He has provided.

Finally Ask: “Would you like to accept God’s eternal gift for you?”

(Also include repentance – a radical change in attitude toward ungodly things,

Believe – commitment yourself to Jesus for your deliverance

and Confession – speak from your own mouth Jesus as the Son of God (His Divine nature as the Son of God)

IV. WE WON’T OFTEN GET AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

. . . But keep talking and engaging them in spiritual things.

God must work in their lives before and after we have shared/conversed His Message.

He may have to do more work in them before He reels them in.

Just know the time is God’s and the Holy Spirit’s is the one working on them and drawing them.

It is HIS timing.

1 Corinthians 3:6 (KJV) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.