

EVANGELISM

How to Lead People to Christ

by Norman Holmes

“Evangelism – How to lead people to Christ”
© 2020 Norman Holmes

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Chapter 1 – Evangelism Explained

Evangelism is the communication of the Gospel message. The word “evangelism” comes from the Greek noun “euaggelion” which means the “gospel” or “good news.” The communication of the message of Christ’s salvation gives us the word “evangelism.”

The work of evangelism is not to be confined to a small group of ministers and church workers. You don’t need a special call or personal revelation from God to get involved in evangelism- actually, if you are a born-again Christian, you are already called to evangelism!

Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians: *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God,”* -2 Cor.5:17-20 NIV.

Here we read that everyone who is in Christ- everyone who has been reconciled to God- has been given the ministry of reconciling others to God. We are ALL called to be ambassadors of the Gospel! Every Christian will not be a preacher or an evangelist, but we are all called to give to others what we have been given- the gospel invitation to salvation.

We do not need to be a skilled speaker or conversationalist to spread the Gospel. If we have received eternal life through the salvation of Christ, we can, each in our own way, point others towards receiving the same gift from God. We can pass it along- pass it forward- and seek to scatter ideas and words that will be like seeds that can grow up to become a fruitful harvest.

One of the most famous stories in Church history of how the Lord brought a sinner to see his need of salvation was in the life of John Wesley, who later became a revivalist and the founder of the Methodist churches. As a young man he was already an ordained minister of the Anglican Church, although he had not yet obtained a personal experience of salvation by faith in Christ. For years he had felt that he was a Christian seeking to serve God, yet his empty heart was exposed to himself during a dangerous storm on the high seas while he was on a missionary journey to the American colony of Georgia. When their ship was close to sinking, a group of born-again Moravian Christians on board were singing hymns, fully peaceful in the face of death. John Wesley realized that he was afraid of dying and did not have the fruit of a true Christian faith like these Moravians had. This experience caused him to return to England with the confession that he had gone to America to convert others, but he returned to

England needing to first be converted himself! That led him to attend a Moravian Bible study in London where he did find his heart “strangely warmed” by the experience of salvation. But what was it that first caused his eyes to become opened to his personal need for a Savior? It was the singing of a group of Christians, not their preaching or their evangelistic methods. Whatever our giftings and talents- or whatever our lack of them may be- we can each be used of God to help lead others to Christ!

We Have a Responsibility

Not only do we all have the privilege of sharing the Gospel with others, we also need to realize that we have each been given a solemn responsibility to spread the Gospel. Consider what Proverbs tells us: *“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, “But we knew nothing about this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?”* -Prov.24:11-12.

We should be seeking to rescue those who are heading towards death and damnation- and our praying for them and sharing the gospel offers the only remedy for their condition.

Our Lord Jesus told us, *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven,”* Mt.5:13-16. We all have the opportunity to let the light of Christ shine through our lives, and be “salty” Christians that make others thirst after God. Yet we also have the responsibility to not hide our Christian witness or be “flavorless.”

So in this book we are going to examine how each of us can become effective in sharing our faith. We can each, according to our own unique giftings and abilities, seek to evangelize and lead people to Christ and eternal life. The Lord Jesus said that heaven rejoices when a lost soul returns to God- and we can bring great joy to lost souls, and even to heaven, if we will learn to become effective in evangelism.

Chapter 2 – What Do We Share?

In evangelism, there are basically two things that we share: #1 the Gospel in the Bible, and #2 our own testimony. This can also be described as #1 the Word of God written in the Scriptures, and #2 the Word of God personally alive in our own life.

When we share #1- the Gospel (or, “good news”) from the Bible, we are establishing the objective, eternal truths of God that can lead someone to salvation. But when we share #2- our own personal testimony of salvation- we are taking the eternal truths of God and are showing how they can be practically applied and are useful for us today. Your testimony can show how the Gospel transformed your life, and how it can also work for those who listen to you! So let’s dig deeper now into how we can share God’s Word in these two ways.

#1 Share the Gospel in the Bible

The Scriptures are God’s Word to mankind in general, but to reach an individual person with the message of salvation we need to effectively present to them just what they need. The Bible has messages for every problem that anyone might face, so we need to skillfully narrow down our presentation to quickly and accurately present the way to salvation. If we flood our listener with many unnecessary ideas they can easily become confused and unreceptive. Sometimes one anointed scripture quote, or speaking one short biblical concept, can be the sword of the Spirit that pierces a person’s heart and leads them to the Savior. As Hebrews 4:12 tells us, *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Some of the most effective scriptures that can “stand alone” in presenting the gospel are:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” -John 3:16

“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” -John 14:6

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” -Romans 6:23

From any of these three verses the message of salvation can be shared quickly and effectively. Memorizing these scriptures, and many more as you are able, will help equip you to be able to share the Gospel.

It is also good for you to be able to put a number of scriptures (or a number of scriptural concepts) together to form a more thorough gospel presentation. One of the most simple of these presentations is called “The ABCs of Becoming a Christian.” It presents:

A- ADMIT that you are a sinner, Rom.3:23.

B- BELIEVE that Jesus, the Son of God, died for your sins and rose again, 1 Cor.15:3-4

C- CONFESS Him to be your Lord and Savior, Rom.10:9

Back in the 1970s Campus Crusade for Christ (now renamed CRU) started promoting what has been the single most used modern gospel presentation, shared with countless millions of unbelievers in a tract form. It is called "The Four Spiritual Laws." It states:

1. God loves you (Jn.3:16), and has a wonderful plan for your life (Jn.10:10).
2. Man is sinful (Rom.3:23) and separated from God (Rom.6:23).
3. Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for man's sin to be forgiven, Rom.5:8, 1 Cor.15:3-6, Jn.14:6.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives, Jn.1:12, Eph.2:8-9, Rev.3:20.

Another gospel presentation, called *The Romans Road*, can simply be shared by looking at five scriptures in the book of Romans. They are:

1. *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* Romans 3:23.
2. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,"* Romans 6:23.
3. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,"* Romans 5:8.
4. *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation,"* Romans 10:9-10.
5. *"For 'Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved,'"* Romans 10:13

While these presentations can be helpful in presenting a full salvation invitation, we must be sensitive to recognize that many times people are not open to be walked through such a long presentation. They may also come from a religious or cultural background that will not easily understand these concepts, or recognize that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, atheists and postmodern Westerners each have very different theological or philosophical mindsets.

For these reasons, while we should become skilled in sharing these Bible truths, we must also be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be sensitive to the person(s) that we are talking to. Words and concepts that will speak to one person's heart might not be understood by someone else! We have an example to this when the Apostle Paul witnessed to King Agrippa in Acts 26. The king knew and believed the Jewish faith, so

Paul spoke to him according to his religious background, and in such a way that the king said, “*You almost persuade me to become a Christian*” in Acts 26:28. However, the Roman governor, Festus, was listening at the same time. Festus had a very different mindset as a Roman, and his response to that same message was, “*Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!*” in Acts 26:24. So it is important that we learn the Scriptures, but that we also learn the guidance of the Holy Spirit and are sensitive to the cultural and religious background of those whom we are evangelizing. We will consider in chapter 6 some of the largest religions and philosophies that you will probably encounter in witnessing to others, to help you to more sensitively understand them and connect your message to their understanding and needs.

#2 Share Your Personal Testimony (How the Gospel worked for *me!*)

Along with using the Bible, we can witness to people by explaining what God has done in our own life. Many times people have the impression that the Bible is outdated and full of useless myths and stories. But if becoming a Christian has transformed your life, it can be living proof that the old gospel story is still the power of God for salvation today!

Every person has similar needs and desires: searching for love, joy, and peace- wanting to be set free from bondages- looking for meaning in life, or to be part of some meaningful family or community- yes, we all have similar desires. And testifying how Christ changed your own heart & life will often speak to their own personal needs and desires. Our lives can be living proof that Christ is still alive and is helping needy people, just as He did back in Bible days. Our testimony can spark hope in the hearts of our listeners: their lives can be changed by God also! What they cannot fix in their own broken lives, God is still able, and desiring, to fix today!

Paul gave his personal testimony three times in the Book of Acts as he was evangelizing others.ⁱ The complete transformation of his life- from being a great persecutor of the Christian faith, into becoming a great defender of the faith- was a powerful testimony that is still helping to convince spiritual sceptics today. And if your life has been transformed- perhaps from depression to joy, or from sickness to health, or from bondage to freedom- then you can also have a powerful testimony that can encourage others to turn to Christ.

When we examine the Scriptures, we find that one entire book of the Bible is a personal testimony. That is the Book of Ecclesiastes, the last sermon of King Solomon. He wrote it as a personal testimony and as a warning to others: he basically told everyone to not follow his own bad example! Near the end of his sermon he warned all the young men that if they followed their own paths and the lusts of the flesh (as he had) that God would judge them, Eccl.11:9-10. In the last chapter he told everyone to remember their Creator and keep His commandments from when they were young- don't be like himself, who ended up suffering for his sins. Solomon had everything the world could

offer, yet he ended up an empty and discouraged old man because he had forgotten the Lord, 1 Kings 11:4-6 & Eccles.1:2. His last sermon seems to indicate that he was seeking to get back to God in his old age, but he was never fully restored to the joy of salvation, as his father, David, had been restored, Ps.51:12 & 2 Sam.23:1-3. What a powerful testimony! The man who had everything ended up feeling like he had nothing-except to remember and obey God.

Many times a testimony will include how the person tried to find fulfillment in the things of the world, but like Solomon, they were left empty. That can help prepare the way for a powerful truth- that people will always be restless and empty until they find their fulfillment in God. But may we also be able to complete that testimony with declaring how the Lord has brought us into the righteousness, peace, and joy of His kingdom! And one more thing we must be careful of if we are sharing our personal testimony- do not magnify the sins you used to commit. Don't spend 90% of your testimony talking about all the evils you used to do, to then end up with a "Praise the Lord, but then I got saved!" Instead, magnify Christ and His salvation throughout your testimony, not sin and the old corrupt life.

Chapter 3 - Friendship Evangelism

The first type of evangelism to study and promote is more than a method- it should become a lifestyle for every committed Christian. It is also a fruitful way for us to lead people to Christ, as statistics in the USA show that the most common reason why adults come to Christ is through the influence of a friend.ⁱⁱ

Every person that we repeatedly meet is an opportunity for us to practice friendship evangelism. We already have various relationships built with them- they may know us as the neighbor next door, as their relative, or as a coworker or classmate. But each point of contact we have with the people around us can become an opportunity to show them the reality of the life of Christ that is living in us. Through the various situations of life a Christian may exhibit such things as the love, or peace, or the forgiveness of God at work in them. These situations where the life of Christ is revealed through us can encourage others that they, too, can receive the same favor of God that we are enjoying.

The main focus of friendship evangelism is that we are first seeking to let the light of Christ shine out of our life before we initiate any conversations that will directly preach the gospel to the people.

Many people have been turned off by the countless failures of those who profess Christianity. This can include ministers who deceive for money or fame, holier-than-thou believers who don't measure up to their own standards, or naïve Christians who believe conspiracy theories or reject sound logic and facts. Unbelievers can often find reasons to reject Christ because the believers they know have been poor representatives of His gospel. As the famous Hindu philosopher, Bara Dada, once said when he was asked about his rejection of Christianity, "Jesus is ideal and wonderful, but you Christians -- you are not like him."ⁱⁱⁱ

Be Sensitive

When people have been turned off by the failures of Christians, we often have to first prove ourselves to be friendly and genuine in our faith before these sceptics will listen to our words. Statistics in the USA show that most unbelievers want to talk about spiritual and religious topics with people who will listen without judgment (62%) and will not try to force a conclusion on them (50%)- yet only half of them feel that they know any Christians that will do this!^{iv} In these circumstances we will have to first practice this friendship evangelism before they will be open to listen to our witnessing. Yet as their hearts become open, we must then take the opportunities to present Christ to them and offer them the Gospel.

I learned this important lesson, to be sensitive to the apprehensions of others, shortly after I went to Bible school. I was the last of 5 children to leave my parent's house and

farm, and my parents then decided to rent out half of the house as it was too big for them to use. When I heard of their plan I started to pray that the Lord would lead the right people to become the renters, people that I would be able to lead to Christ.

Shortly after three young men moved in, I was to return home for a weekend from Bible school. I prayed about sharing the Gospel with them, but felt specifically checked in my spirit that I was not to witness or preach to them. So I returned home to greet them and welcome them to the farm. I told them where the best wild berry patches were to pick berries, and where the best place was to fish in the pond. They had heard from others that I had been a hippie and rock musician, but had become a Pentecostal Christian going to a Bible school. They had also heard strange stories about that school- a place where people would fall down, speak in tongues, and have visions! When I met these three young men I could see that they greeted me apprehensively, thinking that I might be a weird or cultish person. But as they saw me during my next visits home, and we had short chats as I would chop wood for the fireplace or do other chores, they could see that I seemed to be a very normal and friendly person.

I continued to do this for the next few weekends that I went back home. Then one evening, as the sun was starting to set, these three young men were out on the front porch, enjoying the sunset while drinking beers and smoking. Then the Holy Spirit clearly spoke to my heart, "Go join them."

So I went out on the porch and casually asked if I could sit down there with them. They all welcomed my coming to "hang out" with them, and even offered me a beer. I was so glad they offered me beer- not because I wanted to drink one, I do not drink alcohol, but I was so glad that they now felt comfortable around me! As I graciously declined the beer and suggested that I would like water instead, they said "Oh, yeah, we forgot you are a Christian and might not want a beer," but the friendly atmosphere continued.

As we were relaxing and enjoying the sunset, one of the guys spoke up and said, "You know, Norman, we have heard some strange stories about you- how you were a rock musician and a hippie, but now you are a born-again Christian. What happened to you?" Aha! That was the open door I had been praying several months for!

After I shared my testimony, we talked from about 6:30 PM until about 2 in the morning about the Lord. They told me, "You know, Norman, we have met some Christians who pass out tracts and warn us that we are going to hell, and we run away from them- but you are not like that." What I did not tell them was that in a few weeks I was going to go to a big city as part of my Bible school training, where I was going to pass out tracts and witness to people- in that setting I was going to be quite like the local Christian group that they were scared of!

The next few times I returned home for weekends, we would again talk together until 1 or 2 AM as they were starting to turn to the Lord. One of them moved out and was replaced by another friend of theirs, and all three of these young men gave their lives to Christ. They all became Spirit-filled and grounded in God. One became a pastor,

another became the principal of a Christian High School, and the other graduated from Bible school and became involved in several ministries. Much good fruit has come from their lives and ministries, yet it all started when I felt led *not* to witness or preach to them! In this circumstance friendship evangelism was the way to reach them for the gospel, and while it may have seemed to be a slow process, it has had lasting results and much eternal good fruit.

Share the Gospel when they become Receptive

The normal outflow of our Christian life should be continually expressing Christ. As people see Jesus through our everyday actions and words, it can motivate them to become hungry for God to work in their own life. At that point we can share with them more directly about the Lord, whether it happens in a short time- like Christ with the woman at the well in John 4- or whether it takes months, as when I led those three young men to salvation.

But at this point, when our friendship has let down the defensive walls around the heart of our listener, we need to speak more directly about Christ and His salvation. You can water a field all year long, but nothing good will grow there unless you also plant good seeds! At this point we need boldness as well as sensitivity to speak of the things that will lead our listeners towards salvation.

If we do not use our conversations with unbelievers as opportunities to introduce spiritual things (and ultimately introduce Christ), then the conversations we have will only be on the natural level of the people we are talking to: talking about the weather, or sports, or politics, latest fashions, or whatever. There is also the danger that the person you are trying to influence for good might be seeking to influence you for evil! I can remember when I was an agnostic university student, I would walk for over a mile to a Christian coffeehouse. While they would try to evangelize me for Christ, I would try to “evangelize” them into believing that they could get “higher” spiritual experiences on psychedelic drugs than they were getting by praying to God! A more common danger is that an unsaved lady might be a “fisher of men” in an immoral sense, or an unsaved guy might be seeking to corrupt a pure Christian lady. So while we want friendship evangelism to bridge the gap to reach the lost for Christ, we have to remember that bridges allow two-way traffic. Therefore we should be careful that our emotions and desires do not become entangled or corrupted by the people we are befriending.

When it's time for a Christian to shift gears from just having godly actions to also start speaking about the Lord, we find that many Christians become fearful and ineffective. The influences of the world, the flesh, and the demonic seek to hinder or stop this outflow of God's word so that they will not be effective witnesses and soulwinners.

How many times have we ever been hesitant to speak up in a public conversation and mention something about the Lord because we think that there is someone present who will disapprove or contradict what we say? Or perhaps we feel inadequate or unqualified to speak up. Many areas of personal or spiritual weakness can hinder us from being

effective in impacting other people's lives for Christ, and each of us must be honest to face up to these weaknesses and seek for the grace of God to overcome them. This takes focus, commitment, and personal development- things we can accomplish as we study about evangelism and put into practice what we learn. It is not difficult- even a teenager or a child can learn how to become a soulwinner!

Every Christian Can Become a Soulwinner

My wife, Linda, was led to Christ through the influence of her 9th grade science partner. As they worked together on various projects throughout the school year, her partner was constantly telling her about the Lord. Linda had a basic knowledge about God from her Catholic background, but this was the first time she had ever clearly heard the Gospel. They were both only 14 years old, but the persistent witnessing was effective to lead Linda to Christ, and through her, to lead many more.

My eldest daughter, Rebecca, is now a pastor in Hawaii. She led her first person to Christ when she was only 6 years old! She was playing dolls with her next-door neighbor friend, who was 7 years old. She interrupted their playing to remark that her friend was disobeying the Bible when she prayed to idols. My daughter took out her Bible, and showed her friend in Exodus 20:4 where the Lord forbids idols- she knew where the scripture was, because she daily read 7 chapters since she was 5 years old! She then told her friend that she should only pray to Jesus, and led her in a salvation prayer.

Her friend started to come to church with us, it was less than 150 meters from her house. She learned to sing Christian songs and really love Jesus, until her parents started to see the changes in her and forbid her from going to that "Protestant" church. She pleaded with her parents daily that she wanted to go to that church where they love Jesus, until after several months they attended the church with her, and they also got saved!

Becoming a soulwinner does not take great talents or education. We all constantly find ourselves in daily situations in which we can let the life of Christ flow out of us, or else where we might hide our Christian testimony. The Lord Jesus said that we are to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth, but He also warned us that we can hide our light or become salt that loses its flavor and becomes useless, Mat.5:13-16. As a result, we need to learn to practice friendship evangelism because it is something that we can decide to do as well as gain skill in doing it. And as we learn to cultivate our opportunities to share Christ with those around us, we will find ourselves becoming soulwinners, leading the lost to the salvation of God.

If you have not yet led several people to Christ and if you are not yet fully comfortable to put into practice what we have been studying in this chapter, here are some practical steps for you to take, to grow into these friendship evangelism skills:

Steps to Launch Out into Evangelism

1. Begin to focus daily prayer on several unbelievers that you are in repeated contact with. Pray that God will open their hearts and that you will be able to share the Gospel with them, whether slowly or in fast steps forward.
2. When you are together with the unbeliever, seek to let the supernatural grace of God flow out of your heart and life. This grace might be manifested in a circumstance where you will forgive someone who does not deserve it, or where you might love the unlovable, or be joyful in a naturally gloomy situation. You might also evidence a spiritual life by giving spiritual applications to natural conversations, such as when Christ changed a conversation about natural water into a conversation about the spiritual water of salvation in John 4:7-14.
3. If the person is responsive to your spiritual input, then give them more- as much as they are hungry for! But do not feed them more than they can digest. If we overdo it and force spiritual things upon a person who is not ready, then they will reject it. Be patient, for while you water their hearts with prayer and plant godly seed with your words, God can cause an increase of spiritual desire and discernment to grow in them. You also might give them a book or video that could minister to them, or you may feel to invite them to attend a home Bible study or some other Christian group activity.
4. If the person is maturing in their spiritual desire and perception, look for the proper time and opportunity to lead them into becoming born again. Both natural and spiritual things that grow and mature need to come to a time of harvest!
5. If the person is not increasingly hungry for the things of God, back off on your friendship evangelism- wait and pray, and perhaps look for other people to focus your attention on who may be more receptive at the present time.

Chapter 4 - Organized Evangelism

While we are seeking to bring the gospel to those whom we meet during our regular activities of life, there are also many ways that we can plan evangelistic outreaches. We can plan to go somewhere with the deliberate intention of sharing the gospel with the people we will meet. The opportunities are endless- evangelize at shopping malls, bus stations, parks, food courts or nursing homes- wherever people are gathered and have some time to listen to your presentation.

This is something you should plan to do with a partner or a team. The Lord Jesus sent His disciples out two by two (Lk.10:1) and it will strengthen your witness as well as add to your safety.^v

When you start considering an evangelistic outreach, it should always start with prayer. We can have good sounding ideas that end up accomplishing nothing, unless we are led by God in our evangelism.

An example of how a “good” idea can fall flat occurred when my wife was a Bible school student. In her class on evangelism, several of the students decided to present an evangelistic skit at a shopping mall (mistake #1- they did not obtain permission from the mall authorities!). Linda was chosen to act like a frustrated wife who would carry many Christmas packages through a central part of the mall. They planned that she would act upset and throw the packages in the air, exclaiming something about how Christmas was so full of endless shopping. The plan was that a young man, acting as someone passing by, was to then come up to calm her down and say loudly that the real reason for Christmas is because God gave us His perfect gift, Jesus. Her acting “husband” was then to confirm the message. In this way they aimed to get the attention of people and present a short salvation message.

Things did not go as planned, however, when they began the skit in the mall. When Linda threw the packages in the air and started making a commotion, several security guards quickly surrounded her. They encouraged her to calm down, and reassured her that everything was OK and that they would quickly call an ambulance for her. Linda’s “husband” then appeared, telling the guards that he could take care of her and quietly bring her home. Thankfully they were allowed to leave together, but instead of sharing Christ they were very glad to simply escape an embarrassing situation!

The Value of Prayer

So it is important that we pray and are led by the Spirit when we plan an evangelistic outreach. It is also important that we pray for the people we will witness to, for our prayers can be like the rain that prepares hard soil to become soft and ready for planting. Psalm 126:5-6 speaks about this when it says, *“Those who sow in tears shall*

reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

As an example of this truth, when Linda was 18 years old, she was part of an evangelism team that traveled around Scotland. They would hold gatherings in different towns, sharing the Gospel in song and testimony. In most places there would be a minimal response, or none at all. But in one town as she was walking along a road, several rough looking young men approached her. They wore black leather jackets with chains and gothic jewelry, and they looked scary. But when they heard Linda's American accent, they were curious, and they responded to the invitation she gave them to attend the evening gathering in a local hall. They also brought their friends, and about 25 of them showed up. To everyone's surprise, a great move of the Spirit swept through that place, and all the young men dropped to their knees and got thoroughly saved! The next night they brought many more of their friends, and before Linda's team traveled on, hundreds of young people had turned to Christ as revival swept through the town!

Near the end of their stay they heard the reason why revival had come to that place. There was a small group of elderly Christians, all in their 80's, who had daily prayed for years that the Lord would bring salvation to the youth of their town. It was their prevailing prayers that prepared the way for revival! Linda's team did the same presentation wherever they went, but the great difference in results there was from the prevailing prayers that had prepared the way before them.

Seek to be Led by the Spirit

As you are praying, seek the witness of the Holy Spirit that what you are planning is birthed from the mind of God. Our own human ideas will usually have only human results, whereas God's ideas will have God's results. As 1 John 5:4 tells us, *"whatever is born of God overcomes the world."*

I can remember many times as I was going to visit my home town, I would first pray and feel a burden or a witness in my heart to go speak to one of my old unsaved friends. One time I knew I would have only a few free hours in my time there to visit anyone, but as I prayed I felt I should visit an old friend, the drummer of a rock group I had been part of years before. My first night home I looked in a phone book, and could only find the phone number of his parents. When I called them they said that their son, Doug, lived about 30 miles away and did not have a phone. As I prayed that night I still felt a clear witness that I should visit him.

The next morning I drove to Doug's house. When his wife- the former lead singer of our rock group- opened the door and saw me, her mouth fell open in surprise. She called to her husband and said, "Doug, you are not going to believe who is at the front door!" They were both shocked at my arrival, and then told me why.

The night before they had been bored and were flipping through the channels on their TV, when they noticed a huge gathering held by a man named Billy Graham. They listened to his message and prayed with him at the end. After the program was over they looked at each other and said, "I guess we are Christians now- what should we do next?" Then they remembered that their former friend, Norman, had also become a Christian, and they repeatedly said to each other, "If only Norman was here, he would tell us what to do now." So... the next morning I was there, and I told them what to do next! While I did not personally lead them to Christ, this played an important part in the foundations that God built in their lives when they first received salvation. A biblical example of this situation is in Acts 9:6-18 when the Lord directed a believer named Ananias to go visit Saul (later renamed Paul) when he first became saved and needed further guidance.

Another example of how important it is to be led by the Spirit happened to me when I was leading a biweekly evangelistic service at a high security prison in Jackson, Michigan. Convicts were turning to Christ in this prison that was reserved for the worst murderers and criminals. But once, when I was planning the next service, I felt checked about going. I prayed for days until I canceled the meeting the day before I was to go. I told someone what I was feeling, and even said that I think this was the end of the prison ministry.

The next morning, about the time I would have been conducting the service, the prisoners started a riot. They took hostages, burned down some of the buildings, and the prison became permanently closed. But if I had been there I could have been one of their hostages! Yes, we need to be led by the Holy Spirit in our evangelistic plans.

The Importance of Good Plans

Every evangelistic outreach needs to be first founded in prayer, but then it needs to be built through good planning. A poorly planned event will usually have poor results! There are similar areas of planning that just about any type of evangelistic programs will need. You must organize your team members, finances, safety, timing, and most importantly, your evangelistic program.

Evangelistic methods and programs can be as different as every sunset. There was a missionary in the Philippines that used a spinning top demonstration to illustrate his evangelistic message. I saw a magic show in Korea that became the steppingstone for a gospel sermon. Then there was a street evangelist in Mexico who would quietly go into a market. He would place something under his large hat on the ground. Then he would step back, look at the hat with surprise, and shout, "It's alive!" He would cautiously step closer to the hat, peek under it, and again step back shouting "It's alive!" After getting the attention of everyone around him in the market, he would then step back to the hat, grab his Bible out from under the hat, and while holding his Bible high he would exclaim, "It's alive! The Word of God is alive!" and then he would quickly start preaching the gospel!

Common Evangelistic Programs

While the Lord may reveal to you a unique method or program to use, there are some often used programs I will mention that you and your church might find fruitful. Consider the following:

1. YOUTH EVANGELISM. Statistics show that most people become Christians while they are children or teenagers. A recent survey showed that 43% of the Christians in the USA became Christians as children, and a further 21% became Christians between the ages of 13 to 18. Only 23% of the Christians in the USA embraced Christ after their 21st birthday^{vi}.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”* This principle can work both positively and negatively- if someone is well trained from childhood to follow the Lord, that will usually be their lifelong pathway. But if a child is left to be non-religious or is trained to follow some other creed, it can be more difficult in their adulthood to see them turn to serving the Lord. Therefore it is very important that we focus much attention on reaching out to the young, and train them how to follow the Lord. The following is a short list of some different ways to accomplish this, and examples of how these methods have been used of God:

* Sunday School Classes with a specific evangelistic thrust. (As a young man, D.L. Moody went from being a shoe salesman into becoming a world famous evangelist- his first major steppingstone was starting Sunday school classes for unchurched street children, which soon grew to contain more than 1,500 children!)

* Vacation Bible School Classes, with part of the curriculum aimed at leading the children to Christ. (As a new Christian I taught at an interchurch VBS in my town, and three of my students, boys about 13 years old, each gave their lives to Christ- a major encouragement in my new Christian life!)

* Children’s Feeding Programs, with a gospel presentation as part of the events. (My wife & I have a lady pastor friend who leads two thriving churches that began with a feeding program for needy children.)

* Summer Camps with daily evangelistic devotions or chapel services (My daughter, Esther, worked for a Salvation Army summer camp that invited inner-city children & teens to each have a free week of outdoor fun combined with daily gospel presentations. Esther led more than a hundred of them to Christ!)

* Orphanages. (My wife and I have close friends in Guatemala, who started an orphanage. Many dozens of the street children and orphans turned to Christ and later studied at Bible school as a result of their labors of love.)

* Youth Events- campfires, music concerts, or any special activities where the gospel is presented.

* Christian Day Care Centers and Schools. (Several of our Bible school graduates have started Christian Day Care Centers and schools. They are able to reach out to the students and their parents, as well as have a position of Christian influence in their community).

* Christian Gatherings at Secular Schools. (One of my sons-in-law is a full-time missionary with the student missions organization, InterVarsity. They organize Bible studies, counseling, and Christian gatherings to evangelize and to strengthen the Christian students. InterVarsity has well developed approaches to student missions which can be studied and used by any Christian students or churches, for them to organize similar gatherings in their area schools.) A church could also organize a reach-out to international students at a local university, where church families each “adopt” a newly arrived foreign student. This can help the students to adapt to their new environment and offer a Christian witness to many who will not hear the gospel back in their home country.

2. ELDERLY MINISTRIES. While youth are often a neglected part of society, in many nations there is a more neglected group: the elderly. Some cultures very beautifully include the elderly in their family home structure, but in western societies the younger generation often considers that taking care of the elderly is a burden or an inconvenience. Many times they will put the elderly into nursing homes where they become lonely, but will often gladly welcome someone who will bring them the good news of the Gospel!

Most nursing homes are very aware of how neglected their residents feel, and try to offer social interaction and activities for them. But these staff are limited with what they can do- and they are usually forbidden to proselyte anyone. But they often welcome anyone, or any groups, that will come in and contribute to their residential community.

When I was a new believer, I knew I was called to preach the Gospel, but had no idea how and when I could do it. I knew that my 400 member church, which had many good preachers and fine young Bible school graduates, would not let me preach: an ex-hippie with two foot long hair and holes in my blue jeans! So I prayed, “Lord how can I preach the Gospel? Who would listen to me?” As I prayed, I was reminded about the many lonely elderly people in the nursing homes in my city area. So I took out a phone book and found over a hundred nursing homes listed. I then prayed and felt good about calling up two of them. I told them I represented a music group (by faith!) that could come and share gospel songs and Bible messages with their residents every Sunday afternoon. Normally a professional institution would ask what ministerial credentials I had (none!) or what Christian organization I represented (none!), but both places were happy to welcome us to come sing and share every week, with no questions asked!

I told some of my other recently saved musician hippie friends, and they were excited to join me. Some of them also felt called to the ministry, but knew it could be many years before they would be allowed near a pulpit!

Then I scheduled an appointment with my pastor and told him of our plans. I told him we were not asking for money, or for the help of the church ministers, I was only asking for his blessing and prayers. He very quickly saw this as a win/win situation, and gave us his blessing. (This is important- we do not want to start ministry activities independent of the counsel and blessing of our church leaders, but we also do not want to wait for them to tell us everything we should do! Pastors are often very busy and overworked, they cannot come up with planning all the various evangelistic outreaches that their church members are capable of achieving. Remember, your pastor is the guide for his sheep, but Christ is the Lord of the Harvest, and we need to look to Him for how we can best win lost souls!)

As the nursing home services went on, a few souls were saved, but something else probably more important developed. Our music team was developing ministry skills that helped start most of us a down the pathway of becoming effective preachers, pastors, and missionaries! But you don't need to be a musician or preacher to reach out and evangelize in a nursing home- all you need is compassion for the lost, perseverance to repeatedly visit them, and perhaps ingenuity to start an activity.

3. JOINING GOVERNMENT AND CIVIC EVENTS. Depending upon your government and your culture, many times a Christian witness is welcomed by some government offices and civic groups. In the Philippines, pastors and Bible teachers are often welcome to teach Bible studies in government offices for the national moral values program or in the public schools for their character development classes. These have often been used as a platform from which to share the Gospel. When I was one of the directors for a group of 50 churches in one Philippine province, the provincial public school director gave the local pastors authority to teach twice a week in each public school. At one school the pastor was regularly teaching over 200 Muslim children in these classes! Sometimes if a Christian teacher or minister will knock on the right door, some great opportunities to witness for Christ can be found.

4. COMMUNITY HELPS AND MERCY MINISTRIES. When churches and Christian groups reach out to help their communities, it can bring them into contact with many unchurched people. These people often have had bad experiences with Christians before and are not open to attend Christian gatherings. But when they see believers that are helping their community and loving the people, this will often open their hearts to become receptive to the Gospel.

I was once talking with an Indonesian businessman who was planting churches. I mentioned to him several methods that we have seen to be effective in the Philippines, but he replied that those will not work in his society. In their Muslim communities they are not allowed to conduct services or build a church building unless they first have the full approval of the community. So their first goal had to be to significantly help the community through various projects and social programs before they could start evangelizing or holding church services.

Sometimes churches will organize their youth group to go around the neighborhood and help needy families or the elderly. Mowing their lawn, painting or repairing part of a house, bringing groceries for the poor or starting a feeding program- there are many practical ways that a church can help their community and then communicate their faith. When calamities strike, the churches can often be among the first to respond. Churches can gather used clothes, food, or money to help the disaster victims, as well as help repair houses or clean up communities if there have been storms, flooding, fires or earthquakes.

Christian Mercy Ministries are also developed to help meet the emergency needs of communities or even nations. These organizations, such as Samaritan's Purse in the USA or PhilRads in the Philippines, depend on the support and volunteer help of many believers and churches to enable them to be effective in their ministries and Christian witness.

5. MISSIONARY OUTREACHES. Ministry teams that travel nationally and internationally to relatively unreached communities play a crucial part in the evangelism of the world. Every church- and every Christian- should build the vision among themselves that they should contribute towards spreading the Gospel beyond its present borders. Three steps to move forward can be #1 Pray, #2 Give, and #3, Go!

Does your church have an established mission program seeking to develop these 3 steps? Do you personally practice them? Seek to get your church more involved, and be a good example yourself!

If your church has a good youth group and you plan a trip of 1 or 2 weeks to a distant and relatively unreached area of your nation, it need not be too expensive. The missions trip will not only bless the people you are evangelizing, but it can also help your youth group to get on fire for God! Let the youth see the needs and the opportunities of missions work firsthand, and some of them will find a new focus in God for the rest of their lives.

Many missions organizations also offer people open doors for international evangelistic ministries. If you feel the Lord wants you to become involved with any particular missions ministry or organization, pray and talk with your church leaders.

6. DOOR TO DOOR AND COMMUNITY WITNESSING. It is also true that you don't have to travel to a distant place or nation to evangelize unbelievers. You can usually find them no farther away than your next-door neighbor! And while friendship evangelism will impact some of the people you are in contact with, planning deliberate times and programs of evangelism will offer the gospel to a multiplied number of people.

Neighborhoods often do not know much about the churches among them. It is each church's job to reach out to their community, both to share the Gospel as well as help the people to feel comfortable about going inside the church for activities or services. Other religions and cultures often tell their people horrible stories about Bible based

churches, to scare the people away from us- and keep the people under their own control! Personally reaching out to the people can help to break such misconceptions.

If you go door to door through your community you can seek to present the gospel to those you visit, or perhaps invite them to a special church activity that has been designed to be attractive to them. The following are some various approaches that have proved fruitful for different churches:

* Offer literature or a video- Sometimes people will read a tract if you personally give it to them. A video- such as the Jesus Film, available for free in 1815 languages^{vii}, can be more appealing. Colorful and quality literature can be appreciated also: a Gospel of John, a Christian Comic Book, A New Testament or a gospel magazine can each be attractive to different people.

When I directed an evangelism center in the city of Detroit many years ago, I wrote three evangelistic tracts and we had 100,000 copies of each one printed. They were targeted at appealing to different types of people and were inexpensive as we made them ourselves. They were all personally distributed within several months, and dozens of people were led to Christ by reading the tracts.

* Conduct a survey- People often enjoy joining a survey and giving their opinion about things. There is a survey form at the end of this book that can be used, a “Religious Survey” for your community. After asking the person for basic religious information about themselves that gets them to increasingly search their own hearts, the survey gets them to a very searching question: “Have you come to the point in your spiritual life where you can say for certain that you will go to heaven when you die?” Many people will be honest to admit that their own religious beliefs have not taken them this far. They do not have an assurance that they will go to heaven- but many will want to become sure! So that gets them to the last question in the survey: “Would you like to be sure of how to go to heaven?” At this point many people will be open to hear from you how they can be assured of heaven- and that is your open door to present the gospel to them!

* Invite all the neighbors to attend a community event held in the church or somewhere else such as at a restaurant, hotel or civic center. The following are some events your church could organize that could attract unbelievers and give you the opportunity to present the Gospel to them:

- A music concert
- A marriage enhancement seminar
- A Christmas party!
- A sports festival
- A movie showing
- A Valentine’s Day event, such as a couple’s dinner
- A drama presentation, especially at Christmas or Easter time.
- A breakfast or dinner gathering featuring a message from a popular athlete, actor, singer, or anyone famous- as long as they have a godly life and can share the Gospel

or share their testimony well! This could target a specific group, such as for businessmen (like the Full Gospel Businessmen International), or a Father & Son gathering at Father's Day, or a mothers or singles fellowship.

7. RADIO AND TELEVISION EVANGELISM. These are not always expensive- some local radio stations will even offer a free time slot for pastors or for teachers with a useful message (such as marriage enhancement, raising children, financial planning, etc.). I have been involved in a number of radio and television ministries, and welcome their ability to reach large numbers of people. It is a marvel to have your evangelistic message beamed down from a satellite 25,000 miles up in outer space, to reach a million satellite dishes and their TV listeners!

8. INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA. A high percentage of people now get much of their social interaction through such internet media as Facebook, Messenger, and chat rooms. As long ago as the 1990s my wife and I were able to witness to a retired Israeli colonel in a chat room. And recently as I am writing this, my wife and I are posting Gospel messages on YouTube that are being watched by thousands of people. Much modern communication between people is done through the privacy of their cellphones, tablets and computers. If we do not use these powerful channels of communication, then multitudes of people will live in a social environment that is without a Christian witness.

However, we must always remember that reaching out to an unsaved person is creating a two-way bridge. We want to bring Christ to them, but the unsaved person may have wrong motives for wanting to develop a relationship with you. So it is much safer for you to limit your social media evangelism to people of your same sex, unless they are close relatives or are much older than you. And if you have any questions about whether your communications are developing a wrong relationship, tell a mentor or good Christian friend and let them be a safeguard for you.

9. TRAVELING EVANGELISTIC TEAMS AND CRUSADES. Sometimes a church, organization, or Bible school can develop an evangelistic ministry team that will be able to repeatedly travel around. These teams can combine many methods and use many different talents. Music groups and drama teams can be effective. If a gifted evangelist (especially with a healing ministry) is available, organizing a crusade- a series of nightly public gatherings- can at times have a massive effect. Many talents can be used for a public presentation of the Gospel, find out what your church or organization can put together!

As an example of how many talents can work together, years ago I trained and sent out a team of Bible school graduates in the province of Palawan in the Philippines. They drove a jeepney from town to town, organizing public gatherings with the local churches and town officials. They would drive around town in the morning, inviting people to the evening gathering while doing puppet shows in the side windows of the jeepney.

Around 5 PM the show would begin, often on a stage at the town plaza. Some puppets would start telling Bible stories while an artist was illustrating them on a large chalkboard. After the children had gathered, some younger teens would usually start showing up. Then we shifted to putting the music group on stage and this would bring all the teens and then the adults. When a crowd had gathered and the evening was dark, they showed the Jesus film while having more music and a testimony during the changing of the film reels. At the end of the movie an altar call was made for people to come to the front and ask Christ to be their Lord and Savior. Often several hundred people would come forward, and each, after prayer, received some literature while we wrote down their contact information for follow-up by the local churches.

Within several months the team had presented the Gospel to tens of thousands of people, it was often their first time to hear an evangelistic message. The results were that thousands prayed for salvation, while hundreds of them joined churches or in some cases started new churches. The next year at our Bible school we had 12 new students who had all become saved at the evangelistic services around the island. The evangelistic team imparted new life into many lives, churches, and even into the province- all because a few young Bible school graduates were ready to step out and use their time and talents for evangelism!

10. SPORTS EVANGELISM. Many people are heavily involved in sports, whether by watching them or actively participating in them. Because so many people are attracted to sports it can offer fruitful methods to develop evangelism programs. Some churches develop teams that compete with other local teams, and build relationships with which they witness for Christ. Skilled teams sometimes even travel nationally or internationally, challenging local teams while sharing their testimonies during breaks. A church can invite a famous athlete to come and share his testimony (if you know he is a dedicated Christian!) at a meal gathering or at a sports demonstration. A church with a large screen can invite some of the neighborhood to come watch a special game and have a snack while you begin some friendship evangelism!

11. MEDICAL AND DENTAL OUTREACHES. Churches that can organize a medical or dental team will often go out to needy communities, or even travel to other nations, to hold clinics for a week or two while the patients also have the Gospel shared with them. If your church does not have the resources to do this, there are Christian organizations that can gather these teams, as well as train the medical workers on how to witness for Christ in their profession.

12. BIBLE DISTRIBUTION. Large organizations, such as Gideons International or national Bible societies, often can provide New Testaments or Bibles for distribution in schools, prisons, hotels, and other public locations. Find out if you can join their work or receive their Bibles for distribution through your church or community.

Chapter 5: While You Evangelize...

As you are evangelizing, there are some important guidelines that can help you to be more effective. Consider all the following points to sharpen your focus:

Your Time may be Short

If you are practicing friendship evangelism you can often take your time in seeking to lead your friend to the Lord step by step. But if you are participating in a planned evangelism program, you are trying to reach as many people as you can in a short period of time. Get to the point quick: share your testimony, or give them a tract. Perhaps invite them to your church or a Bible study. Give them a scripture or a thought about salvation that they might think about for many days. But soon you must move on to the next person you will meet. If a person seems chatty and just wants someone to talk to, don't let the little time you have to evangelize become sidetracked into socializing. You could wrap up your conversation with an offer to pray for them, or by just simply saying something like "gotta go but it was nice chatting with you." Keep your limited time focused on the goal of influencing as many people as you can towards salvation.

Once when John Wesley was traveling alone near London, a thief came and demanded his money. As the thief departed with his few silver coins, Wesley called out to him "Stop! I have something more to give to you." Having gotten his attention, Wesley told him, "My friend, you may live to regret this sort of life. If you ever do, here is something to remember: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." Years later the man introduced himself to Wesley as one of his converts because of this one statement that hounded him until he came to Christ. He had then become an honest businessman and a faithful church member!^{viii}

Respond to Opportunities

In the Bible we see that opportunities to share the Gospel would often come unexpectedly. In Acts 8:26-35 we read the story of how a chariot drove past Philip while the occupant was reading a Messianic prophecy from Isaiah. Philip had to run up and invite himself to join the man and interpret that prophecy. Five seconds of hesitancy would have lost the opportunity for Philip to lead the Ethiopian queen's treasurer to Christ!

I can remember once when I received a wrong telephone call. The person was trying to order pizza or something, but instead of quickly hanging up, I told her "I have something better than pizza to offer you," then launched into a quick testimony of how Christ had changed my life. After I had been quickly speaking for about 5 minutes she had not hung up the phone, so I slowed down and asked her a question. She then spoke up and said, "Wait a minute, I am going to get my husband on the other phone line- he needs to

hear this too!" When her husband got on their other phone I then witnessed to them both for another 40 minutes, counseled them, and told them of a good church near where they lived that they could attend. Yes, we can be led of the Spirit to share the Gospel anywhere, anytime- if we will be quick to take the opportunities that come to us.

In 1 Peter 3:15 we are told, "*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*" Peter knew a fisherman needs to quickly throw out the nets when the waters are moving, because that indicates that there are fish to be caught right then and there. That sensitivity- and being always ready- also made him a good fisher of men on the Day of Pentecost. While the Spirit was moving and the people were disturbed and attentive, Peter was the apostle who quickly took the opportunity to explain to the people what was happening. He caught 3,000 souls for Christ that day as he acted decisively to preach the Gospel.

In Luke 14:16-24 the Lord Jesus taught a parable about how we should look everywhere and invite everyone to come to salvation. Search in the streets and lanes of the cities and go out into the highways and hedges of the countryside. Invite the poor, the lame and the blind- God's house is to be filled! It is important to see that we are not to wait until they come into God's house to try to reach them. Some churches wait for people to attend their services before they can hear the Gospel, and in many church services evangelistic messages are preached to congregations where everyone is already a Christian! But statistics tell us that this is a very poor approach- only 10% of the those who turn to Christ do so in a church setting^{ix}. No, it is our opportunity- and responsibility- to reach out and go where the sinners are.

Only Give your Listener what they can Receive or Digest

We have to remember that unbelievers have a limited ability to understand spiritual truths. Just as a newborn baby should only be given milk, then afterwards certain baby foods, we should be careful to only give to our hearers what they can spiritually and intellectually digest. And then when the baby is full of milk, they will eat no more, but contentedly fall asleep. In like manner when an unbeliever is given something precious to consider and "chew over," that might be all that they can handle at that time- give them a chance to digest that before they will be hungry for more!

The Lord will often bring numerous Christians into the path of an unbeliever, and each one will explain or repeat some part of the truths of God that collectively will end up leading that person to salvation. Paul said in 1st Corinthians 3:6, "*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase,*" and we often see that it takes multiple witnessing to bring someone to Christ.

Once I was part of an evangelistic team that travelled by an outrigger boat for 4 hours across the Sulu Sea to a large isolated island. They had no towns, roads, electricity or running water there- only small fishing villages dotting the coast. The people had very little education. Our team was slowly circling around the island and preaching the gospel nightly at all the villages.

One evening I had prepared a Gospel message from John 5:24. I developed the message in a way that I found intellectually attractive and stirring. After preaching it that night I gave an altar call, but no one responded!

So another evangelist in our team stepped up to the microphone and preached the Gospel for about another 15 minutes. Yet when he gave his altar call, no one again responded!

Then our last evangelist stepped up to try. He went to the microphone and simply said, "Do you want to die in your sins? Do YOU want to die in your sins? Do YOU want to DIE in your sins?" His message reached the people, and when he then gave an altar call the entire crowd of simple fisherman and their families came forward to call on the Lord for salvation!

The next morning we were eating our breakfast of rice and salted dried fish. The owner of the house we were eating at had a baby Mina bird which was cheeping because it was hungry. So I took a single grain of rice and put it in the bird's beak. He tried to swallow it but it fell to the ground.

I tried to feed the baby bird two more times, but each time he dropped the rice instead of swallowing it. I thought to myself, "That stupid bird! He will starve if he doesn't start to swallow his food!" But then the evangelist who had led the town the night before to pray for salvation came over to me, and said, "Brother Norman, this is what you need to do." He then broke off a tiny piece of one grain of rice and put it in the Mina bird's mouth. The bird hungrily swallowed it and cheeped for more! As he kept feeding the bird he told me, "The bird is too young and small to eat a whole grain of rice."

The Holy Spirit then clearly spoke to my heart, and said, "That was your problem last night. You tried to feed the people more spiritual food than they could swallow." So I have tried to learn that lesson and avoid confusing the listeners with too many words and concepts when I evangelize.

Get the Correct Message

People have all spiritually travelled their lives in different directions, and we need to properly point each one on the right way towards salvation. A person who is in mourning may need to hear a message of consolation to point them to Christ, while a sinful person might need to hear you take a stand for righteousness.

In his autobiography, Charles Finney wrote about one revival he helped conduct that showed how important it was for him that he had the correct message. He wrote,

"An elderly man asked me to go and preach in a schoolhouse in his neighborhood about three miles away, saying that they had never had any Christian gatherings there. At the appointed time I arrived and found the schoolhouse full and could only get a standing place near the open door. I started a hymn, but I cannot call it singing for they had never had any church music in that place. It sounded like each one was bawling in his own

way, and their horrible discord distressed me so much that I put both my hands over my ears. When they were done I fell on my knees and began to desperately pray. The Lord opened the windows of heaven and I let out my whole heart in prayer.

I had taken no thought about what I should preach, but as I arose from my knees I said, *“Up, get out of this place: for the Lord will destroy this city.”*^x I did not remember exactly where that verse was from, but I told them about where they could find it, and then went on to explain it.

I told them about a man named Abraham and his nephew Lot, and how Lot settled in the wicked valley of Sodom. I then told them how very evil Sodom had become, and that the Lord had decided to destroy Sodom. There was only one righteous person who lived there, that was Lot. As I was repeating these facts I saw that the people looking at me were angry. Many of the men looked at each other and at me, as though they wanted to beat me up right then. I could not understand what I was saying that had offended them. But their anger rose higher and higher the more I explained the story.

As soon as I finished the story I said that I understood that they had never had a religious meeting in their community, and therefore I took it for granted that they were ungodly people. I spoke like that with more and more energy until I felt like my heart was bursting. All at once an awful solemnity settled down on them. The congregation began to fall from their seats in every direction and cry for mercy. If I had a sword in each hand I could not have cut them down as fast as they fell. Within two minutes everyone was either on their knees or flat on the floor, while everyone who could still speak was praying for themselves.

I tried to preach, but few of them paid any attention. So I turned to a young man close to me and preached Jesus in his ear. As soon as I got his attention to the cross, he believed, was calm for a minute, and then he started praying for the others. I turned to another and another with the same results.

I kept on until I had to leave for my appointed evening preaching in another village. I asked the old man who invited me there to now take charge of the meeting. There were too many wounded souls to dismiss the meeting so it was held all night. The next morning there were still many who could not stop, so they carried them to a nearby house to make room for the schoolchildren to arrive. That next afternoon they sent for me to come again.

When I went for the second time I learned why the people were so angry at me during the sermon the day before. I learned that the place was called Sodom, but I had not known it. And the old man who invited me there, the only godly man in the community, was named Lot! As far as I had known this was a completely accidental coincidence.”^{xi} This example shows us how powerful the right message can be in the proper situation.

Be Led of the Spirit

The Lord may also lead us by specific directions such as through a word of knowledge being quickened to our mind, 1 Cor.12:8. As an example, I can remember one time I was staying at a friend's church for a season of fasting and prayer. One unbeliever who was repeatedly visiting the church was a violent young man. Once he came in with his fists bloody from having just beaten up his parents.

One night I returned from private prayer, filled with the mighty presence of God. As I entered a room where he was sitting, the Spirit of God touched him and he started calling out loudly, "Jesus, save me! Jesus, save me!" As he continued to call on the Lord and I was praying beside him, I became more and more surprised. He was sincerely calling on the Lord, yet I sensed the darkness in his soul was not being broken! As I prayed, the Holy Spirit reminded me of something he had said some days before, how he despised his mother. The scripture then came to me from the 10 Commandments, "Honor your father and mother." Feeling this to be direction from God, I told him he needed to forgive his parents. As he was doing this I asked him to further say, "I Love my Mom," and as he did so with heartfelt emotion, it was like a dam broke.

At that moment the Holy Spirit blew into the room like a powerful wind. As it hit the front of his body I saw dark things being cast out of him. The moment this happened he relaxed and started praising God, saying "I love you Jesus! Thank you for saving me!" It was clear that he had been delivered and born again at the instant the wind of God hit him and entered him. But it took more than our witnessing to set him free- the revelation of the Holy Spirit was also used to bring him to salvation.

Another example of how important it can be to be led by the Spirit concerns a guest preacher at a church. Just before speaking he felt from the Lord that he was to put a wastepaper basket over his head, and he obeyed. He felt very silly preaching like that, and thought that the church would never invite him to speak there again! But at the end of the service a rough looking man approached him to thank him. The man said that he had never believed in God and had never attended a church service before. But his situation in life had become desperate, so he had walked into the church service, silently praying, "God, if you are real, let the preacher put a wastepaper basket over his head while he preaches."

A revelation from God may accomplish what a long message will never do. Remember also the story in John 4 of when Christ was witnessing to the woman at the well. When Jesus told her that she had had five husbands, and was now living with another man, that revelation was a turning point in their conversation that helped lead her to salvation. So while we don't want to do foolish things when we witness, we should be ready to be led by the Spirit, and if needed, be fools for Christ!

Stand Up for the Truth

If the Lord wants to give a strong correction to a person or group, we must be ready to speak boldly. The Lord Jesus often confronted His listeners with sharp replies and even rebukes and warnings. At times we will also need to do this.

In Ezekiel 3:17-19 we read, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."

I can remember one time when I returned to visit my parent's home, and I had again prayed about who I should go and witness to. I felt I needed to speak to Willie, who had been a guitarist in a rock band with me. The first morning home I drove to his house. I kept knocking at the door and ringing the bell, but it became clear no one was home.

I wondered about this, because I had clearly felt that I should witness to Willie, and the Lord knew this was the only time I had free to do so. So I stood at the front door and prayed, and as I did, I started looking around the neighborhood. As I was praying I saw that on the opposite side of the street there were three bars- then I felt the impression that I would find Willie in one of those bars.

Even before I became a Christian I never went into bars, but as I kept praying I felt the clear witness of the peace of God that He was guiding me. I next asked the Lord which bar I would find him in, and felt to go into the second bar.

I walked in, and as soon as my eyes had become adjusted to the dim light, I saw Willie walk into the bar! I walked up and greeted him, and he said "Norman, you became a Christian! What are you doing in a bar?" I told him that God had sent me there to speak to him.

Willie then told me why he was there- he had planned to meet an old girlfriend of his there, and after some drinks they were going to go out and commit adultery. Now my old friend had many wrong relationships over the years, but this time was different. He had just married a few months before, and this was the first time he was going to be unfaithful to his wife. So I used this opportunity to tell him this time was different. I warned him that God had sent me to turn him away from committing a great sin against God and against his wife- that he needed to turn to Christ. Willie shrugged off my warning and waited for his girlfriend to arrive while I said goodbye.

Willie did not respond to God's warning, and as I had warned him, that time was different. I only saw him once more a few months later. That time when I knocked on his door, he came up to me with eyes of fire, to greet me with the words, "I am the Antichrist!" He had become totally demon possessed. And while I was not able to help

him, I had, as the Lord had spoken to Ezekiel, correctly warned him and delivered my own soul from being guilty of his blood.

What Not to do while Witnessing

* Do not argue or debate about religion. Many people are willing to debate about their religious beliefs. Sometimes they have studied them deeply and will know a lot of arguments to give to a Bible based Christian. Many Christians may not know how to out-debate them, but even if they do, it will often only stir up strife.

The Apostle Paul, as a dedicated Pharisee, had been trained to debate and argue his beliefs. When he was converted he tried to do the same in his first evangelistic attempts at Damascus and in Jerusalem where he disputed with the others.^{xii} He did not win a single convert, the only thing he gained was multiple death threats! As he grew in Christ he learned, as he later told Timothy, that *“a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,”* 2 Tim.2:24-25.

If you discuss various religious beliefs with others while witnessing, remain polite and respectful. Be sensitive as to whether the other person is seeking the truth, or not. If you feel that they are sincere seekers, patiently try to help them. But if they are only trying to promote their own ideas or religion, then seek to politely end your talk- and go seek to find someone who might be open to hear the message of salvation.

* Do not try to change the person’s wrong ideas all at once. To keep it short and simple you could tell them you are not trying to change their religion, that you are talking about relationship with God, not religion. (If they meet Christ, He will lead them out of their wrong doctrines step by step!)

You can also seek to be sensitive to what God wants to deal with them about, and focus on that. We could criticize an unbeliever for having many faults, but God often sees only one major problem that is blocking them from receiving salvation. For example, Christ knew that the rich young man’s wealth was blocking him from following God, in Matthew 19:20-23. But when Christ witnessed to the women at the well, He focused on her wrong relationships as the problem keeping her from salvation, Jn.4:15-18.

* Do not get sidetracked by unimportant things. Some people, like Felix in Acts 24:24-26, will try to avoid talking too much about important truths that will convict them of their sin, but they will still talk about many other things that can waste your time.

What to Emphasize while Witnessing:

* Talk about Jesus and a personal relationship with Him. There is nothing more important, no greater truth that can be discussed, than to know Jesus Christ!

- * Focus on the significance of Christ's death on the cross, Jn.1:35-36, 2 Cor.5:21.
- * Focus on the need of salvation and the reality of sin and judgment, Jn.3:3 & 3:16-19.
- * Talk about your personal testimony (if it would seem helpful).
- * Answer questions about your discussion from the Bible, 2 Tim.3:16. That will give authority to your message, and also encourage your listeners to search the Scriptures themselves to find the truth.

Follow Up

If someone becomes hungry for God through your witnessing, go visit them again and again. Get their address or phone number, or friend them on Facebook. Feed their spiritual hunger, or else it might decrease or be fed from a different wrong source. Loan them a good book that will lead them on, or start a Bible study with them.

If the person becomes born again, make sure you take care of your "baby." Babies need much attention and care, or they will die! Visit them and minister to them until they become planted in a church and have a solid friend or mentor there. If you are leaving their area and cannot continue your follow-up, make sure to pass them along to someone who can befriend and disciple them in place of you. Statistics show that newborn Christians have a high dropout rate from attending church and continuing to follow the Lord *until* they develop a solid friendship or mentor in their church.

Along with leading someone to salvation, see how you can help them to go on towards spiritual maturity. Christ's ultimate purpose is not to redeem a group of babies, but to redeem for Himself a bride- a glorious, mature Church!

Chapter 6: Evangelizing Different Groups

Each religion and cultural group have their own mindset and doctrines that generally defines who they are. While each major religion or group will have many sects or subgroups, knowing the basics about each group can help you to be more informed about the people who identify themselves as members.

The following sections below are about the major religions and groups that most people reading this book will relate to and seek to share the Gospel with. After a brief introduction to their history and thought, some further books, internet sites, and videos will be mentioned concerning these groups. These resources can help you to understand them better, as well as give you some effective evangelism tools. But remember, also reach out to them using the approaches mentioned in chapter 3 about friendship evangelism. Avoid heated arguments, be respectful of them, and seek to demonstrate the reality of Christ in you- their religious beliefs cannot give them the love, joy, and peace that Christ gives to us. It is possible to win a debate but lose their heart, yet it is also possible to lose a debate but gain their soul!

If you have no personal contact with any of these groups, then you might want to skip over the sections about them and go directly to chapter 7. Then if you seek to reach out to any of these groups in the future you can read the corresponding sections then.

ISLAM

Islam (which means “Submission to God”) is the world’s second largest religion, after Christianity. Their foundational doctrines are: 1) that there is only one true God (named Allah in Arabic); and 2) that Muhammad is his last and greatest prophet. Muhammad and Islam recognize Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus to be lesser prophets. However, they believe that the final prophet, Muhammed, could re-interpret and change the teachings of what the former prophets had declared. Muhammad claimed in the Koran, their holy book, that Jesus was much different than the Jesus of the Bible. He declared that Jesus is not God (Surah 5:17); and that Jesus did not die on a cross (Surah 4:157–158). While it is not in the Koran, a high percentage of Muslims around the world have been taught that Jesus will return on Judgment Day to stop His own worship and tell the Christians to become Muslims.^{xiii}

Muhammad died without leaving a successor in 632 AD at the age of 63. This resulted in a split among his followers that turned into warring factions that persist to this day as the Sunni/Shia conflict. Muhammad’s own family went to war with each other in the first few years. Thousands of Muslims were killed fighting each other in a battle between Muhammad’s favorite wife, Aisha, and his adopted son, Ali.

Today about 1.9 billion people are Muslims. About 85-90% of the worldwide Muslims are Sunni, who followed a successor to Muhammad who was not a relative. Saudi

Arabia is the most powerful Sunni nation. About 10-15% of the Muslims are Shia, Iran being the most powerful Shia nation. The Shiites believed that the leadership of Islam should stay among Muhammad's descendants. There are also smaller sects.

Today most Muslims (especially in western nations) believe that modern Islam is a religion that seeks peace and good will to all. They reject the extremists who follow the literal teachings of the Koran and the example of Muhammad's life. So when witnessing to them they would object to having people classifying the Muslims in general as being violent and extremist. However, about 5 to 15% of the world's Muslims still follow these literal teachings and are sympathetic or supportive of holy wars and terrorism.

Modern Muslims have been taught many misconceptions about Christianity and the superiority of Islam. They are usually taught that Christianity is a fragmented religion, whose sects often oppose each other, while Islam is united (which is not true). Muslims are also usually taught that the Christian Bible has many corruptions and is no longer an accurate holy book. However, many are unaware of the history of the transmission of their own Koran, which if studied well, would help support the reliability of the Bible. But the Muslim's reverence for the Koran and for Muhammad makes it unwise to discuss many of these things unless those you are talking to first claim their superiority on these points.

A useful evangelistic tool to reach out to Muslims (which is also very edifying and educational for Christians to watch) is the video *More Than Dreams*, which is about 5 Muslims in different nations that turned to Christ because of supernatural dreams from God.^{xiv}

If you are witnessing to a Muslim and are not very familiar with their religious mindset, a good book for you to study is *No God But One* by Nabeel Qureshi. He also wrote a simpler testimonial named *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus* that shows the cultural as well as religious hindrances for a modern Muslim turning to Christ.

An evangelistic method designed to tactfully present Christ to Muslims is the Camel method, which can be found on their website.^{xv} This method seeks to use the correctly repeated facts about Jesus in the Koran as a bridge to evangelizing them- that Jesus (or, *Isa* in Arabic) is holy, has authority over death, and knows the path to heaven.

The Islamic feast, Eid al-Adha, is also then used to explain the plan of salvation. This feast commemorates when Abraham's son was ransomed by death by a ram that God provided in his stead. (The Koran changes the story to say it was Abraham's other son, Ishmael, who was to be sacrificed, but that is not profitable or necessary to be argued.)

This feast is considered to be the more holy of the two feasts celebrated every year by Muslims. Its name in Arabic means "The Feast of the Sacrifice," and it is celebrated by sacrificing an animal, usually a sheep. The Muslim sees this story as a testimony of Abraham's obedience to God, but the Christian also sees a higher truth that can be

pointed out to the Muslim- that God has provided a perfect sacrifice, Christ the Lamb of God, who was sacrificed to ransom us all from death!

THE NON-RELIGIOUS (ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS, & OTHER SECULAR PHILOSOPHIES)

Those people who identify themselves as having no religion and do not believe in God have risen in modern times to become the third biggest religious (or non-religious) group in the world. Collectively they are 16% of the world's population, or about 1.2 billion people. Because the number of people affiliated with Christian churches has significantly decreased in the USA and Europe in recent decades, it has left many in secular Western societies thinking that Christianity (and belief in God in general) is a dying, out-of-date superstition that is becoming replaced with a modern, scientific rejection of God.

If you are seeking to evangelize someone with this mindset, you might surprise them by telling them that modern scientific research has confirmed that Christianity, and religion in general, is growing well. Actually, it is the non-religious that will be rapidly shrinking in their percentage of the world's population in the decades to come! From being 16% of the world's population in 2015, the non-religious will shrink to become only 13% by 40 years from now!^{xvi} (This is mostly due to the fact that religious women around the world give birth to an average 2.45 children per woman, while non-religious women give birth to an average 1.65 children each. Religious women generally give more value to the sanctity of life and a stronger commitment to family relationships. Non-religious women generally value individual, independent freedom more highly, to have less children and more abortions). But it is a shock for many secular thinkers to find out that their philosophies are not conquering the world, but are shrinking to become a much smaller minority of the world's population. Their faulty worldview is due to two major reasons. The first is their self-centered view that secular Western culture is superior and will increasingly be followed by the world. The second reason is their lack of knowing scientific statistics- yet this group claims to be more scientific!

ATHEISM- Many within the non-religious group will identify themselves as atheists, which means that they believe there is no God. It may be productive when witnessing to them to ask them: how are they so all-knowing as to be sure that no God exists? Do they know everything in the universe (and potentially outside of the universe) to be sure that God does not exist? (Only a God could know that much!). They would be much more scientifically accurate, and honest, to say that they are agnostics who do not know whether or not God exists, but He might.

AGNOSTICISM- Those who call themselves agnostics declare that they do not know if a God exists. They often feel that God is an unscientific theory that lacks proof of His existence. But they also believe many theories that are scientifically unprovable, that have to be believed "by faith" as explaining reality the best. If you compare some of their "faith beliefs" with a Christian's faith beliefs, they may see that their scientific superiority

is not so superior. A well-prepared Christian can make a very strong case that Christianity makes better sense in explaining the universe that we live in!

The following are brief sketches of a few of the major topics that are strong clues pointing to the existence of God. If you want to study these and other similar issues more thoroughly, a short list of useful books will be included after these topics.

CLUE # 1- A Universe that Began out of Nothing. It is generally accepted scientific fact that, based on all the evidence gathered by scientists and astronomers, the universe had a beginning that started out of nothing with a massive “Big Bang” explosion of energy. (This also fits well the description of the beginning of creation in Genesis 1, that God spoke “Let there be light” as the first act of creation.) While there are many other exotic theories that have been suggested, the Big Bang origin of the universe is the generally accepted theory by most non-religious as well as religious scientists as best logically fitting the observable facts.

Since something cannot come from nothing, this points to a supernatural first cause. It suggests that the universe had a created beginning from something (or someone) very powerful, that existed beyond and before the universe, something (or someone) that science can tell us nothing about. However, Judeo-Christian theology has had a simple clear answer for thousands of years- there was a Creator. The Bible further tells us that He is not an impersonal energy force, but is self- conscious (He told Moses that His name is, “I Am that I Am”)^{xvii} and that He deliberately, as an act of His will, created the universe out of nothing through His Word.^{xviii}

Many other exotic and obscure alternative theories have been proposed, each with no scientific proof, having to each be believed “by faith” as a plausible explanation. But the universe having a beginning is the simplest, widely accepted scientific theory that fits the facts, and a Creator who began it all is a very simple and logical explanation.

CLUE # 2- A Universe Fine-Tuned for Life. Another strong scientific clue for a Creator concerns the facts that there are many constant physical laws in the universe that never change- the speed of light, the strength of gravity, and about a dozen more constants. These have each been scientifically proven to be precisely tuned in a way that permits the existence of life. If many of them were changed by even a trillionth, the universe would not be stable or able to sustain life. Putting all of these factors together, the probability that a universe would be fine tuned to permit life is only about 10^{-100} . This is a completely improbable possibility to have been “chance” or “luck.” That amount of probability is about the same as having a person aim and shoot an arrow at a 1 meter large target on the opposite side of the universe (about 14 billion light-years away) and hit the target!

The most common theory that tries to explain away the apparent intelligent design of these laws of nature is to suggest that there might be a near infinite number of universes, so at least one of them- the “lucky” one we live in- could accidentally have all the right ingredients. This theory of their being a multitude of universes- called a

multiverse- could make it logical that one universe (ours!) could accidentally be so finely tuned as to be able to support life. However, our universe can be very scientifically explored, whereas a multiverse cannot be scientifically explored or proven. A person who believes in a multiverse is basing his belief on a theory that cannot ever be scientifically proven, they must believe it completely “by faith.” However, what has already been scientifically proven is that our universe is incredibly fine-tuned to support life- which suggests a Designer. This is a theory that fits the scientific facts more closely.

In considering what is logically more probable- that there is a universe fine-tuned by a Creator, or there are a multitude of universes and we live in the “lucky” one- let us consider a story. If a gambler rolled a “lucky seven” with his pair of dice 1,000 times in a row (which would be much more probable than the odds for our universe to permit life) what would you believe about his “luck”? What if he told you- while collecting all the money from you and from everyone else that had been gambling- the following explanation: that there might be a multitude of planets with life, in which the inhabitants also have tried to roll a “lucky seven” many times in a row. Therefore it is logical that someone, somewhere, would roll it 1,000 times in a row- and it happened to be himself! Would you believe his explanation? Or would you assume that he cheated by loading the dice so that they always rolled a seven! Was it chance, or did the gambler purposefully organize that result? Any logical person would decide that there was an intelligent plan that caused such improbable “luck”. And can a sceptic consider using that same logic concerning the fine tuning of the universe, that it strongly suggests there is a Creator?

CLUE # 3- The Moral Argument. This clue about the existence of God focuses on the fact that almost all people have feelings of morality, and think that people should follow certain moral obligations. However, why do we all have moral standards, and who or what determines the moral standards that we should follow?

Christians and religious people do not have a monopoly on having moral standards. Non-religious people often are strong proponents for their moral beliefs, such as perhaps for women’s rights, or racial equality, or to abolish child labor. Romans 2:14-15 tells us that all people have been created with a moral conscience, although mankind’s evaluation and usage of their consciences has been damaged by sin.

However, the logical mindset of an atheist or a non-religious person should be that life has no purpose or moral value in the long term- that we are only an accident, a successful combination of atoms which will soon decompose followed by the rest of the human race. Yet almost all non-religious people will set themselves short-term goals (to focus on the long-term reality that life is purposeless could lead to despair or suicide) and those short-term goals will be framed within the boundaries of their moral standards.

Christians and religious people assert that God created a set of moral laws that mankind should follow, the best-known example being the Ten Commandments of Moses. However, secular thinkers reject there being a God who has “set the rules.” Therefore, they need to find another foundation upon which people should be moral and follow certain standards; perhaps such as not murdering, enslaving, or exploiting other people.

Some of these secular thinkers have proposed that scientific evolutionary patterns of nature should define our moral laws: that whatever causes mankind to be more successful and advanced is good. However, a Darwinian “survival of the fittest” logically leads to euthanasia, genocide, and dictatorship! Nazi Germany and Communist Russia were among the most scientifically advanced nations of their time, yet their embracing “scientific” evolutionary theory led to some of the most oppressive and cruel governments ever known. Many secular philosophers reject science and evolution as being a good foundation for moral law after seeing the cruel results of those who religiously followed it in the 20th century, although attempts are still being made to reconcile evolutionary theories with historical facts.

The only other foundations which secular thinkers have suggested for moral law are that the individual is to set his own morals (as long as they do not conflict with the rights of other individuals) or that societies are to set the moral laws for their people. The younger generation of western society has overwhelmingly adopted the rights of the individual to set their own moral code, their own standards of truth: “What you believe is OK for you, and what I believe is OK for me- just don’t try to impose your standards on me.” However, the simple fact is that individual or cultural sets of moral standards will often conflict with the rights and morals of others. As an example, some say it is morally just to support and promote the rights of those wanting a same-sex marriage, but it is not morally just to defend the rights of those who are against same-sex marriages. Some say it is morally right to promote abortion up to the day of birth because a woman has the absolute right to control her body, while other people would say it is murder for her to abort the life of her unborn child. Some societies have said that you should love your enemies, while other societies have said that you should *eat* your enemies! Individuals and societies will often have conflicting views of moral standards. And if every individual just does what is right in their own sight, anarchy and chaos would engulf that society.

So who is the one (or ones) to impose their moral standards on the others? Does a dictator or king have that right? Or if a group rules with their majority vote, should they have the right to dominate and persecute the minorities in their midst? Everyone feels that morals are good and necessary, but who defines them?

Secular thinking does not have the answer- there is no perfect person or group that has the moral authority to impose their ways on others. However, Christians have a solid and balanced answer: the Creator who first formed us with the desire and need for morality is the One who set the standard for right and wrong. God, who is perfectly

loving and wise, is worthy to give us a moral code that can bring peace, dignity, and justice to the world! Non-religious people cannot use evolutionary science or shifting cultural standards as a solid basis to explain moral standards, nor to explain other realities of human life such as consciousness, love, the perceived beauty of art & music, and many other things.

There are many other areas that can be profitably examined that present positive clues for God's existence. These, along with other misconceptions that skeptics often have, are well explained in the books of Lee Strobel such as *The Case for Christ* and *The Case for A Creator*.

HINDUISM

Hindus comprise the fourth largest group of religious/nonreligious people in the world. They are about 15% of the world's population, or about 1.2 billion people, and are mostly from India. However, western "pop" culture has brought in many Hindu concepts. This started in the late 1960s when the Beatles popularized an India religious "guru," or teacher, who brought his Transcendental Meditation to the West.

Hindus believe in a supreme god-force that they say is present in everything and everyone, while they also worship over 33 million gods. They believe that everyone has an immortal soul that will go through countless reincarnations. All life is controlled by our *karma*, which means that our good and bad deeds will control our destiny and qualify us to be reborn into higher or lower social positions, or into another form of life such as an insect or animal. This belief has developed their caste system, which places a person at birth into one of many rigid social levels. Most Hindus are therefore also vegetarians, because they believe that every living thing has a soul, and the animal you might eat may even contain the soul of a departed relative.

The Hindu's goal is to become fully united to the supreme god force and thereby become liberated from the cycle of reincarnation. To seek to achieve this they will practice good works and be guided by a guru while practicing forms of yoga. This *yoga*, meaning *union*, may use meditation, mystic exercises, and various chants and forms of worship.

When seeking to witness to a Hindu it is important that you both understand what your words mean to each other. For example, if you talk about being "born again" without explaining it well, the Hindu will think you are talking about reincarnation! If you tell him or her "God loves you," since the person believes that God is in everyone and everything, the concept will not be understood properly. Also, different Hindu sects have many various beliefs, while Hindu individuals will choose different yogas, or pathways within their religion. So knowing what the person believes and practices to seek oneness with "god" will help you to know what parts of the Gospel would most easily reach their heart. If they feel the burden of their bad karma (of their sin), show them

Christ's offer of grace and demonstrate it with your joy! If their life lacks love, show them that God the Father loves them and wants to restore them to a love relationship with God. If they seek peace through meditation, show them- in the Bible and in your life- the Prince of Peace! Sharing your own testimony of how you met Christ can also be helpful.

Remember that a Hindu may be very religious and practice many good works, yet their religion cannot offer them the forgiveness of sins to be reconciled to a personal, loving God. Their law of karma says that they will pay for every bad deed, and through good works they might, after many lifetimes, attain liberation from the bondages of this world. Present Christ to them as the Savior who can forgive their sins, break their karma, and instantly give them eternal life, peace and joy!

Hindus worship many gods, and will often be happy to add "Jesus" to their list of gods to be worshiped. They believe in many *avatars*, or incarnations of their gods, and our witnessing must lead them to see the unique greatness of Christ. They say that their avatars point the way to liberation, which may still take them many lifetimes. Christ does not point the way- He said "I *am* the way" (Jn.14:6), and He offers immediate reconciliation to God along with eternal life and an eternal kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy.

Many Hindus think that Christianity is a foreign religion that missionaries try to gain converts for through material "bribes" such as food, education, or medical help. You could tell them that Christ taught us to have compassion on the sick and needy, and Christians want to help others regardless of whether someone will embrace Christ, or not. You could remind them that Jesus was from the Middle East, not the West, and that even the modern founder of their nation had great respect for Christ and His teachings. Mahatma Gandhi said "I shall say to the Hindus that your lives will be incomplete unless you reverently study the teachings of Jesus."^{xix} Give them a New Testament as a gift and suggest that they read the Gospel of John.

India is a nation with a strong traditional society. However, foreign influences have made many Indians open to change and modernization. If they are foreigners living in your country, they are often hoping for some nationals to befriend them- may you use that as an open door to share Christ with them.

If you would like further materials about witnessing to Hindus, a short help can be *Ten Tips to Ministering to Hindus*^{xx} or the sermon *The Spurious Glitter of Pantheism*.^{xxi} For more extensive help, read the book *Sharing Your Faith with a Hindu* by Madasamy Thirumalai.

BUDDHISM

Buddhism was founded by a man named Siddhartha Gautama, who lived around the 5th to 4th century BC. His followers gave him the title "The Buddha" which means "The Enlightened One." Siddhartha Gautama was born into royalty, but as a young man observing the sufferings of mankind, he renounced his worldly life and privileges to

begin a spiritual quest. Through this search he became known as a holy man and the founder of Buddhism, which today has about 500 million followers.

The teachings of Buddhism are founded upon Hindu beliefs of his culture, that life continues through many reincarnations in endless cycles filled with suffering. But beyond that, Buddhism declares that the way to escape this endless suffering is to follow the path of the Buddha to achieve enlightenment. This is done by practicing good deeds, insight, and meditation which can clear the mind from all attachments, and through this bring enlightenment and obtain nirvana.

Nirvana literally means “blowing out” or “quenching,” which various Buddhist scholars explain to be the elimination of all desires, or emptiness, or liberation from the mind. When a person attains nirvana it is said that at the end of their life, their personal consciousness will end and there will be the end of their cycle of reincarnation. At that point the person permanently ceases to exist and will have escaped endless suffering.

Buddhism does not teach or believe in a personal God or Creator of the universe. It only tries to offer a pathway to eternal peace through the elimination of self. Before his death, Siddhartha Gautama told his disciples to not worship him or follow any leader- just look for enlightenment within. But although there are many sects and different beliefs in Buddhism, their pathway to seek nirvana usually means that they should reject all desires, all joy, all goals, including rejecting personal consciousness, to obtain an empty, blank, end of all things.

These doctrines are very different from Christianity. While both agree that life is full of suffering to be overcome, their methods and results of overcoming suffering are opposite. Christianity teaches us that we were created for good eternal purposes, while Buddhism teaches that we live in an eternal cycle of suffering unless we can end it.

Another difference is that Buddhism teaches that desire is bad. As an example, a commonly reported account of Siddhartha Gautama’s life is that, when his son was born, he declared “a fetter has arisen” –so he named him *Rahula*, which means “*fetter*” or “*impediment*.” What he meant was that his son was an impediment in his search for enlightenment- and so, accordingly, he left his wife and son shortly after his son’s birth to become a wandering holy man.^{xxii} However, Christianity does not teach us that desires, such as the love within family relationships, are bad. Christianity teaches that our Father God created us, His children, to have many desires and relationships that are to be nurtured and enjoyed in proper balance.

Buddhism also teaches that the universe is an illusion to be overcome through attaining non-existence. Christianity teaches that the universe is filled with intelligent design and purpose from its Creator, which we can learn to understand, use, and enjoy.

While only a very small percentage of Westerners have become traditional practicing Buddhists, much of the philosophy and many practices of Buddhism have become popular through the New Age movement. Meditation, Zen philosophy, and “religion”

without God are some of the Buddhist beliefs that have spread throughout secular Western society. Some of these New Age proponents may call themselves Buddhist, but they usually have “cherry picked” some Buddhist ideas as well as many others to form their own blend of personal spirituality. These people can more accurately be witnessed to by understanding general New Age beliefs.

If you have a Buddhist friend or neighbor, they might be very misinformed about Christianity. Many non-Christians think that both sets of belief are compatible, as both were started by spiritual teachers who renounced worldly gain. The Dalai Lama, the most famous Buddhist leader alive today, suggested that Jesus might have been another Enlightened One or follower of the Buddhist path.^{xxiii} (All the major world religions try to claim Jesus Christ as following their own way.) But if the many opposites of the doctrines and teachings of Buddhism and Christianity are even lightly examined, it is obvious that Jesus was not a follower of the Buddhist path.

If the Buddhist you are talking with is open to consider their own heart and reasoning, you could ask them about the following:

* Is it actually possible, or good, to remove all desires from your life? Should you reject hunger, and never eat? (Jesus said, “*Blessed are you who hunger, for you shall be filled,*” Lk.6:21.) Should they never want to help someone? Or love someone? Do they think that it would be spiritually better for them to leave their wife and children to become more detached from the world?

* Is attaining a non-existence good? Or were we given life by a Creator God, for us to learn to properly enjoy? (Jesus said, “*I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly,*” Jn.10:10.)

* Do you honestly believe that you can overcome your desires and bad karma (the results of your actions) by meditation and enlightenment? Buddhism and Hinduism say that karma can take you through an endless cycle of reincarnation and suffering. Christianity says that Jesus came to take our suffering and sin upon Himself, so we can be forgiven and set free- and instantly enter into a joyful, eternal life, 2 Cor.5:21 & Jn.3:16.

* Buddhism does not believe in a Creator God. But science has proven that the universe has been incredibly fine-tuned to support life and shows many signs of being intelligently designed. Is the universe an illusion, to be rejected as soon as possible- which is Buddhist doctrine- or is it real? Is it consistently dependable in its functioning so that we can live in it and enjoy its beauty, purpose, and fruitfulness from the hands of a loving Creator God?

If you desire further study materials to better share the Gospel with Buddhists, you could read the following resources on the web:

- North American Mission Board: blog about Buddhism & witnessing to them^{xxiv}
- 4 Keys to Sharing the Gospel with Buddhists^{xxv}

Chapter 7: The 11th Hour Call

As we come to this last chapter, we are going to consider the crucial importance of evangelism for the time we are now living in. God works in different ways during certain times and seasons. Therefore, what we learn and put into practice at different times can have significantly different importance for our lives, as well as generate very different eternal rewards. But the message of evangelism and soulwinning is of VERY high importance for the days we are living in!

To understand this better, we'll look at a parable that our Lord Jesus taught in Matthew 20:1-7 NIV. *"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius a day and sent them into his vineyard. About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'"*

Jesus had already declared that He is "The Lord of the Harvest" back in Matthew 9:38. Christ is the One who will bring a great gospel harvest of men's souls in to salvation. But this parable explains some important further truths about the timing of this harvest, and about the workers He is calling to join Him. The harvest would have more and more workers brought in to gather the abundant fruit, yet that day of ingathering would come to an end.

The Time of the Harvest

The time of the harvest that Christ was speaking about is the time of the Church Age. From the beginning of the Church until the Second Coming of Christ is called the day of salvation, the day of harvest. The gospel of salvation is being spread throughout the world, and as the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 6:2, *"Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation."*

In the timing of a Jewish day, the eleventh hour would be our 5 PM, just one hour before sunset and the end of the workday. We are living now near the end of the Church Age, in what can be called the 11th hour of the harvest day. The harvesting of souls will soon be over when Christ returns.

The Lord Jesus gave a very specific timetable concerning His Second Coming in Matthew 24. In verse 3 His disciples had asked, *"...what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"* Then in verse 14 the Lord told them, *"And this gospel of the*

kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

The Lord made it very clear that when the Church has preached the gospel throughout the world it will be the time of His Second Coming. He will return to rule the world as the King of kings, and the time of the Church Age will be over. It will be the end of the harvest of souls that the worldwide Church is to gather and bring into God's kingdom.

Christian missionary organizations have said that the worldwide Church could finish world evangelism in less than 15 years if we become fully dedicated to this cause. Yet the Church may be half-hearted and slow in finishing the evangelism of the world. Or an opposite possibility is that the Lord may use extraordinary events and calamities to cause the Gospel to spread faster. So we do not know the exact year or date when the Church will finish the Great Commission, but we do know that we are nearing that time. That will be the end of the preaching of the Gospel and the end of the harvest season for the souls of all men.

The End of the Harvest

At the first coming of Christ about 2000 years ago, Jesus came as the Passover lamb, as the Savior of the World. At His Second Coming He will come as a lion, as the King and Judge of the World! Now is the time people can receive the Savior, but when Christ returns, it will be as the Judge of all who have not already been saved. The harvest season of men's souls will be over!

There is a story that helps explain this to us. There was a young man who was arrested for many crimes. But he had a very smart uncle who was a lawyer, and every time the young man was taken to court, his uncle was able to rescue him from being sent to prison.

The day finally came when the young man again was brought to court for another crime he had committed. But this time, it was his uncle who was the judge! He thought it would be easy for him to avoid going to prison, as his uncle had always helped him before, and now his uncle had full control of the outcome of his case.

The young man was shocked when his uncle judged him as guilty and gave him a long prison sentence. He said to his uncle, "But you always rescued me before! And now that you have full authority over my case, you send me to prison?"

His uncle replied, "My nephew, when I was your lawyer it was my responsibility to work on your side, to plead your case and seek mercy for you. But now that I am your judge, it is my responsibility to stand for justice, and justice you have received- you are guilty, and you are going to prison."

This story illustrates how Christ can now offer mercy to sinners, but the day is soon coming when He will return and bring judgment. Now is the time that everyone can receive the forgiveness of their sins, now is the time their souls can be saved, and now

is the time we can help bring in this harvest of lost sinners. But the harvest season for the lost souls of the world will be over when Christ returns- the Lamb will return as the Lion, the Savior will return as the Judge of the World!

Yet in this last hour of the harvest season, as we near the completion of the Great Commission, Christ is still wanting to save the lost. The Lord of the Harvest is still gathering up the last of the harvest from around the world, and He is calling for more workers, for more harvesters, to gather in the full harvest before it is too late. The harvest will be over soon- will you hear God's last call for you to join the harvesters?

At the beginning of January 2020 the Lord spoke to my wife as she was praying about what the new year would bring. The Lord spoke to her the word "acceleration," and said to her "This year you will see the signs of the times accelerating, this year world events will begin moving more quickly towards the end of the age." And it is certainly true that we have seen the world change much more quickly than we could have imagined. The covid-19 crisis which covered the earth also brought with it increased financial crises, political turmoil, and other difficulties. As our Lord Jesus warned in Matthew 24, there will be increasing judgments and crises around the world as we near the time of His Second Coming. These are all warnings that the time is short before the world will face the arrival of Christ the Judge. It is the 11th hour and is now the time for the Church to share the Gospel with boldness, as the day of harvest will soon be past.

The Lost Harvests

The Prophet Jeremiah faced a similar situation to ours. When he was young, his nation prospered under the leadership of the good king, Josiah. Reformation came during Josiah's time, with many turning to the Lord, but Jeremiah lived to see that season of salvation fade away. It soon turned into a time of judgment under their next evil kings as the nation became totally corrupt and then was destroyed by the Babylonians.

When that time of reformation was over and the nation fell into darkness again, Jeremiah lamented over them. Echoing the despair of that lost generation, these words were recorded in Jeremiah 8 verse 20, saying, "*The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved!*"

When judgment finally came, many of the people were in despair. They knew they had wasted their day of opportunity to be saved- and now it was too late! They had not called upon the Lord when He could be found, they had not sought God when He was near- and now they mournfully declared, "*The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved!*"

We are close to that same situation in our day. God has been good to the people of the world, sending revivals and gospel preachers throughout the nations. God's mercy and longsuffering has prolonged these days, while the Church has been spreading the Gospel and completing the Great Commission. But just as the yearly seasons of the world must change, so also the spiritual times and seasons of God must change. In the

northern climates summer will always give way to fall and then change to a bitterly cold, barren winter. In the tropics the rainy season will always give way to the dry season of drought. And in the Spirit, the time we are living in is that the gospel harvest season is almost over. When the judgment of God comes in fullness, the peoples will cry out, *"the harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved!"*

The end of a harvest season is the busiest time for the farmers. They know that if the harvest is not quickly gathered, it will be lost. Farmers will search far and wide for more workers to bring in the harvest. Will the harvest be fully gathered, and a full reward be gained? Or will much of the harvest be lost, and little reward be gained?

Solomon wisely declared that there is a time for every season, Eccles.3:1. The tribe of Issachar was commended in David's generation as being a wise people who understood the times and knew what the nation was supposed to do, 1 Chron.12:32. But our Lord Jesus had to rebuke the religious leaders of his time- Christ said in Matthew 16:3 that they could interpret the appearance of the weather, but they could not interpret the spiritual season of their time.

When the Lord Jesus began His ministry He declared that He was giving Israel their time of visitation, their season of revival and salvation. In Luke 4:19 during His first public sermon he announced that He had come *"To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."* That was the first part of a prophecy that Isaiah had declared in Isaiah 61:2. But near the end of His earthly ministry Jesus wept over Jerusalem when He entered the city on what many call Palm Sunday. Christ wept because the people had not understood what God was offering them. As they had rejected their time of visitation, Christ then told them that the days of judgment and destruction would shortly follow.

We read in Luke 19:41-44, *"Now as Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it, and said, 'If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will destroy your city, and your children with you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of God's visitation to you.'"*

Then in Luke 21:20-22 when Christ prophesied about the coming Roman destruction of Jerusalem, He said *"these are the days of vengeance, that all things written may be fulfilled."* What scripture was He saying would be fulfilled? The rest of the prophecy from Isaiah 61:2 where Isaiah had declared that Christ would come to bring both *"the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God."*

What a calamity! The people of Jerusalem had missed God's visitation! The acceptable time, the day of salvation would end, and the day of God's vengeance would fall upon the people of Jerusalem. The Son of God had come to His own, but His own did not receive Him. The people of Jerusalem had instead cried out, *"Crucify him! Crucify him! His blood be on us and on our children!"*^{xxvi} But this same generation later found that the

Roman armies had surrounded their city, and the multitudes in Jerusalem were slowly perishing of famine. Before the Roman army broke in and began their massacre, the people in Jerusalem were probably lamenting and quoting the words that Jeremiah had written: *"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved!"*

The time that we live in now will again experience this change of seasons, when God's mercies will be replaced with judgment. Just as the increasingly loud rumblings of thunder tell us that a storm is coming, the calamities and crises that are increasing in the world today are sending us a message- the storm of God's judgment is coming! The Church Age is drawing to a close, the day of salvation is drawing near to its sunset. It is late, but the Lord of the Harvest is still calling out to those who will become reapers- to those who will harvest lost souls! It is the 11th hour- soon the harvest will be finished, and it will be too late. Too late to follow God's call! Too late to save the lost souls! Soon will come the great day of sorrow for the peoples of the world, when they will all cry out, *"THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE SUMMER HAS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOT SAVED!"*

For this urgent reason God is now calling for workers to gather in the harvest- to save souls- before it is too late. Do you feel the Holy Spirit touching your heart? Do you hear God calling to you? If so, then say "yes" to God- tell the Lord, "Here I am, send me!" Pray now before you read any more of this book. Stop reading for a few minutes and pray your own words, or else join in the following prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I want to become a soulwinner. You said that the harvest is great but the laborers are few, and Lord, I know that many of my relatives and the people around me will be forever lost unless I can help reach them with the Gospel. I want to help gather these lost souls before the harvest time will end, so please help me- help me to look for, and take, every opportunity that I can. I want to reach out and offer Your salvation to the needy people around me. Help me to be fully dedicated to this call, so that like the 11th hour workers in Your parable, I will fully use what little time is left to help gather the harvest and bring many lost people into Your eternal kingdom."

Become a Harvester!

If you have made a fresh commitment to evangelize and become a soulwinner, you might ask, "What next?" We have considered many ways to evangelize in this book, and starting to put it all into practice might look like a daunting task. Maybe you have had some time since you read chapter 3 to develop some friendship evangelism, but maybe you have not yet been involved in organized evangelistic programs. So let's consider some simple steps to put it all together:

1. Pray for the lost that you will be reaching out to! *"Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him,"* -Ps.126:5-6.
2. Speak to those around you who do not know the Lord. Share as much as they are receptive to, and pray they will become hungry for more!

3. Seek to be led of the Holy Spirit to reach out to people whom you can meet in public places or on social media. Go out to the highways & byways- look for people you can evangelize in public places in malls, food courts, parks, bus stations, or anywhere people are sitting around and are open to talk! If you are ready to speak for the Savior, He will arrange circumstances so that you will meet people who will respond, such as when Christ met the woman at the well. Reach out through social media such as Facebook or Messenger.

4. Join in with evangelistic programs that your church may be involved in, such as door-to-door, witnessing in public places, child evangelism in vacation Bible school, music or drama presentations, sports evangelism, ministries in jails, hospitals, nursing homes or schools, etc.

5. Seek to develop new programs of evangelism for your church. Perhaps some of the methods mentioned in chapter four are not practiced by your church, but if you become skilled using any of these methods you could help start a new church program!

As you launch out and start developing soulwinner skills, you can also begin to teach others how to join in the 11th hour harvest. Many of the programs mentioned above are best done in teams. If you become skilled to lead a team (even just a team of two-yourself and a helper) you can help train others to join in and gather a harvest of lost souls.

The Harvesters' Reward

There is one more important part to the story that we have been looking at in this chapter. In the parable of the 11th hour workers, the Lord Jesus finished His story by speaking about the end of the harvest day when the workers were all paid for their service. He said,

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." – Mat.20:8-16 NIV

You might be like one of the 11th hour workers in this story. Perhaps this is the first time you have a serious call to actively participate in evangelism. Or maybe you have heard it before but have been slow to respond. Every Christian is called to be a soulwinner,

and there is still time to fulfill your calling and gain great eternal reward. If you will quickly respond to Christ's call you can become one of the 11th hour workers who will be given an equal reward to those who have labored for much longer!

In John 4:35-38 our Lord Jesus said, *"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."*

Join in this wonderful call, this Great Commission that our Lord entrusted to His Church. We are in the last Gospel hour- we are near the finish line where the evangelism of the world will be completed! Whether you are witnessing to your neighbors, interceding for the nations, or are involved in evangelistic programs, you can help to finish what others have labored long and hard to accomplish. Let us take this hour of opportunity to gain great reward and rescue lost souls from an eternity without Christ.

The time will soon come when the harvest will be over. The Lamb of God will return as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah- the Savior will return as King and Judge! Do not wait until it is too late, and your neighbors, your relatives, and all you could have reached end up lamenting, *"the harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved!"*

Will you respond to God's calling? The day of harvest will soon be over, we must quickly gather the lost souls. Others have planted- now it is time to reap. And if you will join the harvest workers, God will give you a full reward!

Wholeheartedly respond to God today and become one of Christ's 11th hour workers, one of the last that Christ can make equal to the first. You will gather fruit for eternal life, and receive generous wages- eternal rewards! You and your converts will forever rejoice together in God's eternal kingdom- HALLELUJAH!

Religious Survey Form

(use your own locality)

Metro Manila Religious Survey

1. **SEX:** Male ___ Female ___
2. **AGE:** <20 20-30 30-40 40-50 >50
3. **WHAT RELIGION ARE YOU?**
Catholic ___ Muslim ___ Protestant ___ Buddhist ___ Mormon ___ Other ___
4. **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR RELIGION?**
Tradition ___ Parents ___ Education ___ Friends ___ Personal choice ___ Other ___
5. **HOW RELIGIOUS ARE YOU?**
Very religious ___ Average ___ Not very religious ___
6. **ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR RELIGION- IS IT MEETING WITH YOUR PERSONAL NEEDS?**
Most of the time ___ Sometimes ___ Not at all ___
7. **ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?**
Very satisfied ___ Average ___ Not at all ___
8. **HAVE YOU COME TO THE POINT IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE WHERE YOU CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN WHEN YOU DIE?**
Yes ___ No ___ Not sure ___
9. **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE SURE OF HOW TO GO TO HEAVEN?**
Yes ___ No ___

ENDNOTES

ⁱ In Acts 21:40-15:21, 24:10-21, & 26:1-23, as well as mentioning it in Galatians 1:13-14 and Philippians 3:4-7.

ⁱⁱ 19%, according to <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Jones, E. Stanley. *The Christ of the Indian Road*, New York: The Abingdon Press, 1925. (Page 114)

^{iv} <https://www.barna.com/research/non-christians-faith-conversations/>

^v see 2 Corinthians 13:1, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 & 12

^{vi} <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids/>

^{vii} This movie can be downloaded for free at: <https://www.jesuskfilm.org/watch/jesus.html/english.html>

^{viii} One account of this story can be read at: <https://russellmckinney.com/2018/07/20/john-wesley-the-robber/>

^{ix} <https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids/>

^x From Genesis 19:14

^{xi} This simplified account of his revival is taken from his autobiography, pages 105-108, freely available online at: [ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Charles%20Finney.pdf](https://www.ntslibrary.com/PDF%20Books/Charles%20Finney.pdf) Read the entire book to see the heart and results of one of the world's greatest soulwinners!

^{xii} In Acts 9:20-23 and Acts 9:28-29

^{xiii} <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/04/opinion/the-problem-with-the-islamic-apocalypse.html>

^{xiv} Their website is: <http://morethandreams.org/>

^{xv} <https://brigada.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/PEACE-Camel-Training-Final.pdf>

^{xvi} <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/07/why-people-with-no-religion-are-projected-to-decline-as-a-share-of-the-worlds-population/>

^{xvii} Exodus 3:14

^{xviii} John 1:1-3, Genesis 1:3, & Hebrews 11:3

^{xix} Hingoraoi, Anand (editor). *The Message of Jesus Christ* by M. K. Gandhi. Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 1964, page 23

^{xx} <https://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/ten-tips-for-ministering-to-hindus>

^{xxi} <https://www.christianbook.com/the-spurious-glitter-of-pantheism/ravi-zacharias/pd/DA20837-CP>

^{xxii} <https://encyclopediaofbuddhism.org/wiki/Rahula>

also <https://www.burmese-art.com/blog/rahula-son-and-disciple-of-buddha>

^{xxiii} As repeated by James Beverley in the article "Hollywood's Idol" in *Christianity Today's* June 11 2001 issue.

^{xxiv} At: <https://www.namb.net/apologetics-blog/buddhism/>

^{xxv} At: <https://www.abwe.org/blog/4-keys-sharing-gospel-buddhists>

^{xxvi} From Lk.23:21 and Mat.27:25