

BECOMING

A

CERTAIN

KIND

OF

CHRISTIAN

DEVELOPING AN INTEGRATED FAITH

six week life study class

sundays • 12p-1p • sept 10-oct 15

middle school yth room • calvary chapel lynchburg



THEY'RE STRONGER
TOGETHER

Discipleship

Apologetics

Evangelism

NGIM

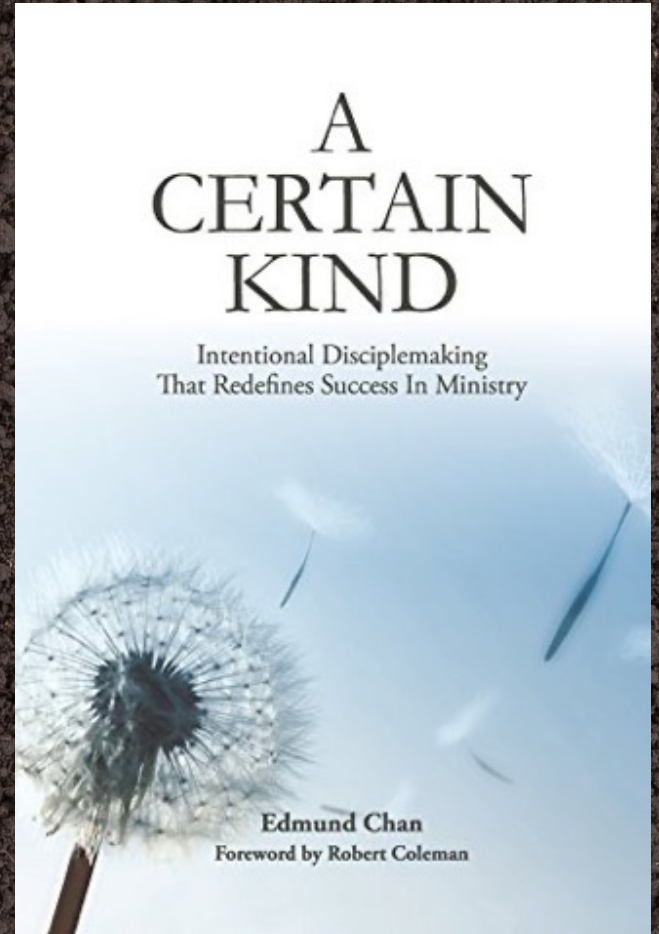
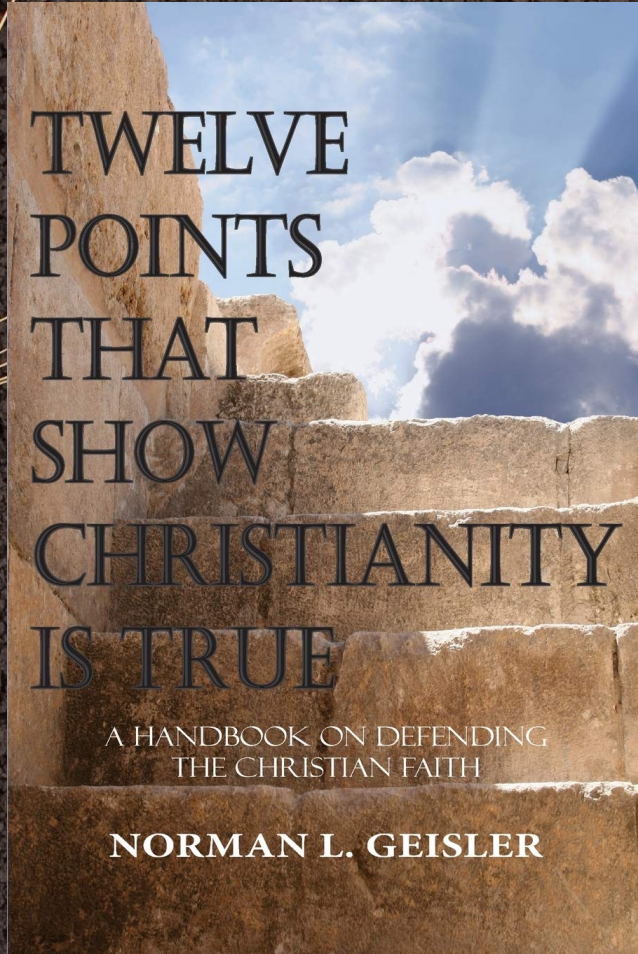
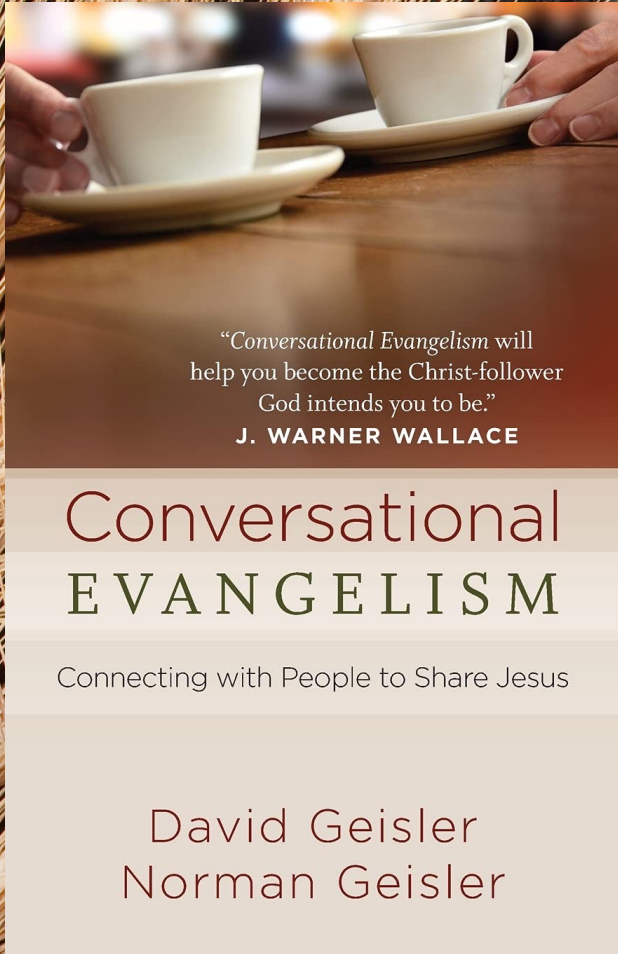
This Trifecta Approach Is Based On What I Learned From Two Great Men



NCIM

Mission: To mentor leaders who seamlessly integrate a classical apologetic approach with evangelism and discipleship to cultivate Christ-first generations.

Vision: To be a catalyst for a global movement of applied apologetics to change the culture for Christ.



HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED

Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey:

- 1. That faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.**
- 2. That there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. We have more common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**



The devil has a plan to distort the truth in order to weaken our faith and dilute our witness.

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Important Things To Know About Our Faith

1. *Biblical faith must have an object to be valid.*
2. *Our faith is not a blind faith, It is a faith with reason.*
3. *It is a faith that is supported by evidence.*
4. *Our subjective experience of Christ is only valid if it corresponds to an objective truth.*
5. *The bible makes an important distinction between “belief that” and “belief in.”*
6. *Our faith goes deeper than knowing things about God!*
7. *In better understanding our faith, we need to remember that God’s truth goes beyond reason but never against reason (2 Cor. 1:18; Titus 1:9 ESV).*
8. *God’s truth can be a mystery.*
9. *I can trust God for what I don’t know because of what He’s revealed to me that I do know.*
10. *Christianity is a system of truth, with no error in major doctrines. All other religions in the world are a system of error that contain some occasional truths.*



Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey...

1. ...that faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.
2. **...that there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



- 1. Apologetics and Evangelism worked hand In hand in the New Testament.**
- 2. The apologetic imperative could even mean simply removing barriers.**
- 3. Intellectual barriers are never the primary barrier that keeps someone from coming to Christ.**
- 4. Remember that using apologetics in our witness to others is never enough to save anyone because we also need the work of the Holy Spirit.**

Norm Geisler discovered early in his spiritual journey...

1. ...that faith and reason are more compatible than some Christians realize.
2. ...that there is an appropriate way to use apologetics (Christian evidence) in our witness to others and yet in partnership with the Holy Spirit.
- 3. ...that we have more in common ground in witnessing to non-believers than they realize.**

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



1. God's Truth is written on our minds (Rom. 1:18-20).
2. God's Truth is written on our hearts (Rom. 2:14-15).
3. We share some similar philosophical ideas with non-believers that we can use to build common ground (1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 1:20).
 - We both believe in objective truth.
 - We both believe that truth corresponds to reality.
 - We both believe the laws of logic apply to reality.



**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

Certain Beliefs

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence and
Attributes of God**

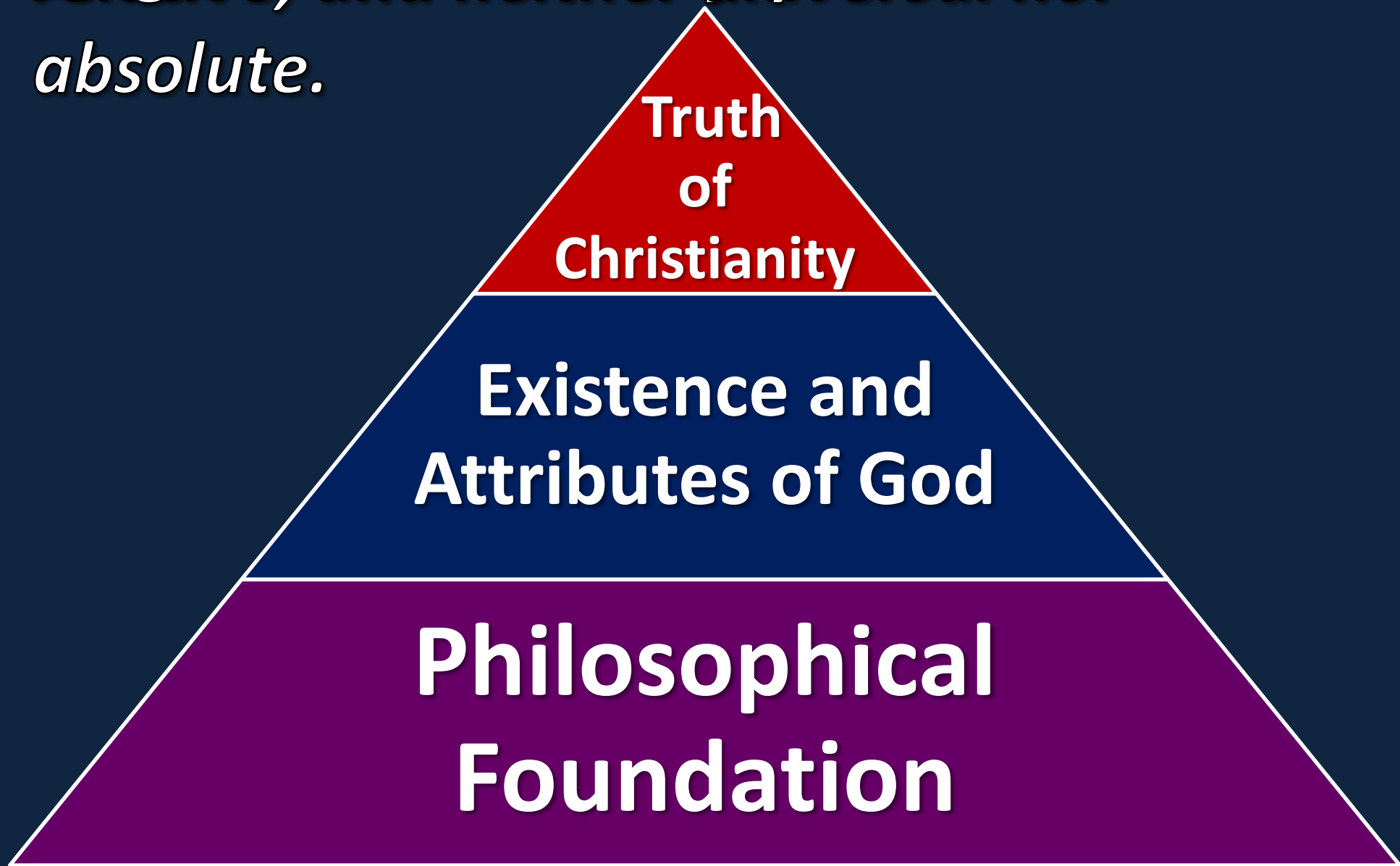
**Certain Beliefs about Reality
and How We Can Know Things**

**Truth
of
Christianity**

**Existence
and
Attributes of God**

1. Absolute Truth Does Exist.
2. We Can Know The Truth.
3. Truth Corresponds to Reality.
4. The Laws of Logic Apply to Reality.

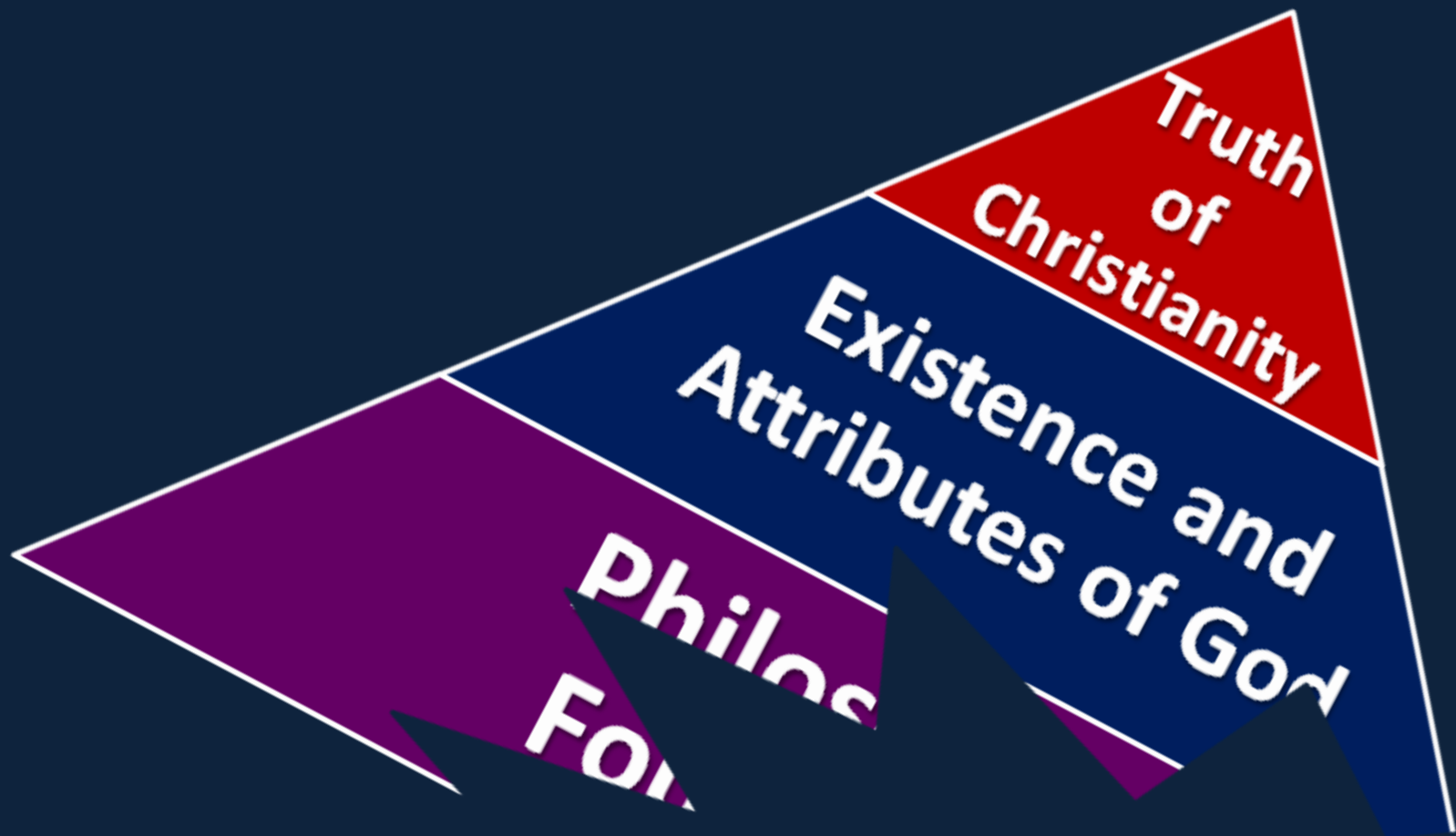
Naturalism: All events are from natural causes. There are no supernatural events. absolute.



**Truth
of
Christianity**

Existen

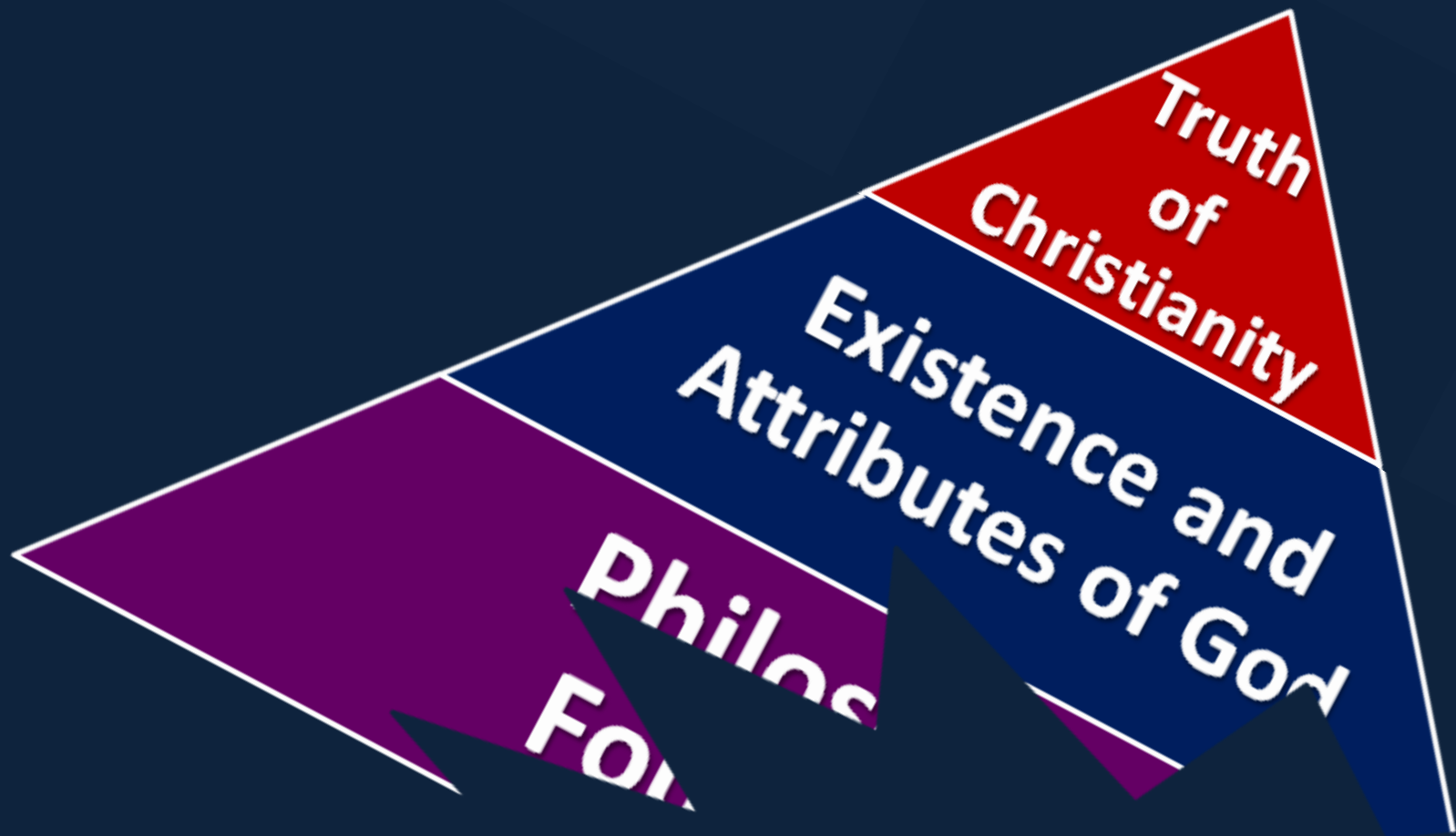




Truth
of
Christianity

Existence and
Attributes of God

Philosophy



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the image.

**How do we keep the devil
from silencing our witness?**



BY LEARNING...

**a certain kind EVANGELISM,
a certain kind of APOLOGETICS,
and a certain kind of DISCIPLESHIP**

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly soil or gravel. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns. In the center, there is a wooden surface with a visible grain pattern. A book is lying on the wooden surface, its cover and spine visible. The book is slightly open, and a small, dark object, possibly a pen or a bookmark, is resting on it. The overall scene is lit from the top, creating soft shadows and highlights on the wood and wheat.

BY LEARNING...

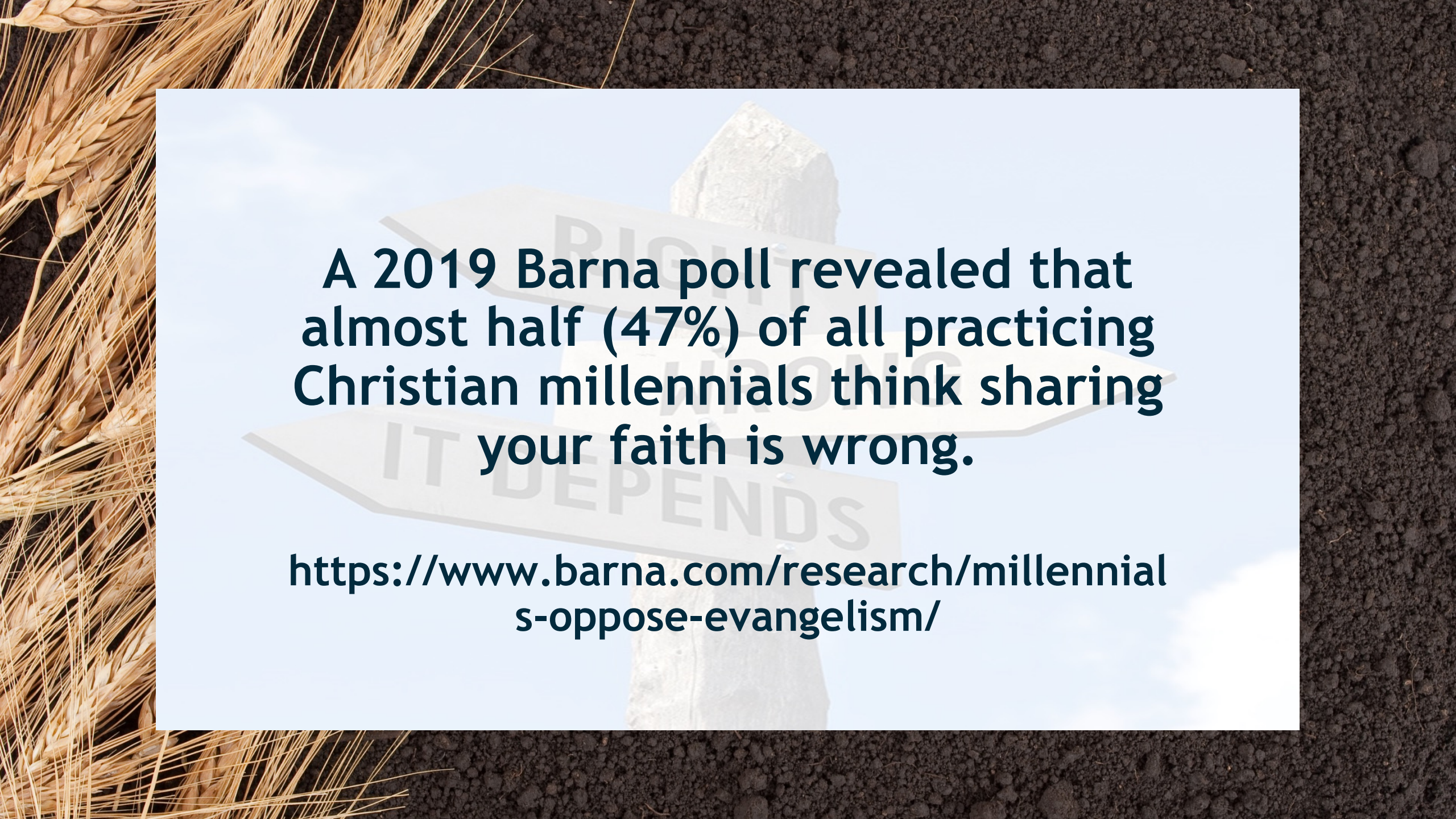
...a certain kind EVANGELISM,

A hand holding a megaphone is shown in a faded, watermark-like style in the background. The hand is positioned as if shouting into the megaphone. The background consists of dark, rich soil on the right and golden wheat stalks on the left. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular area in the center.

IF WE ARE GOING TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE TODAY

**We need to be like
the men of Issachar....**

(1 Chronicles 12:32)



A 2019 Barna poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong.

<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



“Yet 94-97% agree that the best thing their friends and loved ones can do is come to faith in Jesus.”

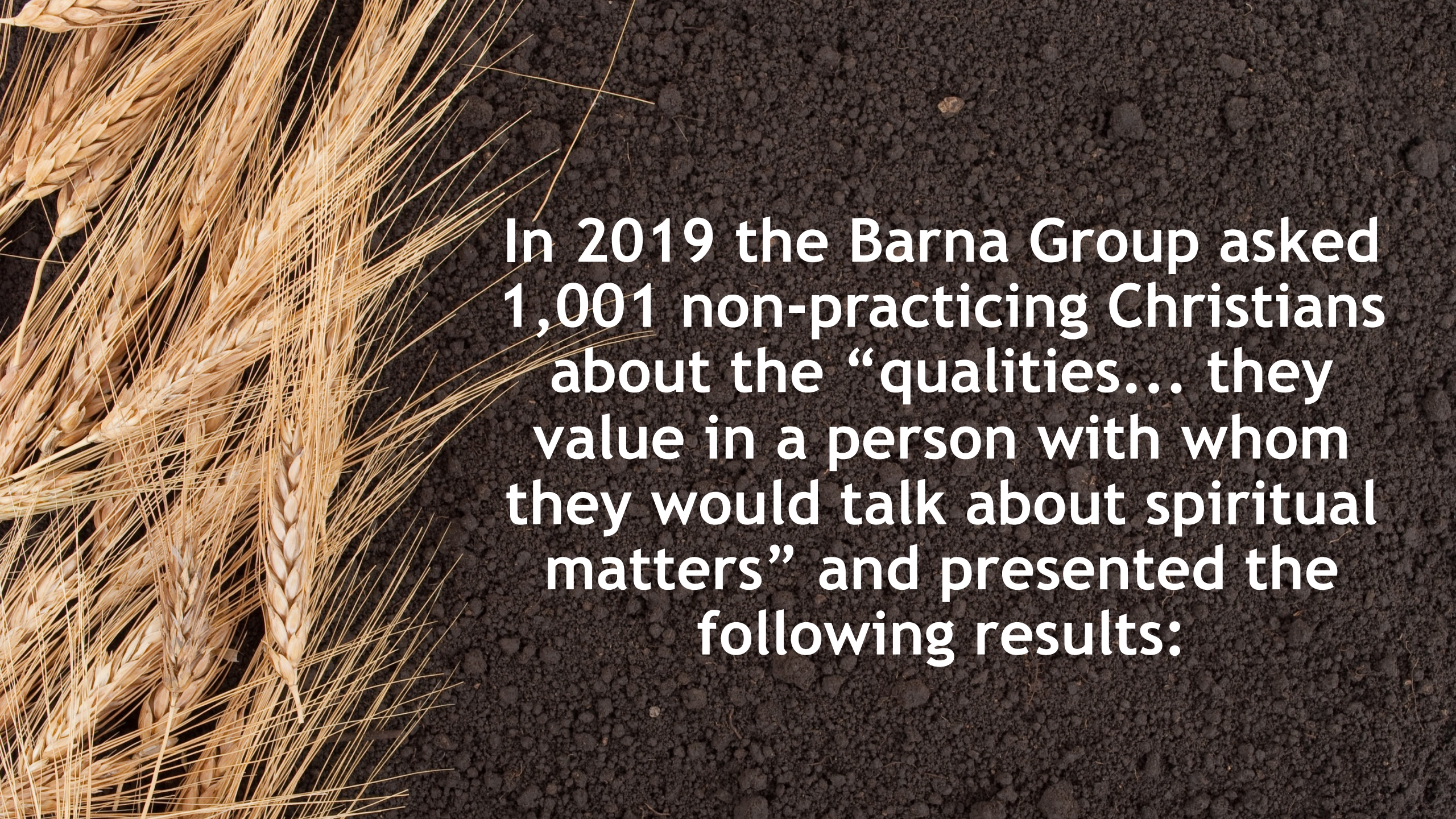
<https://www.barna.com/research/millennials-oppose-evangelism/>



**What Should We
Conclude About
These Findings?**



***It's not that Christian Millennials
don't want to share the good news...
they just want a better method!***

A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the background.

In 2019 the Barna Group asked 1,001 non-practicing Christians about the “qualities... they value in a person with whom they would talk about spiritual matters” and presented the following results:



1.62% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Listens without judgment.”

2.50% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Does not force a conclusion.”

3.43% said they would talk to someone about faith who “Allows others to draw their own conclusions.”



**What Else Should
We Conclude
About These
Findings?**



**NEW
PARADIGM
AHEAD**

**Effective witnessing today begins
with changing our paradigms!**

People prefer others to walk with them, instead of preach at them.



That God is already at
work in people's lives.

“And the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go up and join
the chariot.’” (Acts 8:29)



paul gilowey
CAPE TOWN DAILY PHOTO



EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- - will compel us to build spiritual bridges...



**...to your
unbelieving
friends from
the standpoint
of their
interest, not
your own!**



EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- **will compel us to use an approach that is conversational!**



WHY SHOULD OUR APPROACH BE CONVERSATIONAL?

*“We live in a world in which people are **reluctant** to be told what is true. But they may be willing to see for themselves (as in a mirror) the **inadequacies** in what they believe by us asking them probing and thought-provoking questions.”*

Dr. David Geisler

To Maximize Our Questions...

Remember the Three D's of
Conversational Evangelism?

DOUBT

DEFENSIVENESS

DESIRE





EFFECTIVE WITNESSING TODAY

- will compel us to see Evangelism more as a process.
- will compel us to allow others to **discover the truth** for themselves by **asking thought-provoking questions** about what they say they believe.

A close-up portrait of a man with dark hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses, a white dress shirt, a blue and white striped tie, and a dark suit jacket. A bright yellow sticky note is affixed to his forehead, partially covering his eyes. The text on the sticky note is written in black, uppercase, sans-serif font. The background is plain white.

KEEP IN MIND

**What else
should we add
to this new
paradigm?**



EFFECTIVE WITNESING TODAY...

- will compel us to use an apologetic model that uses “lite” apologetics in our first encounter!

NGIM



DAVID
GEISLER

When we evangelize, we need
to know where people are at.

NGIM

C ☸ ♀ ✠ ☯ †

Assuming all religious leaders were equal,
wouldn't you sooner trust the one that had been
on the other side of death and came back?

DAVID
GEISLER

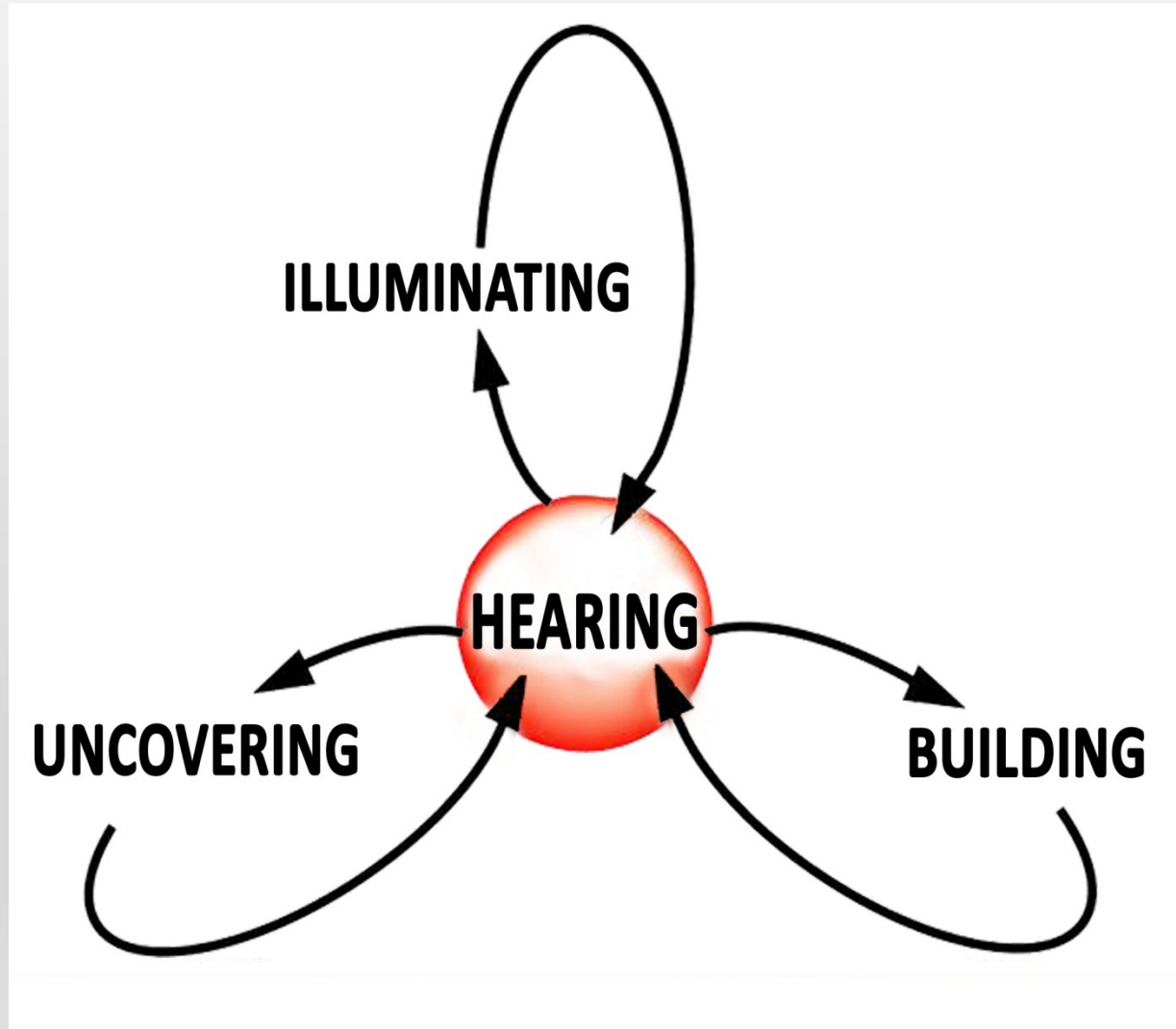




EFFECTIVE WITNESING TODAY...

- will compel us to use pre-evangelism in our evangelism.

4 TYPES OF CONVERSATIONS WE WANT TO HAVE WITH NON-BELIEVERS



4 TYPES OF ROLES YOU NEED TO PLAY IN YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE



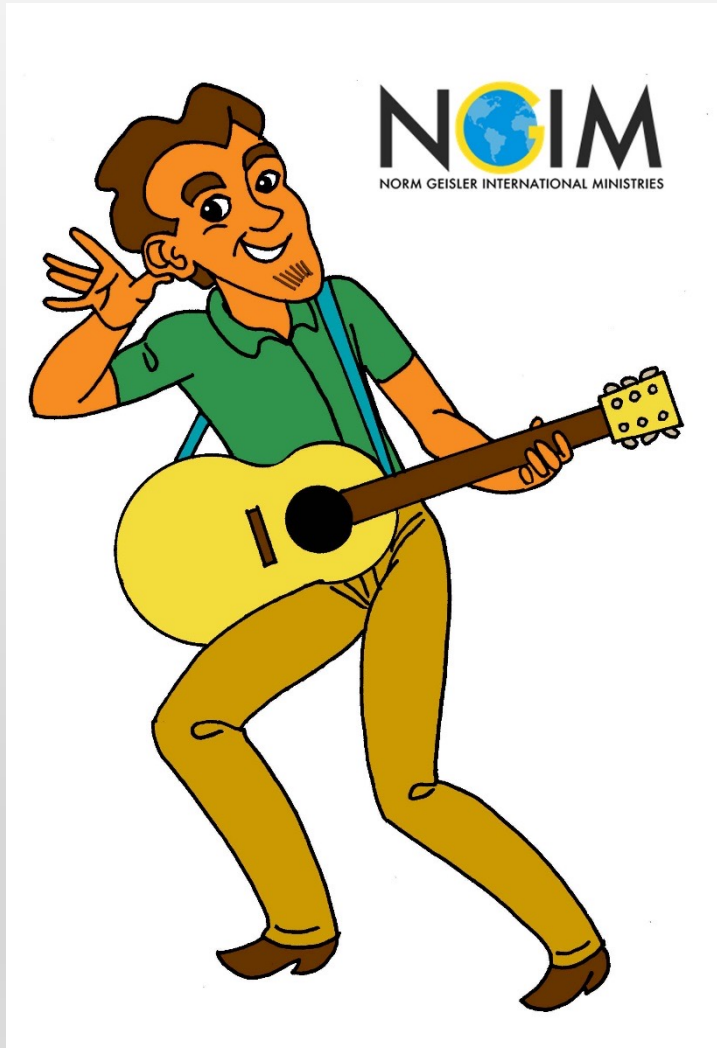
Musician

Artist

Archeologist

Builder

HEARING CONVERSATIONS



Learn their Story

Invest time in them

Search for gaps

ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS



Throw light

Expose gaps

**Navigate by
using the 3 Ds**

CONVERSATIONAL EVANGELISM



Learn Their Story

Invest Time

Search for Gaps in Their Beliefs

Throw Light by Clarifying Their Beliefs

Expose the Gaps by Surfacing Uncertainty

Navigate by Using The Three D's

STEPS TO UNCOVERING THEIR STORY

STEP 3

STEP 2

Ask questions about their religious experiences.

STEP 1

Ask questions about purpose and meaning.

Ask questions to find out what's important to them.



UNCOVERING REAL BARRIERS

Hear

Illuminate

Uncover

Build



UNCOVERING BARRIERS BETWEEN THEM AND GOD (REVIEW)



1. Determine whether their *perceived* issue is a real concern, or a **smoke screen**.
2. Determine the **nature** of their *perceived* barrier (intellectual, emotional, or a combination of both).
3. Uncover the **specific** emotional baggage that they are carrying.
4. Determine whether there is a **question or concern** behind the question or issue raised.
5. Find out what their biggest **barrier** is to Christianity.
6. Find out what would **motivate** them to get answers in these areas.
7. Uncover the **volitional factors**.



BUILD A BRIDGE TO THE GOSPEL



Musician



Artist



Archeologist



Builder

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE GOSPEL (JN. 8:32)

1. Find the Right Balance in your approach.
2. Find Common Ground with those you are trying to reach.
3. Build a bridge from point of shared beliefs (even those they are not quite aware of).
4. Memorize a basic outline for defending the Christian faith to guide you in your discussions with others.
5. Remember the goal.
6. Actively seek for opportunities to transition to spiritual things.



4 TYPES OF ROLES YOU NEED TO PLAY IN YOUR FRIEND'S LIFE



Musician

Artist

Archeologist

Builder

BUILDING A BRIDGE USING THE FIVE PLANKS

1. "I am accountable."
2. "I cannot measure up."
3. "I am a sinner."
4. "I need an outside source for help."
5. "I need what only Jesus can give."

A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the soil fills the rest of the image.

**How do we keep the devil
from silencing our witness?**

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface, possibly soil or charcoal. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns. In the center, there is a wooden surface with a visible grain. A book is lying on the wooden surface, its cover and pages visible. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

BY LEARNING...

a certain kind EVANGELISM,
a certain kind of APOLOGETIC,

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks with their heads of grain. The rest of the background is a dark, textured surface, possibly soil or a wooden table, with a semi-transparent light grey rectangular area in the center. Inside this grey area, a book with a textured cover is visible, lying flat. The text is overlaid on this grey area.

Note:

We need to add apologetics to our evangelism, but it needs to be a certain kind of apologetics.

Being Ready (1 Peter 3:15)

Being ready in witnessing today means practicing a classical two step model that uses a 12 Points approach.



The Twelve Points Consists of:



**Establish
Theism**



**Establish
Christianity**

The Apostle Paul kept in mind this two step...



The Apostle Paul's approach was different depending on the worldview of the audience he spoke to.





12 STEPS IN ESTABLISHING THE CASE FOR CHRISTIANITY

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.ngim.org



The Bottom Line:

Adding a classical apologetics approach to your faith is critical, especially in your witness today!



**An evidential approach may
not always be very effective!**



Witnessing to a Hindu

Personal Example:

“I believe we all have the power to do what Jesus did.”

Hindu Grad Student, University of Texas at Austin

JESUS HAD A TWIN BROTHER

**“...it’s more likely
(that Jesus had
a twin brother)
than the idea that
God raised Jesus
from the dead...”**

**William Lane Craig vs Bart Ehrman
College of the Holy Cross,**

Worcester, Massachusetts, United States – March 2006



A close-up photograph of several golden wheat stalks with long, thin awns, resting on a dark, textured surface of soil or asphalt. The wheat is on the left side of the frame, and the dark surface occupies the right side.

**How do we keep the devil
from silencing our witness?**



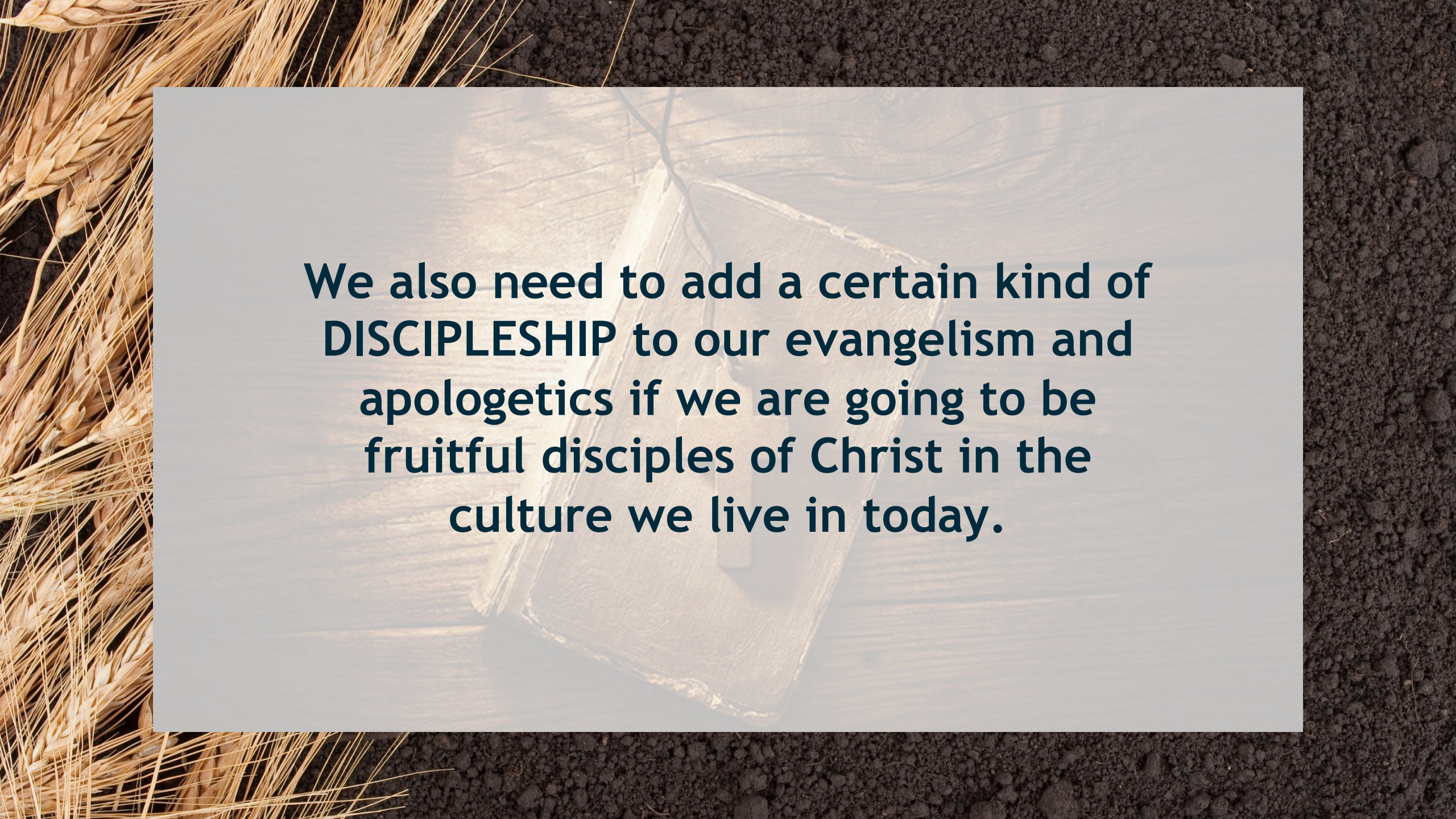
BY LEARNING...

a certain kind **EVANGELISM**,
a certain kind of **APOLOGETIC**,
and a certain kind of DISCIPLESHIP.

**Remember Matt. 28:19 doesn't teach
us to **go and make converts only!****

Go therefore and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I
have commanded you. And behold, I am
with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Matt. 28:19-20)



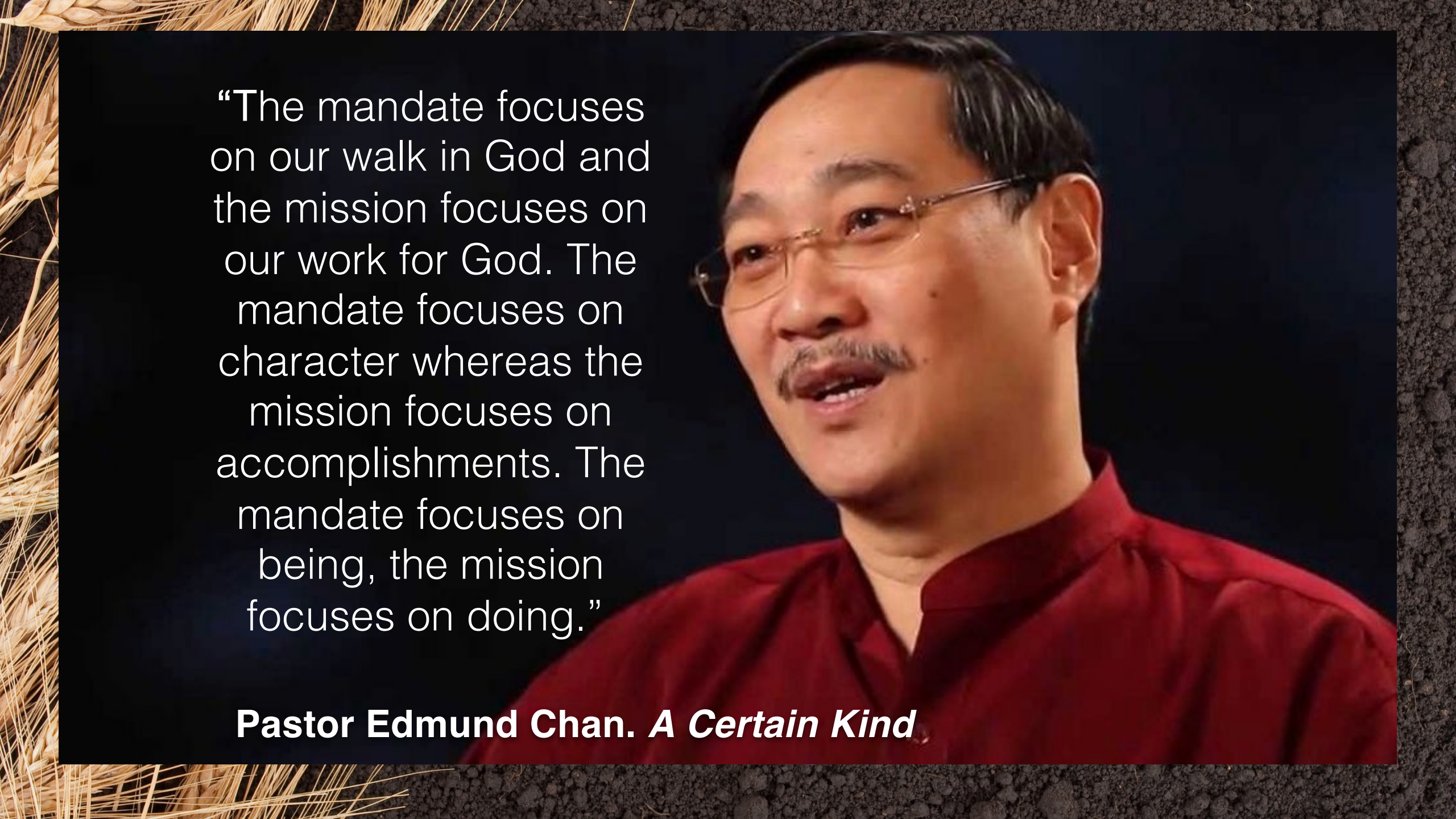
**We also need to add a certain kind of
DISCIPLESHIP to our evangelism and
apologetics if we are going to be
fruitful disciples of Christ in the
culture we live in today.**



“The Mandate
should precede
the mission.”

A Certain Kind, p. 112

Rev. Edmund Chan



“The mandate focuses on our walk in God and the mission focuses on our work for God. The mandate focuses on character whereas the mission focuses on accomplishments. The mandate focuses on being, the mission focuses on doing.”

Pastor Edmund Chan. *A Certain Kind*



The devil's strategy is to get you focused only on the mission and neglect the mandate!

Matthew 5:3-4 (ESV)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn.”





**“And the key to abiding
in our MASTER is...**

**“... Acknowledging
our spiritual poverty!”**

Rev. Edmund Chan

ROOTED

RESTED

READY

REACHING

DISCIPLESHIP



ROOTED



RESTED

READY

REACHING

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember to actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

“Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them saying: Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matt. 5:1-3



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Matt. 5:4





The devil's strategy is to get you focused only on the mission and neglect the mandate!

ROOTED



RESTED

READY

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To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember to actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.



Whereas the key to **rootedness** is abiding in Christ, the key to **restedness** is abiding in the word of God.

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.



Rested

“This says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and **ask for the ancient paths**, where the good way is; and **walk in it, and find rest for your souls...**’”

Jeremiah 6:16

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember to actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

Biblical principle to remember:

**When we live according to the
Word of God, this brings rest for
our souls (Jer. 6:16).**



ROOTED



RESTED

READY

REACHING

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember to actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

Observation

“When you and I are rooted and rested in Christ, we will be **more ready** to given an answer for the hope we have in Christ!”



What Does It Mean to be Ready?

1 Pet. 3:15 (ESV) says,

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared (ready) to make a defensive to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”





Being Ready

“Being ready is not just a matter of having the right information available, it is also an attitude of readiness and eagerness to share the truth of what we believe.”

Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics, p. 37



BEING READY

The Greek word for ready (Hetoimos) is used in Matt 24:44 and Luke 12:40 to communicate the idea that as Christians we need to anticipate Christ's return.

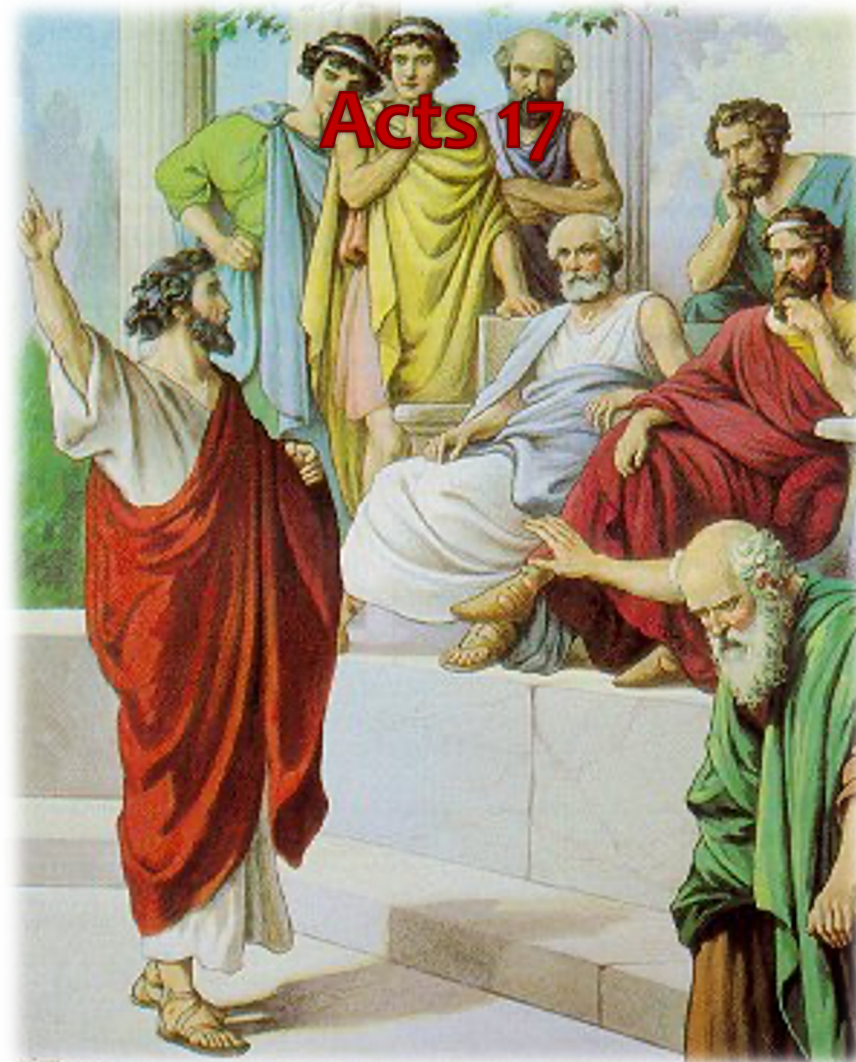
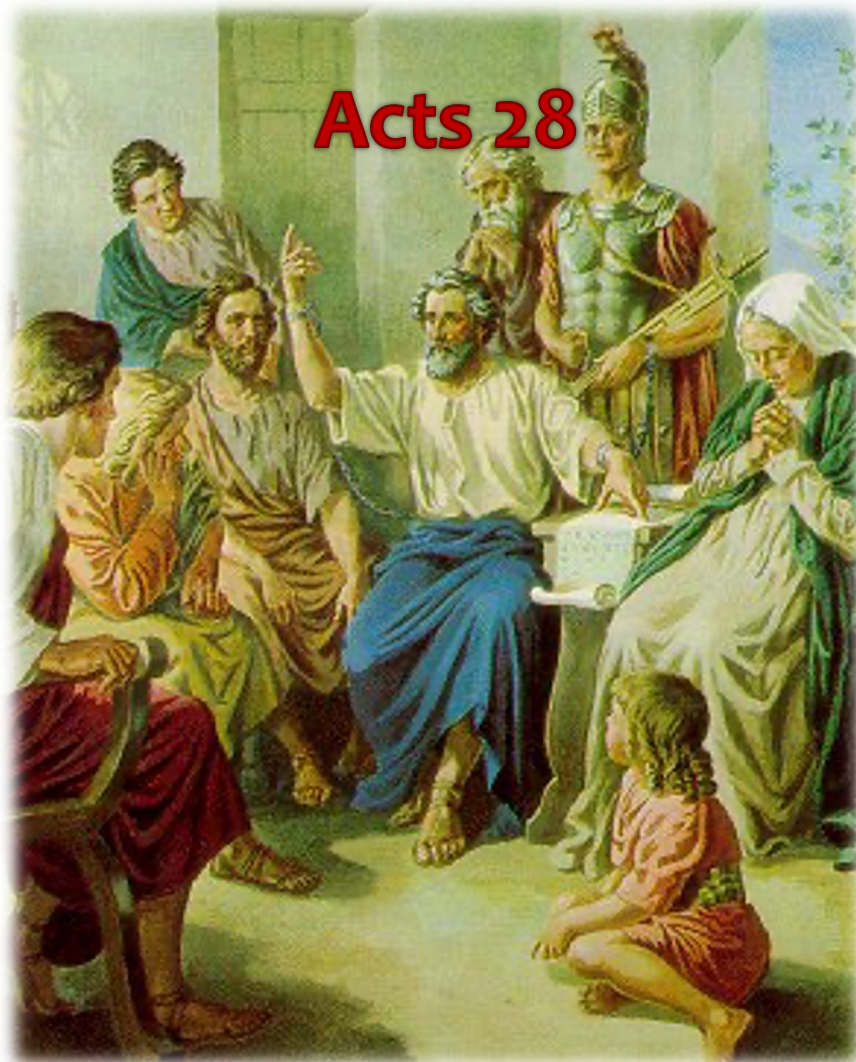




WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO “BE READY” IN 1 PET. 3:15?

If we combine 1 Peter 3:15 with 2 Corinthians 10:5 and 1 Cor. 9:22, it is clear that our responsibility is also to eagerly anticipate the questions and objections and remove barriers whether others ask us a specific question or not!

That Was The Apostle Paul's Practice!



Being Ready means...

You and I should be **so changed** by Christ that **we care so much** about the lost around us that **we will eagerly look for those opportunities** to remove barriers and help them take steps to the cross, **whether we are asked** specific questions or not.



Observations:

- When you and I have this eager anticipation, we will have a greater impact on people.
- You and I will have this greater eagerness when you and I are a certain kind of disciple of Christ.
- A disciple who's rooted and rested and has an eager readiness to give an answer for the hope we have.



The Bottom Line Concerning 1 Peter 3:15



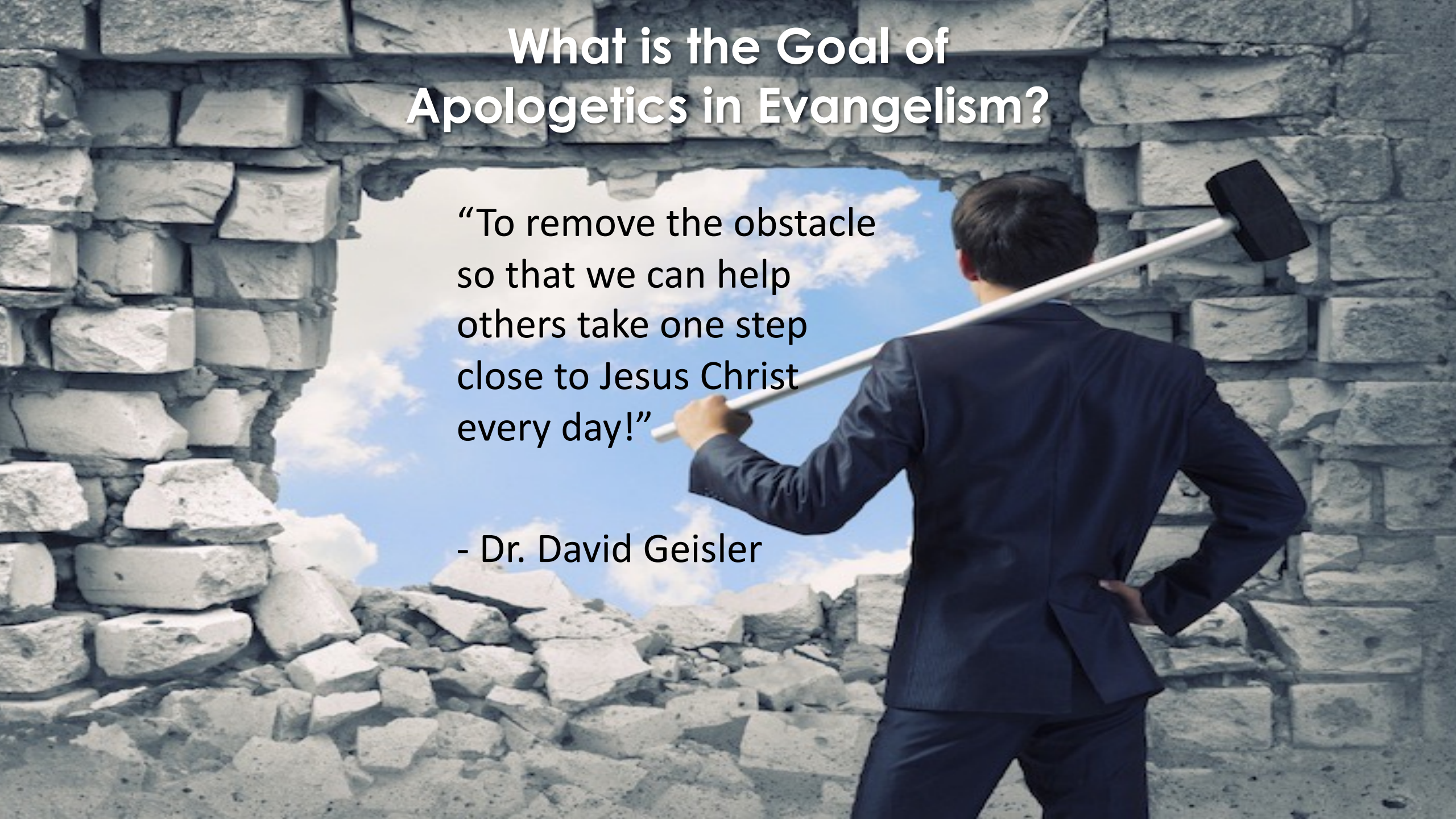
If we are going to be able to fulfill the imperatives of 1 Peter 3:15 in today's world, we must understand our responsibilities as being more than just giving answers if asked!

We must eagerly work to remove their barriers!

What is the Goal of Apologetics in Evangelism?

“To remove the obstacle so that we can help others take one step close to Jesus Christ every day!”

- Dr. David Geisler



SCRIPTURE COMMANDS US TO DEFEND THE FAITH

1 Peter 3:15- “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be ready* to give a *defense* to every one who asks you a *reason* for the *hope* that is in you, with meekness and fear,” (NKJV)

Apologia (Greek)- “to defend.”



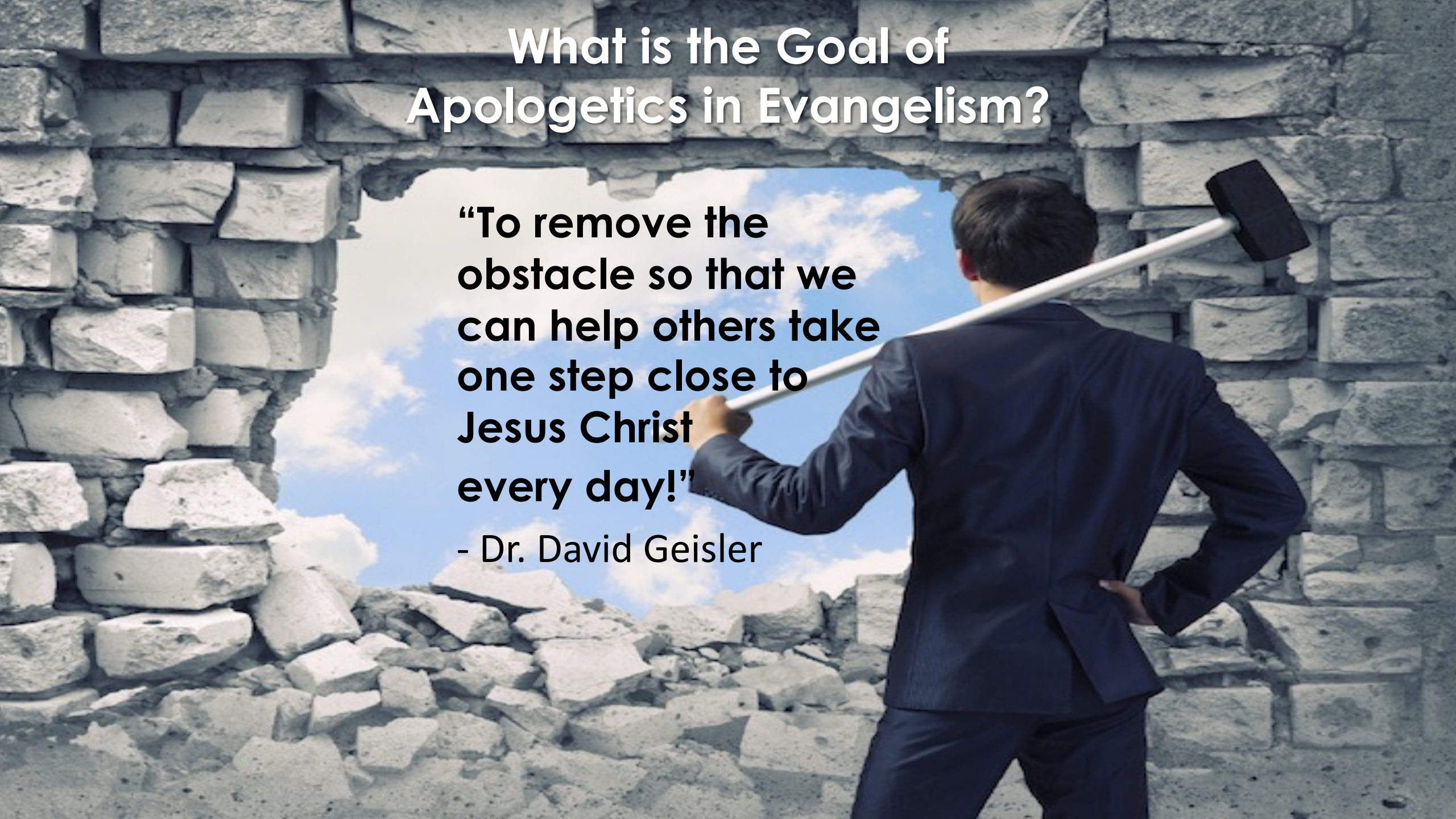
APOLOGETICS AND EVANGELISM GO HAND IN HAND



What is the Goal of Apologetics in Evangelism?

“To remove the obstacle so that we can help others take one step close to Jesus Christ every day!”

- Dr. David Geisler



Ready



But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always **be ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
(1 Pet. 3:15 NKJ)

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

Our Convictions at NGIM About Teaching This New Trifecta

- 1. We are more effective when our words match how we actually live fueled by our desire to fulfill God's mandate for our lives.**
- 2. We are more intellectually effective in our use of apologetics when we practice a classical model using a 12 Points approach.**
- 3. We are more individually effective in witnessing when we practice an apologetic/evangelistic approach that is more conversational, more indirect at first, and builds a bridge to the spiritual from the point of their interest, not our own.**

Summarizing what I learned in my journey in discipleship

Without a comprehensive approach to teaching an apologetic approach that blends not only evangelism but also *the missing key of discipleship*, several things may happen:

1. Our words will not match the testimony of our lives and that alone will be a cause for our witness to fall on deaf ears.
2. Our disciples will not be motivated to use the tools we teach them because they won't have the right heart for God.
3. We will not use these tools correctly because we will not have the right posture and perspective in our walk with Christ which comes from a foundation of *understanding our own spiritual poverty*.



The devil has a plan to distort the truth in order to weaken our faith and dilute our witness.



How do we guard against the Devil's plan?

**The integration of
a certain kind of evangelism,
a certain kind of apologetics,
and a certain kind of discipleship.**

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