

We don't get "points" for conversions; conversion is God's work.

*I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. (1 Corinthians 3:6-7 NKJV)*

Our assignment? "You shall be witnesses to Me"

*Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?" He replied, "Can you speak Greek? "Are you not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a rebellion and led the four thousand assassins out into the wilderness?" But Paul said, "I am a Jew from Tarsus, in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city; and I implore you, permit me to speak to the people." So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to [them] in the Hebrew language, saying, (Acts 21:37-40 NKJV)*

Spirit-filled witness is both bold and respectful.

*"Brethren and fathers, hear my defense before you now." (Acts 22:1 NKJV)*

Paul wants them won, not owned...Respect opens ears that argument closes.

*And when they heard that he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, they kept all the more silent. Then he said: (Acts 22:2 NKJV)*

Adapt without compromising, then point to Jesus.

*"I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers' law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today. "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, "as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished. (Acts 22:3-5 NKJV)*

***It takes more than sincerity to save; it takes a Savior.***

*"Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. "And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' "So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. (Acts 22:6-9 NKJV)*

Jesus identifies with His church: to persecute believers is to persecute Jesus.

*"For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:22–24, NKJV).*

**Pauls sign:** a blinding light, **Pauls word:** the wisdom of Christ crucified

*"So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' "And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. (Acts 22:10-11 NKJV)*

If you're waiting on clarity, obey the last clear thing God told you.

*"Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt [there], "came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. "Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has*

*chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. 'For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'* (Acts 22:12-16 NKJV)

"The Just One"—a messianic term echoing Isaiah 53.

*"He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities" (Isaiah 53:11, NKJV).*

We are saved by grace through faith, not by works. Baptism is the public confession!

*not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:5 NKJV)*

Some of you are in delay mode. Why are you waiting?

*"Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance "and saw Him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.' "So I said, 'Lord, they know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believe on You. 'And when the blood of Your martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by consenting to his death, and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' "Then He said to me, 'Depart, for I will send you far from here to the Gentiles.' "* (Acts 22:17-21 NKJV)

We've all called Him Lord while bargaining like He's our advisor.

I [am] the LORD, that [is] My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. (Isaiah 42:8 NKJV)

***Obedience isn't always intuitive, but it's always wise.***

*And they listened to him until this word, and [then] they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a [fellow] from the earth, for he is not fit to live!" Then, as they cried out and tore off [their] clothes and threw dust into the air, (Acts 22:22-23 NKJV)*

***Pride—religious pride—is allergic to grace.***

*the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, and said that he should be examined under scourging, so that he might know why they shouted so against him. And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who stood by, "Is it lawful for you to scourge a man who is a Roman, and uncondemned?" (Acts 22:24-25 NKJV)*

Courage isn't recklessness.

*When the centurion heard [that], he went and told the commander, saying, "Take care what you do, for this man is a Roman." Then the commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman?" He said, "Yes." The commander answered, "With a large sum I obtained this citizenship." And Paul said, "But I was born [a citizen]." Then immediately those who were about to examine him withdrew from him; and the commander was also afraid after he found out that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him. (Acts 22:26-29 NKJV)*

***The most brilliant arguments can't dethrone spiritual blindness.***

***Evangelism without prayer is like trying to start a fire without oxygen.***

***Trust God's placement, even when it contradicts your plan.***

***The gospel doesn't make us superior; it makes us grateful.***

*"Where is boasting then? It is excluded." (Romans 3:27, NKJV)*

Jesus, the Just One, bore our iniquities. So—why are you waiting?