

EVANGELISM

DR. TONY MATHIAS

2004



CONTENTS

LEARNING TO WITNESS	2
GOOD NEWS PRESENTATION MODELS	9

LEARNING TO WITNESS

Acts1:8;

God's Word is the SEED we sow in witnessing 1Pt1:23;

The Spirit of God uses God's Word {SEED} in the fertile soil of the heart to produce new birth. None can be saved without that Seed of God's Word. A successful witness for Christ must learn to be skilful in using the Bible, for it is the sower's seed in personal witnessing. It is also bread or spiritual nourishment to the person who comes to know Christ as Savior Isa55:10-11; 1Pt2:2;

Effective witnessing is an art to be learned. Christ promised to make you a fisher of men if you obey his command to follow Him closely. While he does the saving he expects you to do the seeking Mt4:19: Lk19:10;

Witnessing for Christ is simply taking a good look at him and his Word during your Quiet Time and then telling others what you have seen and heard. 1Jn1:3;

In learning the art of witnessing you need to take four steps:

Preparation; Approach; Bait and Pointer

PREPARATION

Is Laying the Ground work:
 Having something to say
 Knowing what to say
 Knowing how to say it
 Having the boldness to say it in love

APPROACH

Preaching the Gospel is like fishing - using a 'bait' where the fishes are, going where the people are. Jesus the Great Fisherman trained His disciples. He will also teach us if we follow Him closely by being led by the Holy Spirit
Mt4:19; Mk16; 15; Jn1:41-45;

BAIT

Acts10:38; 2Tim2:24-25;

Win a person's confidence

[Friendship; Courtesy; Hospitality; Encouragement; Appreciation; Finding out his or her interests]

Ask God's to show you ways to serve, doing good to those you are witnessing

Give your simple testimony

Study the person

Find an opening to speak about his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Use an attractive gospel tract

POINTER

A personal witness points to Christ.

A positive testimony often convinces the unsaved.

Preach the Gospel, bringing people face to face with Jesus Christ

Rom1:16; 1Cor15; 3-4;

Say what God says, use the Bible and keep the message simple.

Recognize you are helpless, inadequate & dependent on the Holy Spirit.

If you cannot answer certain questions, be honest about it.

Be alert for opportunities to witness.

Never force a decision from a person at new birth, for it is the work of the Holy Spirit, a miracle you cannot produce.

Avoid arguments.

A working knowledge of scriptures is vitally essential.

Memorizing scriptures is very important because:

It brings victory over Sin and Satan

It brings conviction - The Holy Spirit uses the Word to penetrate the heart

Praying for the candidate to be evangelized allows God to prepare his heart to receive the gospel Ps27:4

We are to also engage in spiritual warfare with spiritual weapons Eph6:17-18

Mt4:19 Christ promised to make you a fisher of men. He taught individuals as well as large groups.

Your credentials are important – Are you following Jesus closely?

Can you say like Paul – “I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day”

Satan tries to attack a young Christian in three ways –

To doubt his salvation

So it needs to be counter attacked with 1Jn5: 11-12;

To bring in temptation

So it needs to be counter attacked with 1Cor10; 13;

To feel that he / she has not been forgiven –

So it needs to be counter attacked with 1J1: 9;

God has given the believer victory over sin Ps119: 11

The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance verses of scripture memorized.

For effective witnessing note Prov22: 20-21;

Deut6:5 commands the memorizing of scriptures.

A definite plan of learning many scripture verses a week will be helpful.

The real basis of witnessing is to have:

1. Personal relationship with Christ Acts22:14-15;

Knowing Him personally as Savior & Lord.

Witnessing for Christ is simply taking a good look at Him and then going out and telling people of what we have seen and heard.

2. Personal fellowship with Christ is important 1Jn1:3;

To witness concerning the person of Christ note these scriptures

Ps27: 4; Acts4: 13; 2Cor3: 18;

How do we have such fellowship?

Simply spending time with Him in prayer and meditating on His Word.

3. Be filled with Holy Spirit.

For it is only God who must work the miracle in successful & fruitful witnessing and for new birth. Eph5: 18; Jn15; 26-27;

4. What is the involvement? –

Confession of sins Ps66: 18; 1Jn1: 9

Surrender to Christ Mt4: 19

Dependence on the Holy Spirit 1Tess1: 5

Trusting the Holy Spirit to glorify Christ as we seek to point a needy soul to Christ

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE:

We ought to know:

1. The condition of the lost Eph2:1
2. The only remedy Rom1:16
3. Preach the Gospel Rom1:16
4. What the Gospel is?

In understanding the gospel we ought to know a few facts such as:

The penalty of sin is death Rom6:23

The Fact of sin Rom3: 23

The penalty of sin is death Rom6: 23

Christ paid the penalty Rom5: 8

Repentance – change one's mind about God, sin, turning from sin to God in faith

Receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior & Lord, putting trust in Him Jn1: 13;

Basic Questions Often Asked:

Q - Why do we need to be saved?

The person outside Christ is blind, in darkness, under the power of Satan, separated from God. 2Cor4:3-4; Acts26:18; Eph2:1

We were born sinners with a sinful nature passed onto us by our first parents Gen1-3

Our conscience, the Holy Spirit & the Bible tell us that we have sinned Isa53, Rom3:10, 23

Sin constructs a wall, barrier, separation between righteous God and us

We need to be saved from sin, guilt, and power of sin & its consequences.

Q – How could God be just & yet merciful to the sinner?

Sin was punished on the Cross and not ignored 1Pt2: 24

Jesus Christ as the sinner's perfect substitute paid in full the penalty of sinner's sins by His death on the Cross 2Cor5: 21; Rom4: 25;

The Cross is God's side of salvation, where His justice & mercy was operative and His holiness satisfied 1Cor1: 18-25;

Q – How can we be saved?

Not by being good enough, but by accepting the perfect substitutionary death of Jesus who took our place as sin / sickness substitute and paid the full price of punishment for our sins.

When we accept His death as ours, we do not have to be punished anymore for being a sinner

Q – What must I do to be saved?

1. Have a full knowledge of the fact of sin Rom3:23; the penalty of sin Rom6:23; that Christ paid the penalty Rom5:8; and He was a perfect substitute 1Pt2:24
2. Trusting faith that Christ died on the Cross, paid the full penalty for your sins Rom1:16; Acts16:31; 1Cor15:3-4;
3. Repentance with true sorrow for sins Acts2:38, 3:19; Lk13:3;
4. Confess your sins to Jesus, thank Him for being punished in your place 1Jn1:9
5. Verbally confess your salvation with your mouth while believing it in your heart Rom10:9-10;
6. Ask Jesus to come into your life Jn1: 12; and help you to be the kind of person you ought to be and do what pleases God, determine to follow Him.
7. To receive the benefits of salvation through the Blood of Jesus {Blood Prayer}

Q – How can IO know that I am saved, have eternal life & assurance of salvation?

1. Because Jesus & the Bible say so. Jn6:37; 1Jn5:11-12;
2. By your changed life 2Cor5:17; 2Pt1:3-4;
God inwardly transforms you by His life & nature to always please Him & do what is right in His sight. Although your old sinful nature still draws you to sin if given an opportunity, yet it has no dominion over you, and you know that you can be forgiven Jn1; 12, 13; Rom6: 14; 2Cor9: 8; 2Cor5: 17; 1Jn1: 9;
3. The testimony of God's Word. If Satan causes you to even doubt that your sins are forgiven, just quote God's Word. Acts13:39; Jn5:24; 1Jn5:11-12; Jn1:12; Rom10:9-10; 1Jn1:9;
4. The inward witness Rom8: 16; - The Holy Spirit brings to our consciousness a vivid assurance that we are saved and confirms it by His inspired Word 2Tim3: 16; The epistle of John was written that believers may know that they have eternal life.

Q – What is the Holy Spirit' work regarding salvation?

He reproves, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, judgment & points to the lord {Jn16; 8-11}, leads to repentance & to receive the forgiveness of sins, causes one to believe, be born again and become a child of God Jn3: 5-6;

He continues His work in the believer to lead him to the truth, revealing Christ to him, He comforts, guides, directs, protects, empowers us for service, helps us in our weakness, temptations, problems, in our prayer life, helps us to maintain our fellowship with God and produces in us spiritual fruit and fills us with God's love Eph5: 18; Jn15: 26, 16:13, 14:26; Acts1: 8; Rom8: 26-27; Ga5: 22; Rom5: 5;

Q – What Kind of approach should we have for witnessing?

Create opportunities to make new friends with a different lifestyle

Use crisis situations

Listen to what they have to say

Take time to pray for lost friends

Invite lost friends to your home, church for a meal, fellowship, bible study

Visit neighbors, newcomers

Arouse interest by asking questions

Think of how to witness beforehand so you are ready at opportune time

Introduce spiritual matters naturally

Nurture relationships by being interested in their concerns

Go out of your way to show interest to your lost friends

SELF EXAMINATION:

1. Is your salvation experience still fresh & vibrant?
2. Can you summarize your experience briefly & forcefully?
3. How long was it that you shared this experience with another?
4. What was the result?
5. Do you participate with the evangelistic efforts of your church?
6. Have you teamed up with a more experienced person {leader] to witness, evangelize fir the on – the – job training?
7. Examine and evaluate the resources of evangelism provided by your church. Which of these resources is most appealing to you and why?
8. Examine your relationship with others.

ASSIGNMENT WITNESSING AT A HOME:

1. Memorize the name & information you have of the person(s).
2. Find clues to family interests e.g. toys, plants, vehicles etc.
3. Smile & identify yourself & purpose of your visit
4. It is important for people to know where you come from and why you have come. If they do not invite you in ask if there is a more convenient time for you to come back.

OPENING A WITNESSING CONVERSATION

Be friendly, Complement, Ask questions from natural to supernatural, be a good listener, show interest, Witness.

You may use the following method: FORT

F – Family

O – Occupation

R – Religious background

T - Transition – Ask diagnostic questions to know his spiritual condition

E.g. Do you have an uneasy feeling there is something missing or wrong with the direction of your life?

If you were to die tonight do you know for sure you would go to heaven?

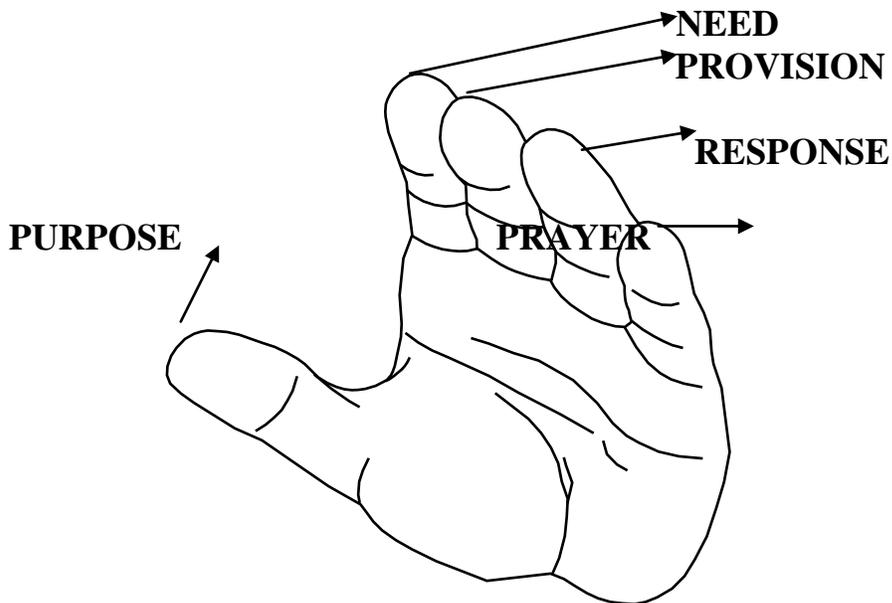
Suppose you were to die tonight and you stood before God, He asked you “Why should I let you into my heaven?”

According to his answers you would know how to proceed. If he gives substitutes let them all come out.

Then move into the Good News presentation, ask his permission to do so at that time or at another more convenient time.

Keep your presentations simple and short 10 – 15mts, except for his question.

GOOD NEWS PRESENTATION Model – 1



PURPOSE: Jn3: 16; Rom6: 23; Jn10: 10; Jn14: 3;
God's Son, Free Gift of Eternal Life, Meaningful Life, Spend eternity with Jesus in Heaven

NEED: Rom3: 23, Eph2: 9, Rom6: 23
We are sinners, We cannot save ourselves, We deserve death & hell

PROVISION: Jn14: 6, Jn1: 1, 14; 1Pt3: 18; Isa53: 6; Rom4: 25;
Jesus is God become man, died from the dead, rose from the dead

RESPONSE: Jn1: 12; Acts3: 19; 26:20; Eph2: 8; Jas2: 19; Rom10: 9-10;
We must repent, have faith in Jesus, commit our lives to Jesus as Lord

PRAYER Rom10: 13; - Prayer for understanding, commitment, thanksgiving.

PURPOSE: - The thumb represents the 'thumbs up' sign, that you are important to God, He loves you and has a purpose for your life.

In life, I haven't measured up to God's expectations, or to my own. I've been proud and have often failed. {Pride – failure – thumbs down sign}. I've discovered that my sinful nature kept me from fulfilling God's purpose for my life. God expects me to live a full & meaningful life

He wants me to spend an eternity with Him – How?

He offers me the free gift of Eternal Life.

NEED: - The Index finger – How often have I pointed the finger at others, now God points it at me Rom3: 23; - The Bible shows me that I have sinned, cannot save myself, only death and hell await me. I need to be saved, I need a Savior. What shall I do?

PROVISION: - The Middle finger Jn14: 6; - Just as the pointing finger stands between thumb and middle finger so our sins stand between us and God.

The middle finger represents Christ. It stands taller than the other fingers and in the centre of all others – Jesus is the lord of all and centre of the universe. He became man.

{Now without bending your other fingers, bend the middle finger to touch the palm, you feel pain.}– Christ suffered pains for our sins on the Cross. {Now let your bent middle finger go back to its original position}– Christ rose from the dead and offers you Eternal Life, removes your sin & judgment.

RESPONSE: Ring Finger Jn1: 12; - This finger represents commitment {Like marriage for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness & in health, until death parts us}

When I accepted the ring in marriage, I pledged to forsake all other girl friends and promised to be faithful to my wife as long as we lived. The Bible sometimes compares our commitment to Christ as a marriage. The person must repent, believe in Jesus and make his commitment.

PRAYER: - Little Finger Rom10: 13; Make a prayer to lead him to an understanding of all that has been spoken to him. Lead him through a prayer of commitment & thanksgiving.

COMMITMENT – QUESTIONS:

1. Transactional Question
“Does this make sense to you?”
2. Clarification Question –
“Do you believe Jesus died for you and God raised Him from the dead?”
3. Negative Commitment Question
“Is there any reason why you should not be willing to receive God’s free gift by repenting & placing your faith in Christ?”
4. Positive Commitment Question
“Are you willing to turn over your life to Him and be obedient to His teaching?”
5. Reinforcement Question –
“Do you believe He will help you to live the new life He gives you?”

6. Commitment Question
“Then wouldn’t this be a good time to receive God’s free gift by repenting and placing your faith in Jesus?”
7. Prayer Question
“May we pray together?” -----

How do you deal with a negative response?

You would say – “It’s a decision you alone must make. As much as I would like to see you trust Christ right now I cannot make the decision for you. However I promise to pray for you asking God to help you come to the point that you are willing to trust in Him. May I have your permission to pray for you?”

MODEL - 2

STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD

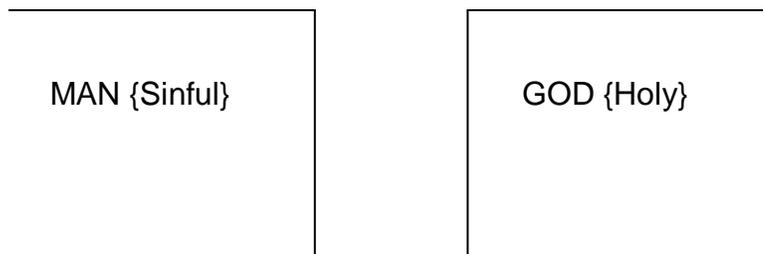
STEP ONE

God’s Purpose: Peace & Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace & life, abundant & eternal now. Rom5: 1; Jn3: 16; 10:10;

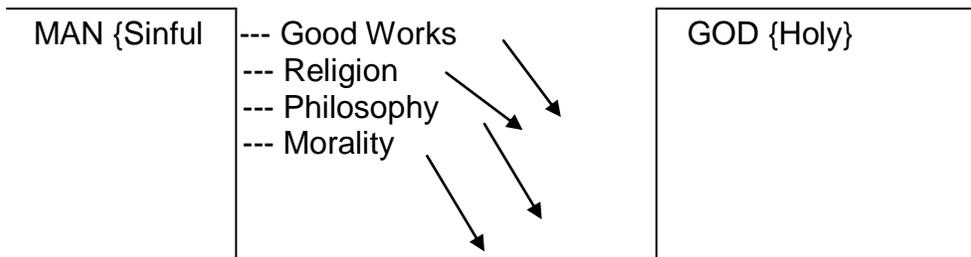
STEP TWO

Our Problem ---- Separation

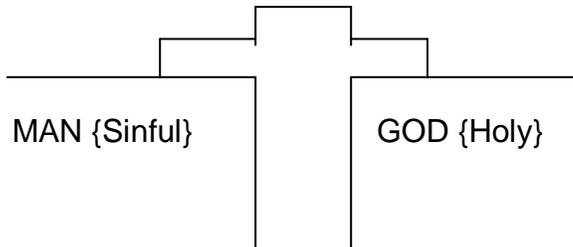


God created us in His own image to have abundant life. He did not make us robots to automatically love & obey Him, but gave us a free will. We can choose to disobey God and go our own sinful – willful way and this results in separation from God Rom 3:23, 6:23;

Our attempts through the ages are to bridge the gap and yet without success.

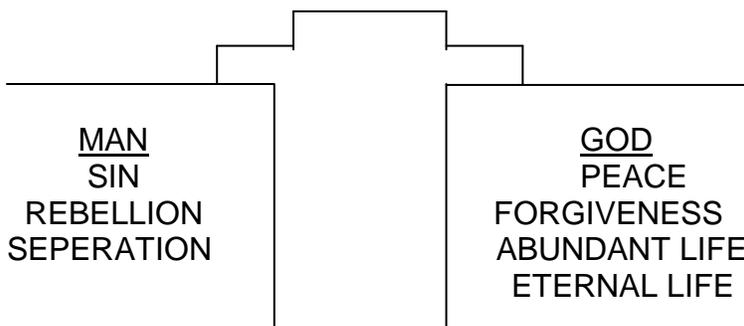


STEP THREE:
 God's Remedy --- The Cross



Jesus Christ is the only answer to this problem. He died on the Cross, rose from the grave, paid the penalty for our sins, bridged the gap between God & man
 1Tim2: 5; 1Pt3: 18; Rom5: 8;

STEP FOUR: Our Response ---- Receive Christ



God has provided the only way; we must make the choice. We must trust Jesus Christ and receive Him personally as Savior & Lord
 Rev3: 20; Jn1: 12 Rom10: 9-10

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST:

1. Admit your need {I am a sinner}
2. Be willing to turn away from your sins {Repentance}
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. Receive Jesus Christ as your Lord & Savior.

SUMMARY WITH PRAYER

Based on Rom10:9-10

1. God loves you. He wants you to be his child. Jn3:16; Jn1:12
2. God sent his one and only Son Jesus Christ to die for your sins. He lived a sinless life died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins and rose from the dead. He offers you the gift to live with him forever in heaven.
If you believe this with your heart you can take the third step to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord Rom5:8; Jn14:6

3. Say This Prayer Aloud:

Jesus I believe you are the Son of God. You died on the cross for my sins and rose again from the dead. I repent and turn away from my sinful life and turn to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Come into my heart, I make you my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving me, forgiving me and giving me eternal life. Almighty God I thank you for making me your child. I will serve you all the days of my life.

AFTER CARE FOR NEW CHRISTIANS:

Although we commit a spiritual baby to God, He also commits it to us. Like our own human family, our children need to be properly fed, clothed, protected, trained and it is our responsibility, so too newly born Christians need to be fed, taught how to feed themselves from the Bible. Mt21: 15-20; 2Pt3: 18;

We have the responsibility to under-shepherd the new baby Christians and take care of them. We need to have a quick follow up of these new Christians.
Teach them how to read their Bibles daily,

To get to know Christ better,
About the assurance of salvation,
To talk to God daily in prayer,
To tell others about Christ,
Worship,
Fellowship
Serve other Christians,
Demonstrate their new life by their love & concern for others

Teach them how to be filled with the Holy Spirit,

A new Christian needs to have fellowship with God to retain his joy of salvation, to have a life of victory over sins & bear fruit for the lord. He needs to have a family altar {if possible} i.e. spend time daily in the house praying, worshipping, reading the Bible. He needs to be protected from false doctrines & other attacks of the enemy such as doubts, discouragement, sins, temptations, etc. Get him to meditate on scriptures. Teach him to receive Baptism in the Holy Spirit, speak in new tongues etc

Remember as you preach the Gospel, get them saved, delivered, healed, Baptized – in – the – Holy Spirit and placed within the fellowship.



Dr. Tony Mathias Executive Director and Senior Pastor of Kingdom Seekers International is based in India. He is involved in Teaching, training and mobilizing Christians to live effective and Victorious Christian lives. He conducts Seminars and Workshops On a variety of topics including leadership. He has served as Spiritual Advisor ministering to the Body of Christ Inland as well as Overseas with a vision to spread the Word of God Internationally