

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

In order to be effective in **Personal Evangelism**, WE MUST:

1. **Have a Love for Lost Souls**.....Matthew 9:36-38; Romans 9:1-4a; 10:1
 - A. We must also remember not to view a person according to their station in life (rich or poor, educated or uneducated, popular or unpopular, etc.), but to see them as one who has an immortal soul (Mark 8:36).
2. **Focus on the Reality of Hell**.....2 Corinthians 5:10,11a; Hebrews 10:31; 1 Peter 4:17,18
 - A. Jesus Himself spoke more about Hell than He did Heaven (Matthew 5:22,29; 10:28; 11:23; 18:9; 23:33; 25:30; etc.).
3. **Abide in Christ**.....John 15:5 (see also Philippians 4:13)
4. **Yield to the Holy Spirit**.....John 15:26,27; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18
 - A. In Stephen (Acts 6 & 7) we have a good example of one who was a faithful witness because he was filled with the Holy Spirit (see 6:5,8-15; 7:54-60).
5. **Realize the Power of the Word**.....Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2:1-5; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Romans 10:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12
6. **Know Our Bibles**.....Luke 24:25-27, 44-46; Acts 17:2,3
 - A. See Acts 8:26-35 for a good example of how essential it is to know our Bibles.
7. **Deal With Souls Individually**.....John 3:1; John 4:16-18; Matthew 23:13
 - A. By this we mean we cannot treat every one alike, for though all men are sinners, there are differences which must be considered. In the passages mentioned above, Jesus treated the sinner according to the kind of person they were. Nicodemus was a “religious” sinner; the Samaritan woman was an “immoral” sinner; and the scribes and Pharisees were “self-righteous, hypocritical” sinners. His approach to them was quite different.
8. **Pray, and Ask for Prayers**.....Acts 4:23,24a,29; Ephesians 6:18,19
9. **Be Willing to Serve in Obscurity**.....In Acts 8, contrast verses 5 & 6 with verses 26-29.
10. **Be Willing to be Persecuted**.....Matthew 5:11; John 15:18-21; Acts 4:1-3,17,29; 5:40-41; Philippians 1:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14,15; 3:2-4
11. **Have the Glory of God in View**.....1 Peter 4:11

When actually speaking to a soul about his/her need of Christ, WE SHOULD ALWAYS:

1. **Be a Good Listener and be Ready to Give Them an Answer**.....1 Peter 3:15

2. **Speak the Truth in Love (Without Arguing)**.....Ephesians 4:15; 2 Timothy 2:24,25

3. **Stay Focused on the Subject of Salvation**.....1 Corinthians 2:2

A. Oftentimes, a sinner will feel uneasy about talking about his/her need of Christ, and they will try to get us off the subject. Sometimes they will ask very foolish questions to sidestep the real issue, but we must remember the words of Paul to Timothy, **“But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes” (2 Timothy 2:23)**. At other times they will ask questions about things they cannot possibly understand until they are saved (such as questions about prophecy, baptism, church truth, etc.). We must **STAY FOCUSED** and **KEEP PUTTING BEFORE THEM JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED**.

4. **Be Willing to Identify With the Sinner to Gain Their Ear**.....1 Corinthians 9:19-22

A. Hudson Taylor, the great Missionary to China, provides an excellent example to illustrate this point. When he first moved to China to spread the gospel, hardly anyone would listen to him. He then found out that no one would listen to him because of his cultural habits. He then decided to cut his hair like the Chinese and to wear Chinese clothing. From that time on he was never rejected because of the way he looked. We too should be willing to identify with those with whom we are witnessing to, as long as we don't compromise the truth of God while doing so.

5. **Let the Holy Spirit Do His Work of:**

A. **CONVICTION OF SIN**.....John 16:7,8

B. **NEW BIRTH**.....John 3:5,6,8

1. We must always remember that **IT IS GOD WHO DOES THE MIRACLE OF NEW BIRTH AND HE DOES IT THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD**. We are only God's messengers; we have the privilege to sow the good seed of His Word (Matthew 13:3-9,18-23) and then we leave it to God to bring that Word to fruition. **“I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither is he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6,7).**

2. If we believe this, we will not resort to using methods which pressure the sinner into making a profession. Methods such as (1) *Praying the sinner's prayer*; (2) *Going forward to confess Christ*; (3) *Signing a decision card*; etc. can lead to a false profession and a false peace. This leaves the sinner self-deceived and unchanged, and will dishonor Christ when there is a profession of faith made without a holy life to back it up.