

# Ten Things To Remember About Witnessing Today

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## 1. We are just the Instrument that God uses for His purposes. It's the Holy Spirit who does the heavy lifting. (1 Cor. 1:27; Jn. 16:8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Jn. 6:65)

"God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." (1 Cor. 1:27B)

<sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: Jn. 16:8

<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14

<sup>65</sup> And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." Jn. 16:8

<sup>65</sup> And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

## 2. The gospel is offensive. But how we communicate the gospel should be done in the least offensive way as possible. (Col. 4:5-6)

<sup>5</sup> Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

## 3. People prefer others to walk with them instead of preaching at them. (Jn. 16:12)

<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

*A 2018 Barna poll revealed that almost half (47%) of all practicing Christian millennials think sharing your faith is wrong. 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/>*

*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:*

62% said they would talk to someone about faith who "Listens without judgment."

50% said they would talk to someone about faith who "Does not force a conclusion."

43% said they would talk to someone about faith who "Allows others to draw their own conclusions."

Barna Group, Reviving Evangelism, 2019, p.45

## 4. Evangelism is a process so don't forget to do pre-evangelism every day! (1 Cor. 3:6; Matt. 13:19-23)

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 1 Cor. 3:6

<sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,<sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.<sup>[a]22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” Matt. 13:19-23

**5. Every person is on a spiritual journey. (Ecc. 3:11)**

“He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

**6. God is already at work in people’s lives. (Acts 8:29)**

Think of the story in the Book of Acts where “the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go up and join the chariot.’” (Acts 8:29)

**7. Success in evangelism is having a spiritual conversation with someone that engages them in such a way so that the next time they see us, they would want to continue the conversation.**

**8. In a world that no longer believes in propositional truth, we need to convert some of our statements of belief into questions, illustrations, and stories. Draw them to the truth, be winsome in your approach.**

*Four questions to ask yourself whenever someone asks a question that is a barrier to faith!*

1. What are the possible questions (or issues) behind each question (or issue) that needs to be addressed?
2. What terms that they use need to be clarified?
3. What truth do we want them to grasp about the question or issue raised?
4. What questions, illustrations, or stories can we use to help them grasp this truth?

Taken from David Geisler and Norman Geisler’s book, *Conversational Evangelism*, p. 160-161.)

Examples: Water and sewage; Paul Harvey’s story, “The man and the bird.”

**9. To maximize the effectiveness of our questions, remember the Three D's of Conversational Evangelism. (Doubt, Defensiveness, Desire) – See Jn. 4:13-14**

*We should ask questions that surface their doubt, minimize their defensiveness, and create a desire to hear more about Jesus.*

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again.<sup>[a]</sup> The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." Jn. 4:13-14

**10. We need to be the good news before we can effectively share the good news (Matt. 11:19). People watch us to see if we are living what we preach.**

<sup>19</sup> ...a friend of tax collectors and sinners! Matt. 11:19

**Some Practical Suggestions For Taking The Next Step**

(Taken from David Geisler and Norman Geisler's book, *Conversational Evangelism*, p. 35-36.)

1. Determine who the Lord is placing on your heart for reaching. Pray and think about just three people. Who are the three people?
2. Pray for open doors. (Col. 4:3)
3. Look for divine appointments daily! (Acts 8:29)
  - Look for ways God is already at work in the lives of those you want to reach!
  - Ask yourself, "What are the signs that God is already working supernaturally in someone's heart?"
  - Ask God for wisdom to know what to say in your conversations with others. (James 1:5; Acts 14:1) Pray before going.
4. Make the most of every conversation you have with pre-believers to help them take one step closer to the cross. (Col. 4:5; 1 Cor. 9:22)
  - Listen carefully to what they say in order to make every encounter count.
  - Discover what might create greater spiritual openness (Acts 17:32).
  - Start by determining what will hook their interest in spiritual things. Uncover what interests them! (John 4:10).
  - Look for ways to create more interest in our Jesus.
    - You may be surprised how easy it is to "catch" someone's interest in spiritual things if God is already at work.