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## Sharing Your Faith

Telling others about the salvation of Christ is the most exciting opportunity we have as believers. It is a work of the Holy Spirit in you sharing truth as well as the Holy Spirit in the individual enabling them to understand and perceive the message of salvation.

Since it is the work of the Holy Spirit then we understand that as a human agent in the delivery of the message, we have certain responsibilities towards the unsaved. First, we must pray for their salvation, for the Holy Spirit's enlightening in their lives, for conviction, and repentance.

Also, we ourselves must be prepared to be the means the Lord uses to present the truth. This requires that we understand our mandate and means of presenting the gospel.

### The Mandate

- Matthew 28:17-20
- Mark 16:15, 16
- Luke 24:46-48
- John 20:21
- Acts 1:8

### The Means

These verses below are some of the ones you can use. They allow you to follow a logical plan and discussion regarding who God is and our need for salvation. Discuss each text.

#### 1) God is Holy

*There is no one Holy like the Lord.*

~ 1 Samuel 2:2

Everything must start with the Holiness of God. Without this starting point we have nothing to base sin upon or counteract "good works". Holiness means

"separation". God is separate from all that is unholy. He is perfect and nothing else is.

#### 2) We fall short of God

*For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

~ Romans 3:23

It is essential that people understand that though they are good in their own eyes or even in the eyes of others, they fall short of a Holy God. No one is perfect, no one is without error, and yet since God is perfect, we have a problem when we measure ourselves to Him. We fall short.

#### 3) Separation

*"Our Sins have separated us from God."* (Isaiah 59:2)

God is perfect and we are not. God must be separated from all that is unholy and that is us. There exists an immeasurable and incomprehensible gulf between the unsaved man and the Holy God. We are separated because of our two different natures. And this separation leads to consequences.

#### 4) The Options

*"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

Our lives, like everyone else's, have been full of sin. And the result or "wage" for what we deserve for that life is eternal death. Since a Holy God can not accept us as we are, we simply get what we have worked for; the wages for our sin is death. A "gift" however, is something you receive for free and do not deserve. A gift is unexpected and not based upon work or effort. God's gift to us is eternal life, though we neither earned it nor deserve it; it is truly a gift.

#### 5) The Gift

*"Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners."* (1 Timothy 1:15)

Jesus Christ came not to introduce a new religion but to provide the gift we need to save us from the consequences or wage that we deserve and are headed for. He came to save us from the eternal separation from God and the wrath we deserve for violating His holiness. This is where we can say "God is Love". He loves us enough to provide a way out of the fate we deserve.

#### 6) The Call

*"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."* (Acts 3:19)

Humanly, we are called to respond to this message by repentance. Repentance is much more than having sorrow over our sin, it is much more than "asking Jesus into our hearts". It is an acknowledgment of our sin and God's Holiness. It

It is an acknowledgment of the wrath we deserve, and the punishment that goes along with it. Repentance is a plea to God for mercy, and a realization that unless we are covered in the blood of Christ we are doomed. Look at the other verses that call us to repentance.

**7) Basis of Salvation**

*“He saved us, not by the righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy.” (Titus 3:5, 6)*

Our salvation is not based upon what we have done, for we have done nothing. It is wholly a work of God, from the initial enlightening of the Holy Spirit and His conviction to the act of repentance. Our salvation is based upon the fact that God has had mercy upon us when we did not deserve it. Mercy is a term used to describe an act of compassion upon something that can not help itself. Salvation in our lives is the greatest act of God’s mercy.

**8) The Family Privilege**

*“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God.” (John 1:12)*

God has given us privileges, the greatest being our right to become part of His family. We have been adopted into the family of God and have received with it all the rights and privileges of sonship; our new heavenly home, and the continual leading and guiding of an intimate and Holy Father. We can not un-adopt ourselves; He has made us His children.

**9) The Assurance**

*“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)*

What can we know for certain in this life? How can we be sure that our repentance is still effective? John tells us that the “things he has written” or the gospel, were written to give us assurance. We can know, not wonder or question or hope. We can know for sure that we have been forgiven and that heaven is ours!

**The Prayer**

Never make someone’s salvation “easy”. This means they must truly be willing and ready to repent. Otherwise someone can say a prayer and not have come to true salvation. This must be the work of God, not human convincing. If, however, you sense by the Lord that an individual is under conviction and they are burdened by their sin, and having explained the gospel to them, ask them, “Does this make sense to you?” and “Are you ready now to seek God’s forgiveness?”

It not then the Holy Spirit needs to work more and rejoice that He is working in their life. If they respond “yes”, then you can guide them through a prayer that includes all the elements of repentance.

REMEMBER: God does not need you. Many people have been truly saved completely without human guidance! But if you have the opportunity to pray with someone, seek to include these elements in your prayer. They should repeat the words with you. It must come from them.

- Address God the Father
- Acknowledge His Holiness
- Acknowledge their sin
- Acknowledge their unworthiness before God
- Acknowledge that Jesus is God
- Acknowledge that Jesus came to provide salvation
- “I repent of my sin before you” (you can even give them time to confess)
- “Please forgive me”
- “Cover me with the blood of Christ, and wash my sin away”
- “I give my life totally to you”
- Thank the Lord for His Salvation

- You could read some scripture with them to rejoice with them.
- It is important for them to tell someone right away. Get them to telephone someone who has been praying for them, so they too can rejoice.

Then start this course all over again!  
Amen

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