

WARNING: NOW ENTERING THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE ZONE!

Presenting The Gospel **The 5 P's - A Simple Approach**

If you ever get the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C., at the end of the Memorial Wall you will see a very moving bronze sculpture. The sculpture is of 3 women nurses, and a dying serviceman. One woman is holding the dying serviceman in her arms looking unto him with compassion, the second is kneeling beside her with her head down in despair, and the third is standing looking upward towards the sky in hope. The artist intentions were to show three emotions of war: compassion, despair, and hope.

The heart of the evangelist is much the same as this sculpture. As we watch sin destroy the lives around us, with its ultimate end in eternal damnation, our heart breaks for the lost. We do not judge their sin, but burn with compassion that they turn to the Lord. At times we are filled with despair, a feeling of hopelessness, but it is that hope of salvation that keeps us looking upward. We look up to our Heavenly Father and know that He desires for all to turn to Him.

It is because of this heart that God uses us. God flows through us because we see sin as He sees it. This method of presenting the gospel isn't some magical formula that you say and people get saved. Nor is it something new, because it is based on the "Four Spiritual Laws". The 5 P's are a simple approach to presenting the Gospel to people in a clear and easy for them to understand way, and a structure that will help you in presenting it.

WE KNOW WHY WE ARE TO SHARE:

(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Romans 10:13-15) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

(2 Timothy 4:5) But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

BUT WHY DON'T WE SHARE?

A survey taken of born-again Christians tells us why:
-95% of all Christians have never lead anyone to the Lord.
-23% tried, and it went haywire, so they never tried again.
-43% said they were just plain afraid.

The 5 Top reasons people don't Evangelize:

1. Pride - they care what people think of them.
2. Fear - it is spiritual warfare against the devil himself.
3. Lost Perspective - forgot that people go to hell.
4. Heartless - no love for the lost
5. Don't know what to say.

When we think about sharing, you can be sure Satan is there to discourage us, and remind us of our failures, and tell us nobody will listen, or we don't have what it takes to proclaim the gospel. We know that this is far from the truth, we are not failures, but chosen instruments of God. So why don't people share their faith? In the case of born-again, on-fire Believers, so often it simply comes down to that they don't know how.

Good News, proclaiming the gospel is as simple as it is to receive the gospel.

Believe God Will Use You

The first step in being a witness for Christ is to believe God will use you. Many Christians don't think that they can be effective for God in soul winning unless they are in full-time ministry or are mysteriously endowed with great evangelistic gifts that enable them to leap tall buildings in a single bound. One of Satan's greatest tricks is to keep us thinking this. If he can get us to accept superstar theology - that evangelism is the job of the select few, the professionals, then he has won a major victory over us. The fact of the matter is that we will be effective for God if we start to witness right where we are: on our job, at home, school, the sports club, or wherever God wants us to be.

Remember Rahab, the prostitute? Her story is told in the book of Joshua, chapter two. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel was now ready to take the Promised Land. They went to Jericho to spy out the land and they met Rahab. I'll sum up the heart of their meeting; Rahab said we have heard about your God for 40 years, we have heard about His power, we know He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath where have you been, we have been waiting 40 years for you to come. As you know she believed in the Lord God, and was saved. She is listed in the genealogy of Christ (Matthew 1) and the Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11). From harlot to the Hall of Faith. Brethren there are Rahab's all around us, people just waiting to get saved. Many have heard about the Lord, and are just waiting for someone to introduce them to Him. Believe God will use you.

GOD DOES THE WORK WE ARE JUST VESSELS:

Some will receive, some will reject. Don't get puffed up when they do receive, nor be depressed when they don't. We are all just vessels, and it is God who is doing the work. If you put this in the proper perspective, then you should feel liberated, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. You get to experience the sensation of God working and flowing through you. I can remember several years ago taking a 3-year-old child fishing. This child couldn't keep the hook in the water for longer than 3 seconds. The chance of her catching anything was slim to none. So what I would do was catch a fish on my line, then let the line out so to have plenty of slack, then I would give her a call and say, "watch my line for me, reel in the slack." When she reeled the slack the fish would tug, and she would get all excited thinking she caught the fish. I would then come over, put my arms around her and on the pole, and we would reel the fish in together. God does pretty much the same with us. He catches them first, and lets us reel them in together with Him. So don't be afraid to go get a pole, and go fishing with your Heavenly Father.

Remember it is all God:

(John 6:44) "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. Evangelism means, "gospel", "the good news". We are just telling people good news. The verb tense means, "to bring good news". It has to do with proclaiming, nowhere in the verb tense does it have anything to do with reception or results. Noah is called a "preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5); he preached for 120 years, yet only

7 people received his message. Jeremiah preached for 40 years with no converts. Then there is Jonah; he really didn't want to preach, but eventually did, and 120 thousand people repented. The Lord will say to us, "Well done good and faithful servant.....enter into the joy of the Lord" (Matthew 25:21); the Lord DOES NOT say, "well done good and successful servant."

Every time we present the Gospel, God is glorified because we are telling of His great love. *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

The Philosophy behind the 5 P's

People must first see their need for a Savior before they will receive the Savior. In simple terms, they have to see that they are a sinner before they see a need to be saved from their sin. Now, we don't have to preach a hell-fire and damnation (a loveless Gospel), but we surely don't want to present a watered down Gospel (which is absent of the offense of sin before the Holy God, the need to repent and the judgment of hell). Ray Comfort has a great analogy in regards to this:

Two men are seated on a plane, the first is given a parachute and told to put it on as it will improve his flight. He is skeptical at first because he can't see how wearing a parachute on the plane can improve his flight. After a time he decides to experiment and see if the claim was true. As he puts it on he notices the weight upon his shoulder and finds he has difficulty seating upright. However he consoles himself with the fact that he was told that the parachute will improve his flight, so he decides to give the thing a little time. As he waits he notices some of the other passengers are laughing at him for wearing a parachute on the plane and he begins to feel somewhat humiliated. As they continue to point and laugh at him he can stand it no more and slinks in his seat, unstraps the parachute and throws it to the floor. Disillusionment and bitterness feels his heart because as far as he is concerned he was told an outright lie. The second man is given a parachute and listen to what he is told: He is told to put it on because at any given moment he will be jumping 25,000 feet out of the plane. He gratefully puts the parachute on and doesn't even notice the weight of it upon his shoulder nor that he can sit upright. His mind is consumed with the thought of what would happen to him if he jumped without the parachute.

Now lets analyze the motive and results of each passenger's experience. The first man's motive for putting on the parachute was solely to improve his flight. The result of his experience was that it was humiliated by the passengers, he was disillusioned, and somewhat bitter against those who gave him the parachute, and as far as he is concerned it will be a long time before someone gets one of those things on his back again.

The second man put the parachute on to escape the jump to come. Because of the knowledge of what would happen to him without it he has a deep-rooted joy and peace in his heart knowing that he is safe from sure death. This knowledge gives him the ability to withstand the mockery of the other passengers, and his attitude towards the one who gave him the parachute is of a heart felt gratitude.

Now listen to what the modern gospel says: "put on the Lord Jesus Christ and He will give you love, joy, peace, fulfillment and lasting happiness; in other words, Jesus will improve your flight." So the sinner responds and in an experimental fashion puts on the Savior to see if the claims are true. What does he get? The promised temptation, tribulation, and persecution - the other passengers mock him. So what does he do, he takes off the Lord Jesus Christ, He is offended for the Word's sake, he is disillusioned and somewhat bitter, and quite rightly so, he was promised peace, joy love, fulfillment and lasting happiness; and all he got was trials and humiliation. His bitterness is directed at the people who gave him the so-called Good News, and his situation is now worse than the first.

Instead of preaching Jesus will improve the flight, we must warn the passengers that they are going to have to jump out of the plane. When the sinner understands the consequences for breaking God's law, then he will flee to the Savior to escape the wrath that is to come. The issue is not one of happiness, but one of righteousness. It doesn't matter how happy sinners are, without the righteousness of Christ they perish in the day of wrath. Peace and joy are fruits of salvation, but they are not to be used as draw cards for salvation. If we continue to use them as draw cards, sinners will respond with an unpure motive, lacking repentance. We will be guilty of creating backsliders, or worse, false converts.

The second passenger had joy and peace in his heart because he knew that parachute was going to save him from sure death. As a believer I have joy and peace in believing that the righteousness of Christ will deliver me from the wrath that is to come.

Another illustration I like is this:

If I came up to you on the street and said, "here is the cure for your illness, you must drink this or you will die". You would think I'm crazy, you would say, "I'm not sick, I feel fine, get away from me." Now, if I came up to you and said, "I'm a doctor, and I see 10 tell-tale signs that you are suffering from a deadly disease that will claim your life." Then when I was

to go on and explain the 10 signs, you would see the seriousness of your illness. After this, when I presented and offered you the cure, you would want to drink the cure.

People must first see their need for a Savior before they will receive the Savior.

SHARING THE GOSPEL:

INTRODUCTIONS:

Before we share the gospel, we must earn the right to present the gospel to the person; or better put, they must give us the OK to tell them.

Introductions are important, just like first impressions, how the conversation starts out usually has great bearing on where the conversation will go. Use your zeal for the Lord as an advantage to you, not Satan. Some people will start preaching without first gaining the respect or acceptance of the receiver, that in turn will lead the person to be turned off by them and not want to listen. It is important that we respect every person we witness (no matter how big of a sinner they are). Always go in love, for the heart of the message is love.

Sharing with Family and Friends:

We can invite family and friends to church, but sometimes it comes down to we have to tell them about Jesus or they may never hear it.

An introduction to family or friend may be:

-John, we have been friends for a long time, I consider you a dear friend. Can I share something very important with you, can I tell you about Jesus?

Sharing with Strangers:

There is the Highway and Byways ministry. Going out and reaching people we do not know, and who may never consider going to church, or even heard of Jesus Christ. Examples of this may be a mission trip to a foreign land, or street witnessing in your neighborhood.

Introductions when Street Witnessing: (approaching a stranger on the street)

1. Hello, have you heard the good news? - God loves you and desires a personal relationship with you - would you like to hear more.
2. Has anybody ever asked you the Big question? If you were to die tonight, would you be assured that you would be going to heaven?
3. Hi, my name is Ray and I would personally like to invite you to Calvary Chapel. (Inviting them to church may open the opportunity to share)

All these introductions are good with people we don't know because the answers they give us will allow us to know if they are saved. This is called a diagnostic question. In all approaches, be honest and come in love.

Once the introduction has been made and the person is willing to let us share the Gospel, we can now take them step-by-step through the Gospel. If the person says they are not interested in hearing the gospel, then respect their decision and do not force the gospel on them. When I encounter people like this I say, "Ok, it was nice meeting you, and God bless you." Then before I walk away I ask them if there is anything I can pray for them about (this many times opens the door for ministry because of the trials and sufferings so many people go through).

THE 5 P's IN SHARING:

Why the 5P's? Cause the 5P's are a simple approach to presenting the Gospel to people in a clear and easy for them to understand way, and a structure that will help me in presenting it. I memorize these 5 words and then when the time comes to share, I just go in order. When the spiritual warfare comes, and my mind starts racing, I can fall back on what I have memorized - The structure and the Scriptures that go with it, for Isaiah 55:11 God says, "*My word that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void.*"

Here are the 5P's

1. **Personal**
2. **Problem**
3. **Penalty**
4. **Provision**
5. **Profession**

#1. **Personal:**

Tell them what God thinks of them, and how special they are to God. Let people know right from the beginning how special they are to God and that God is not a distant impersonal God, but a God who cares deeply for them. *This is not the time to tell them about the cross, they first need to see a need for a Savior before they will look for a Savior.

(Jeremiah 29:11) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Psalm 56:8) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

(Matthew 10:30) "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

(Psalm 139:17-18) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

* Here is an example of how I flow the Personal message together:

Do you know how special you are to God, I found out when I read the Bible from cover to cover. I found out things I never knew before. I found out how special I (we) are to God. The Bible tells us that we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), that's pretty special. I found out that God is not a distant far away God who doesn't think of us individually and personally, it's the complete opposite; the Bible tells us that God knew and formed us while we were still in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-18), and that He knows the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7), and that God stores our tears in a bottle (Psalm 56:8), these are just to name a few. I also found out that God has a plan and a purpose for our life. God says in the Bible, "*For I know the thoughts that I think towards you, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).*" But the biggest message God is sending us is that He loves us.

#2. **Problem:**

Tell them that even though God thinks these things for them, there is a problem. The problem is that God is so Holy and Pure, nothing impure can come into his presence. Our sin makes us impure, therefore we are separated from Him.

Of course, the "Problem" is the hardest part, and the greatest warfare in presenting the Gospel. Many people do not want to turn from their sin, many will not believe they are wrong. Jesus said the reason people won't come to Him is because "*the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For everyone practicing evil*

hates the light and does not come to the light, lest their deeds should be exposed." (John 3:19-20)

I usually say something like this: "However, even though God thinks these things towards us there is a problem, we are separated from God because of our sin. I don't want you to be separated from God so that is why I am here. I want you to hear the good news. *Note this is still not the time to tell them about the cross.

The Bible says,

(Romans 3:23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

(Isaiah 59:1-2) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

(Habbakuk 1:13) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.

Separation from God causes the void man feels in his heart. Man was created to fellowship with God; God designed us to want fellowship with our Creator. To not fellowship with God will always cause us to fill something is missing. Man today tries to fill this void with the things of the world (money, sex, power, drugs, alcohol, and material possessions) all the while driving them further from their Creator.

Many people do not see that they are sinners. We have to show them that they are. We can show them though the law. We don't have to nail them on fornication, adultery, drunkardness, etc. The 10 commandments are all we need, and then we also don't come across as if we are Sin Sniffing Bible Thumpers.

Ask the person a rhetorical question (one that you ask and answer the question - this just to get them thinking), "What is Sin? Do you remember the 10 commandments? (You don't have to quote all 10, one or two will get the point across.

The 10 commandments will show people they are a sinner.

(Romans 3:19) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

(Galatians 3:24) Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

The 10 Commandments

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3).
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6).
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7)
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11)
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17)

I usually use stealing and lying, most honest people will say that they have broken at least one of the commandments. I show them by their own admission they are a lying thief and have offended the Holy God.

I let them people know that the Bible tells us that if we break just one law once, we are guilty of them all (James 2:10). In God's eyes we are just as guilty before Him as a murder or adulterer.

Why God Hates Sin

I like to tell people why God calls sin, sin.

1. To **Protect** us.
2. To **Provide** for us.

I dispel the worldly conditioning that God is a kill-joy, trying to take the fun out of life. On the contrary, God hates sin not only because He is Holy, but because He hates how it hurts and destroys us. God hates to see His creation hurt themselves.

Then I give them an example; (ie) God calls drunkardness a sin, why? To protect me from crashing my car into a pole, to provide for me so that when I wake up in the morning I have a clear conscience that I didn't do anything I might regret. God doesn't want me fornicating because the pain that comes with diseases and unplanned pregnancies. On the contrary God wants me to wait until He brings that special person He has picked out for me and we can enjoy one another fully without worry.

You can make it applicable to whomever you are talking to and what their background, age, etc is.

Once you have established that their a sinner, then you can go onto what they penalty is for sin.

* Here is how I flow the whole Problem message together: (Continued from #1 Personal)

However there is a problem, and I found out this is why I had a void in my life, and that is that we are separated from God because of our sins. The Bible says, "*Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have **separated** you from God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear* (Isaiah 59:1-2). To sin is to break God's law which is the standard of conduct that He has given for our common good. We are all guilty of this, the Bible says, "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). Think back to the 10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), the 10 commandments were designed to reveal to us our sin and show us our need of forgiveness (Romans 3:19-20), the Bible tells us that if we break just one law once, we are guilty of them all (James 2:10).

#3. Penalty

Tell them by breaking Gods law, we have just offend the Holy God, we have to pay a penalty for it. This is a key point, they have to hear that they have **offended** their Creator.

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

If we have to pay a penalty for breaking man's law, how much more so if we break God's law. I usually give an example that they can relate to, such as stealing, or speeding. (ie) If you stole a car and got caught by the police, what would happen? You would have to pay a penalty, you would have to go to jail. There is a penalty for breaking God's Law.

I don't preach hell here, no fire and brimstone, but I do make the point that if there is a heaven, then there is a hell.

* Here is how I flow the Penalty message together: (Continued from #2 Problem)

So we are all guilty, we have all offended God. The Bible says, "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). This is the penalty for our sin, for God has to be just and fair. When we break man's laws, we must pay a penalty for our actions. In much the same way, God in His justice must pass judgment. For law without consequences would truly not be law, but mere advice. What I never knew, until I read the Bible, is the death God is talking about, is spiritual death and eternal separation from Him, for God is too Holy to look upon sin. The Bible says of God, "*You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look upon wickedness*" (Habakkuk 1:13). You see to be separated from God causes a void in our life, God created us this way, so that only a personal relationship with Him will fill that void, not the things of this world

#4. Provision

Now you can tell them about the cross.

Tell them here is the situation, God loves us and wants a personal relationship with us, but our sin separates us from Him. God does not want us to be separated from Him, and He surely does not want you to go to hell. Good news God has not left us alone in this predicament. God devised a plan that would allow Him to be merciful to us, while at the same time judging sin. Jesus Christ took our place, took our punishment.

(John 3:16) "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.

(Romans 5:8) But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The most beautiful thing here is this, God was able to show us how much He loves us - he loves you so much that He would die for us.

(John 15:13) "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL - The Resurrection Must Be Told

Jesus took your place and my place on the cross. We know that God accepted this substitution because Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. **This is the power of the gospel**, for anybody can die, but only Jesus could rise from the dead. And we know that we too shall not go to hell, but go to heaven where Jesus is. God totally wipes away our sins and forgives us.

(Hebrews 10:17) then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

With sin wiped away, we are Holy and Pure, and can come before a Holy and Pure God.

I also like to use an example here by saying something like, "if you got thrown in prison and had to pay a 100,000 fine, there would be no way you could pay it, but if someone came and paid it for you, you could be free, that is exactly what Jesus did for you and me.

Some good Scriptures for here are:

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

* Here is how I flow the whole Provision message together: (Continued from #3 Penalty)

Now comes the good news. God has not left us alone in this predicament. He has reached out to us. He came to this earth 2,000 years ago as a man named Jesus. And Jesus the man who was God, voluntarily died on a brutal Roman cross to bridge the gap between mankind and God to eliminate the separation from Him. When Jesus hung on the cross, He essentially took hold of a Holy God with one hand, and with the other He took hold of us, sinful man.

What held Jesus to the cross? After all, He possesses the powers of the universe. It wasn't the nails. It was His love for me and you. The Bible tells us, "*God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8). As we saw earlier, the penalty for our sin, is death. Yet God devised a plan that would allow Him to be merciful to us while at the same time, maintaining His justice by upholding the righteous standard of His Law. Jesus took our death penalty for sin upon Himself and gave His life as our substitute; for that should have been us on the cross. This was the only way; many people today don't feel that their sin is that bad, but as we saw, if you are guilty of one sin, then you are guilty of them all. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" (John 14:6). What Jesus did on the cross is the only way for us to have peace with God. In the Bible Jesus said, '*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends*' (John 15:13). We know that God accepted this substitute because Jesus broke the power of death and rose again on the third day. God has shown us just how much He loves us by dying for us, and providing a way for us to be right before Him.

#5. Profession

At this point you can tell them that God has done all this for them, but there is a response on their end.

(Romans 10:9) *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Profession is to believe the following:

- 1. Recognize**
- 2. Repent**
- 3. Receive**

Let me save you four years of seminary and foolish debates on what "Believe" means: It means to Recognize, Repent, and Receive.

1. Recognize:

People must **Recognize** they are a sinner and that the only way to take their sin away is by what Jesus did on the cross. Forgiveness means "to carry away", and only Jesus can carry our sins away. Today people buy into all this self-esteem stuff, I'm ok your ok lie. They refuse to believe that they are bad. If they do wrong, then they embrace today's society lie, that they are the result of bad child rearing, or victims of a cruel world. They must recognize they are sinners, and can't try to pass the blame onto others.

(Romans 3:23) *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

(John 14:6) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

2. Repent:

Repent means to turn away. Why must we preach repentance? Because if we do not we will make false converts. Too many people are preaching an easy believism gospel. People will receive Jesus as fire insurance figuring they can still live any way they want but in the end go to heaven because they prayed some prayer years ago. Wrong! No repentance, No regeneration.

(2 Corinthians 7:10) *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to*

salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

Lets look at some Scriptures on repentance: The word repent is mentioned some 110 times in the Scriptures.

In Matthew 3:1-2, the first words out of John the Baptist's mouth: *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, **Repent** ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

In Matthew 4:17 the first word out of Jesus' mouth when he started his public ministry: *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent**: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

In Acts 2:38 Peter's first sermon, on the Day of Pentecost: *Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

In Acts 3:19 Peter's second sermon: *"**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

In Acts 17:30 Apostle Paul on Mars Hill: *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**,*

To not preach repentance would be a great misjustice to the person you were sharing with. You would/could have a false convert, and they would have a false sense of security that they are going to heaven.

3. Receive

Give them an opportunity to pray and ask Jesus into their heart and life.

(Romans 10:9) that 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.

* Here is an example of how I would present the Profession message: (Continued from #4 Provision)

God loves you, He desires to have a personal relationship with you, but only if you want one with Him. God will not force Himself on you, He will respect your free choice. If you want to have peace with God, there is a responsibility on your side. First you have to recognize that you are a sinner and you have offended the Holy God. You can't make excuses blaming everyone and everything else for your actions. You must recognize that Jesus Christ died on that cross for you. That he paid the price for your sin and nothing else could. Secondly you must repent of your sin. The word "repent" means to change your direction. You have to be sorry for your sins, for they put Christ on the cross. 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, *For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation.* The Bible tells us, *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord"* (Acts 3:19). God commands people everywhere to repent. You must be willing to turn away from those things that displease God, and to want to stop doing them. And Thirdly you must receive Jesus Christ. The Bible says, *"As many as receive Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name"* (John 1:12). And the Bible says, *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Romans 10:9). The "belief" spoken of here is not an intellectual belief, but a belief from the heart. If we do all these things then we will have peace with God.

I'd like to note here, all we do is receive, because Christ has done all the work on the cross. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

The 5 P's can be preached in two minutes or 20 minutes. You will have to be sensitive to your listener, and adjust to their attention level.

Outline:

This is just an outline for you to follow, there are many, many more Scriptures for you to use, pick and choose the ones you know and are comfortable with. Remember you don't have to go too indepth, but be sure to cover every point as not to miss anything important.

It is very important that you memorize the 5 P's and at least one scripture for each point. The attacks will come from Satan and he will try to confuse you, also a smooth presentation of the gospel shows that you know what you are talking about. However, be careful that you do not become mechanical and impersonal while you present the gospel. I once watched a brother pull out a checklist and go line by line, and then at the end say, "ok you are saved." Present the Gospel from your heart, in love.

INTRODUCTION**PERSONAL:**

Jeremiah 29:11

PROBLEM:

Romans 3:23

PENALTY:

Romans 6:23

PROVISION:

Romans 5:8

PROFESSION

Romans 10:9

1. **Recognize - You are a sinner**
2. **Repent - of your sins**
3. **Receive - the Lord**

Follow-up ministry:

After leading someone to Christ it is important that they are discipled. The enemy will be coming after them, therefore it is vital that they get grounded in the Lord, and mature as believers. In Acts 2:42, as the young church grew, we see the pillars for spiritual growth: *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers* (Acts 2:42).

Encourage and explain the keys to spiritual growth:

1. Study of the Word (Apostles Doctrine):

The Bible is like spiritual food. Just as you clothe and feed your physical body, you must clothe and feed your spiritual body. (2 Timothy 2:15) (Psalm 1:2) (Psalm 119:11)

2. Fellowship: The Bible tells us we need to have fellowship one with another. The word fellowship simply means "sharing life", Our new life in Christ. You might compare fellowship to a heap of burning coals. If you separate one piece of coal from the others, it will get cold and die. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

3. Breaking of Bread (Communion): This is simply remembering what Jesus Christ did on the cross for you. When faced with things you do not understand

(trials/tribulation), go back to what you do understand; God loves me so much that He endured the cross to purchase my life. Seeing Gods love in its true Light, will keep everything else in perspective. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

4. Prayer: Prayer is talking and listening to God. The Lord loves to hear from us! You can pray anytime you want to - driving your car, on your knees, wherever and whenever. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) (1 John 1:9) (Luke 11:1-14)

5. Witnessing: As a result of praying, reading your Bible, and having fellowship, which are all taking in, you'll want to start giving out. The way to do this is to witness. (Matthew 28:18-20) (Romans 10:13-15)

Places To Go: (all may open opportunities to share)

- Short Term Missions
- Street Ministry
- Family
- Work while on break (be a good example, you are paid to work, not preach)
- Bus Stops
- Airports
- Hand out Tracts wherever you go:
 - Restaurants
 - Convenience Stores
 - Bus Stops
 - On Buses
 - Hotels while on vacation
 - Rest Stops while traveling

SOME DONT'S in Evangelism:

- If someone wants to argue the gospel, drop it, go find someone else. Don't let Satan tie you up when you could be sharing with someone who is open. If you are sharing with family or friends and they get upset, drop it, come back tomorrow in love.
- Don't promise them that their life will be a rose garden if they accept Jesus. The hard times will come and they will call you a liar, or worse think they have done something wrong and God is upset with them.
- Don't carry money or jewelry when out on the street witnessing.
- Don't close your eyes when praying with people while street witnessing. People who are street hardened may be playing you for a robbery or beating.
- Don't go in back alleys to witness, stay in lit and traveled areas.
- When street witnessing, it is always best that male witness to male, and female to female. You don't want to confuse the main purpose going on. People on the street may think it is a come on if it comes from the opposite sex.
- Be careful when you do witness to friends of the opposite sex. The Bible says that where your treasures are, there your heart will be. What that means is that as you give others your treasures, then a piece of your heart will go with it. You will start to have an emotional attachment to that person. Satan will come along many times and try to talk the believe to start spending more time with them in order to lead them to Christ - Evangelist Dating, but too often the non-believer pulls the believer down into sin.

- Don't skip points. If the person won't admit that they are a sinner do not pray with them to receive the Lord as their Savior. Believe it or not people will still want to pray even if they don't think they are a sinner.
- Follow-up with prayer after witnessing to someone

PART II - The Vessel

The vessel must be prepared to preach the Word in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2). Therefore we must always be prepared, and take an attitude of Lifestyle Evangelism; which means everyday we expect to be used by God to reach the world around us.

This section is to help keep our perspective. It is so easy to get distracted by the world around us that we can lose perspective on the Great Commission. I read this section on a regular basis to help me keep my focus.

Believe/Expect God will use You

Expect God To Use You.

Someone once said, "If you shoot an arrow and aim at nothing, then you'd better be careful; you might hit it!" Sometimes we don't expect God to use us, and we end up getting just what we expected—nothing! Hebrews 11:6 makes this clear: "Without faith it is impossible to please Him." We need to *believe* that God will use us. The Bible promises that if we dwell in Christ, we will be fruitful: "He who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit" (John 15:5). If we abide in Christ, we should expect to bring forth fruit. William Carey, pioneer missionary to India, said, "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God?" According to Jesus, the field is ready for harvest, and all that is needed is for people simply to believe He has spoken the truth, go, and gather the harvest.

You may say, "But how could God use me?" That attitude is exactly what qualifies you for His grace; the more you realize *you can't* do it, and the less confidence you have in yourself, the more you can trust *Him* to do it through you. "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it" (Psalm 37:5).

(Revelation 5:8) The prayers of the Saints are recorded in heaven. Every prayer you lift up to God, not only does He hear them, but also He records them. If you are praying for the lost, and praying to be used to do something about it, know God is hearing your prayers.

Be Available

An old preacher once said, "God is not looking for ability, but availability?" When Isaiah saw the Lord's glory, he also painfully saw his own inability and cried out, "I am ruined' Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips" (Isaiah 6:5). God, however, didn't condemn him for his shortcomings but instead purged his sin and asked who was available. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Isaiah's enthusiastic response was, "Here *am* I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). All too often our response goes something like, "Here I am. Send *him!*" as we point to someone we feel is more suited for the task. But there is no one else. *No one else can do exactly what you can do in your sphere of influence.*

God wants ambassadors for His Kingdom in every area of life. Our response needs to be, "Lord, I'm available maybe I'm not much, but I'll give you all there is of me to reach a lost world. His army is not an army of draftees. It is made up of soldiers of the cross who are willing and available. There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. The volunteer serves because they want to, not because they have to. They serve because it is a burden on their heart, and God honors such hearts.

Dispelling Satan's Lie

Again, the fact of the matter is, however, that we will be effective for God if we start to witness right where we are; on our job, at home, in our sports club, or wherever. God wants us to be faithful in little things before He

makes us ruler over much. (Luke 16:10.)

Often we shy away from evangelism altogether because we have a preconceived idea—which is more often cultural than biblical of what it takes to be effective. We think we don't really have what it takes and compare ourselves among ourselves. (See 2 Corinthians 10:12.) And all too often we come up on the short end of the stick! When we're not as eloquent as Billy Graham we seek refuge behind the protective walls of our Christian community and have little contact with the world.

We need to realize that each of us is unique and special to the Lord of the Harvest, who desires to use us in His own particular way. One of Satan's greatest tricks is to keep us blinded to this. If the prince of darkness can get us to accept "superstar" theology—that evangelism is the job of a select few—then he's won a major victory over us. We must see that we are called by God, and our spiritual gifts and personalities are God-given factors that He, as the Master Potter, wants to take, shape, and mold so that we become His witnesses—His ambassadors to a lost and dying world.

Multiplication And Addition

In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, the Apostle Paul challenges Timothy to raise up disciples who can further the gospel: *You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

Imagine, for example, an evangelist winning one thousand people to Christ every day, working 365 days a year with no time off. In thirty years of ministry, he will have added over ten million people to the Kingdom of God. Now imagine a Christian like you, who is capable of winning one person a year to Christ. You spend your year discipling this lone convert to the point where he can go and disciple another. He then spends his next year winning and discipling another. In the meantime, you are also discipling another, and so the process goes. If this were to go on unbroken, it would only take nineteen years to win 10 million people to Christ - all because your initial willingness and involvement. We can see that if the world is going to be evangelized, then we must use principles of multiplication, not just addition

We can make a major impact on the world around. After I lead someone to the Lord, I tell them to go tell someone. This does two things, it makes their profession real to them, and it passes on the gospel to another.

Keep your Heart Pure before God

Preparing the Pure Vessel

We, by the power of the Spirit should be overcoming personal sin and faults so that we might walk in purity and holiness and truly shine as lights in the world. We should be ready to give up the luxuries and even some of the legitimate pleasures of this life to bring joy to our heavenly Father's heart and bring eternal life and light to those who sit in darkness.

Get Right With God—A Pure Heart.

People in the church have a tendency to want the power of God without first having the purity of God. King David fell into this trap and couldn't properly or effectively represent God's salvation until he confessed his sin, repented, and asked God for a new start: (Psalm 51:10-13) *Create In me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgression thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

God desires to develop Christ like character in us before He ever gives us

Christ-honoring fruit in our evangelism. We're told by Peter to add moral excellence to our faith, then knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and Christian love. He says, "If these qualities are yours and increasing, they render you neither useless or unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8).

In the end, we will only be effective in evangelism if the power of God is working through us. We are all sinners, and we will never be sinless. We sin daily, but the point is that we can not be living in unrepentant habitual sin. He promises to show Himself strong on behalf of those "whose heart is completely His" (2 Chronicles 16:9). That is the promise, but the *condition* is that we diligently make sure our heart is completely His, free of sin, and unspotted from the world. (See James 1:27.) God wants clean vessels doing His work, and the cleaner you are from sin and self the more He can use you—it's that simple!

Staying Strong in the Lord

How do we stay strong in the Lord? The same advice we give to new believers, we must give to ourselves daily. In Acts 2:42, as the young church grew, we see the pillars for spiritual growth: *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers* (Acts 2:42). It is worth the time to review them again:

1. Study of the Word (Apostles Doctrine): The Bible is like spiritual food. Just as you clothe and feed your physical body, you must clothe and feed your spiritual body. (2 Timothy 2:15) (Psalm 1:2) (Psalm 119:11)

2. Fellowship: The Bible tells us we need to have fellowship one with another. The word fellowship simply means "sharing life", Our new life in Christ. You might compare fellowship to a heap of burning coals. If you separate one piece of coal from the others, it will get cold and die. Find like minded Christians who have the same passion for the things of God and soul winning. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

3. Breaking of Bread (Communion): This is simply remembering what Jesus Christ did on the cross for you. When faced with things you do not understand (trials/tribulation), go back to what you do understand; God loves me so much that He endured the cross to purchase my life. Seeing God's love in its true light, will keep everything else in perspective. (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

4. Prayer: Prayer is talking and listening to God. The Lord loves to hear from us! You can pray anytime you want to - driving your car, on your knees, wherever and whenever. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18) (1 John 1:9) (Luke 11:1-14)

5. Witnessing: As a result of praying, reading your Bible, and having fellowship, which are all taking in, you'll want to start giving out. The way to do this is to witness. Schedule regular times to go witnessing. (Matthew 28:18-20) (Romans 10:13-15)

Keep your Priorities Straight

Get Your Priorities Straight.

Do your priorities line up with God's priorities? When people tell me they're not being effective in evangelism, I usually ask just how important winning the lost is to them. Does it play a big part in their day-to-day living? You can easily tell what your highest priorities truly are simply by gauging how much time you spend doing various activities. How much time do you spend praying about the effectiveness of your evangelism? How often do you pray for the lost? When was the last time you prayed and fasted for someone's salvation? Do you pray for missionaries and do spiritual warfare against the forces of darkness over the world? Do you give money to gospel work and missions, and are you willing to give God more than one seventh of your week and one tenth of your money?

Allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart as you answer these questions, and seek to determine the right priority for evangelism in your life. A lost and dying world was so high on God's priority list that "He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). How high is that lost world on your priority list?

Be Willing to Sacrifice

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). In other words, He has been given the right to rule over our lives. If we take the terms that Jesus laid down, we are bondservants and have given up our rights. (see Phil 1:1, James 1:1) He is Lord over our possessions (Luke 14:33), relationships (Luke 14:26, Matt 10:37), time (Eph 5:16), money - in fact over everything, and wants our total and absolute surrender. "If Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice I could make would be too great for Him," said CT Studd, pioneer missionary to Africa.

If Jesus Christ has authority in our life, then He is the one calling the shots. And the last shots He called in the Bible was to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19). He is calling for an army of volunteers who will commit themselves to a lifetime of love and service for Him, the King of Kings. "To know God and make Him known" should be our rallying cry as we gather at the cross ready to take on the cause He gave His life for.

We are often told that we are "Kings Kids" and should live like a prince. To this I couldn't agree more, except there is one thing we must not forget about our King - He is at war! We need to remind ourselves of this daily. As long as our King is at war, we His children are at war also. We must become soldiers in His army and fight the enemy until the glorious day when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord (See Rev 11:15). Our daily lifestyle serves as a visual demonstration to the world of how much we truly believe we are at war.

The following is a letter from a communist student's challenge to the church:

"The gospel is a much more powerful weapon for the renewal of society than is our Marxist philosophy, but all the same it is we who will finally beat you. We communist do not play with words. We are realists, and seeing that we are determined to achieve our object, we know how to obtain the means. Of our salaries and wages we keep only what is strictly necessary, and we give up our free time and part of our holidays. You however, give only a little time and hardly any money for the spreading of the gospel of Christ. How can anybody believe in the supreme value of this gospel if you do not practice it, if you do not spread it, and if you sacrifice neither time nor money for it? We believe in our Communist message, and we are ready to sacrifice everything, even our life... But you people are afraid to even soil your hands."

We hear of student radicals, political radicals, but where today are the radicals for Jesus Christ? If anybody is radical, it should be us! Our Lord was the most radical person who ever walked this earth. He spoke the most radical words, did the most radical things, and to top it off He rose from the dead - now that is radical. His disciples were radicals too, they turned the world upside down with their message. Ten of the original twelve were martyred for their faith, and Peter and John rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name (Act 5:41).

You will never have people respond to you beyond what what your heart is for the gospel

We Must Have An Awareness Of Hell

First Thessalonians 1:10 makes it clear that the apostle Paul was aware of hell: "Jesus, who delivered us from the wrath to come. Hell is never pleasant to discuss, but its reality is spelled out over and over as we search the New Testament. Jesus spoke often of an eternal abode of the lost, warning of Its

danger and describing it as a place of "everlasting punishment" • and "outer darkness," where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:46; 8:12).

Peter spoke also of a "mist of darkness. . . reserved forever" for false teachers, and Jude spoke of the "blackness of darkness for ever" (2 Peter 2:17; Jude 13, *KJV*). In light of such descriptions, it would be well for us to meditate on the subject of hell and allow God to break our hearts with the very thing that breaks His heart—the thousands of souls that pass every day into a Christless eternity.

Charles Spurgeon, the "Prince of Preachers," is not known for his hell-fire sermons, but in one instance he sought to bring a greater awareness of hell to his hearers:

"Thur body will be prepared by God in such a way that it will burn forever without being consumed. With your nerves laid raw by the searing flame, yet never desensitized for all its raging fury and acrid smoke of the sulfurous flames searing your lungs and choking your breath, you will cry out for mercy of death but it will never, no never, no never give you rest"

Whether or not Spurgeon's opinion is literally true doesn't matter, but it should awaken us to the fact that the Bible depicts hell as a place of eternal torment. Descriptions such as "outer darkness" and "black darkness" should fill us with a sense of fear for those who are on their way to such a place. All of us, at some time or another, have been afraid of the dark. Imagine, though, the torment for someone who, in total darkness, remembers his lifetime and all the beautiful sights he has seen—the flowers, the sunsets, the pretty faces, and so many other things that come flooding back. (See Luke 16:25.) He remembers the good times, the bad times, and the times he had the opportunity to receive Christ but rejected Him. He realizes that for the rest of eternity he will continue to see nothing but darkness and have nothing to look forward to nothing but reflecting on his own foolishness in not accepting Christ. It is said that William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, wished all his officers could hang over hell for twenty-four hours prior to their commissioning. He felt sure this would stir in them a deeper commitment to evangelism. While a greater awareness of hell should not be our primary motive for evangelism, knowing we are delivered from the wrath to come should have a definite place in our theology of missions.

See That It Is A Matter Of Life And Death

When you can rest, they can rest.

I believe that our supreme motive in reaching the lost should be our love for the Lord and a desire to please Him. But we also need a revelation of the lostness of the lost. We need to ask ourselves continually whether we truly believe our friends, relatives, and acquaintances, as well as the heathen, are forever lost unless they turn to Christ. The fact that God in His infinite wisdom has laid down a just penalty for sin, eternal separation from Him should motivate us to reach out and love our neighbor as ourself by sharing the gospel message with them.

The advent of different forms of liberal and modernistic theology has seen the subject of hell slowly lose its sting. Apart from the occasional reference to Jonathan Edwards' "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" or a thumping hell-fire and brimstone message from a Southern Baptist, hell is seldom mentioned from the pulpit. Nowadays, it is most often used as a swear word or in jest in careless remarks like, "When I get to hell, I'll throw a party because so many of my friends will be there." Rather than allowing people to make light of such an awful place, we must tell them the folly of their way, being prepared even to weep in front of them, if need be, to show them the gravity of the issue.

Leonard Ravenhill tells of Charlie Peace, a convicted criminal sentenced to die by hanging. On his death-walk to the gallows, the prison chaplain glibly read him some Bible verses from a book called, "The Consolation of Religion."

Charlie was shocked that a minister who professed to believe in the Bible could so coldly and professionally read about hell without so much as a tear in his eye or a quiver in his voice. How can he believe that there is an eternal fire that never consumes its victims and yet be so unmoved? Charlie mused to himself. Finally, unable to hold his peace any longer, the convict snapped at the chaplain, "If I believed what you and the church of God say you believe, even if England were covered with broken glass from coast to coast, I would walk over it, if need be, on hands and knees, and think it worthwhile living, just to save one soul from an eternal hell

The Apostle Paul said he had the "spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believed, therefore I spoke: we also believe, therefore also we speak'" (2 Corinthians 4:13). It follows, then, that if we truly believe the gospel is God's absolute final word to mankind regarding salvation, our only right response should be to get the news out—by every means possible. Leighton Ford tells of a European communist who remarked that the only Christian he respected was the one trying to convert him to Christ.

The work of evangelism is serious business. We are not just trying to give people a new lease on this life by joining our religion, we are dealing with the issues of life and death, heaven and hell, every time we encounter a non-believer. Paul spoke of having unceasing grief in his heart and wishing he were accursed from Christ for the sake of the lost. (See Romans 9:2-3.) The Psalmist also agonized in his concern for the lost: "Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law... Rivers of waters run down mine eyes" (Psalm 119:53, 136). Jeremiah spoke of sobbing in secret and bitterly weeping over the pride of his people. (See Jeremiah 13:17.) Many of us find such statements eccentric and extreme, but how can we say they are extreme in light of the reality of hell? If only God would give us half the revelation of the lostness of the lost that these men had, we would be led to fasting, prayer, spiritual warfare, giving, and fearless witnessing to see the lost come to Jesus and escape the dangers of a Christless eternity. After declaring that we all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, Paul says, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Corinthians 5:11)

Using Our Time

Jesus shows us that along with his single purpose in life Jesus also had an intense, *other-centered* attitude. He had an eye for the needs of people in the world around him. It may seem strange, but many Christians today are thoroughly dedicated to serving others but somehow blind to the real needs of those who share their life circle. It is actually possible to be so busy serving in Christian ministries that we lose the connection to people.

To be Christians who are the aroma of Christ to a hurting world, we will also need to develop our perceptiveness to the needs of those people Christ brings into our lives. One important element in recognizing and responding to human need is making the time to be available to others. If we spend our lives rushing from one activity to another, we will not have the essential relaxed time to spend with others, to hear them express themselves, to learn about and respond to their needs. We also need to have time to be with God, to hear him speak to us about the people in our lives.

Jesus was very busy. The one day Mark described was as busy as the busiest days in our lives. But Jesus made time for the individual. He taught in the synagogue but ministered to the possessed man. He took the time to touch Simon's mother-in-law. He spent his evening hours ministering to the sick. How does someone keep this kind of schedule without losing perspective in life? A key for Jesus was his quality time with the Father. After describing that incredible, people-filled day, Mark writes, "Yet early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35). This is where we too will find our ministry guided by God, our energy restored, so that we can be fully engaged in life and responsive to the human need around us.

Be Filled with the Spirit of God

Get Filled With The Spirit.

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses In Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Note that here the power was given for the express purpose of the disciples becoming witnesses. In 1871, D. L. Moody one of America's greatest evangelists, was preaching at a service In Chicago. As he preached, he noticed that two ladies In the front pew were busy in fervent prayer. Later they informed him that they were praying he would receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Not long after this, Moody sensed a hunger for a deeper experience with the power of God. He describes the experience this way:

I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, In the city of New York, ohh, what a day, I cannot describe it; It is almost too sacred an experience to name. I can only say God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different, yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world, it would be as the small dust of the balance?

Regarding the gospel message he had preached to the Corinthians, Paul declared, "My preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but In demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Corinthians 2:4). He understood how pointless it would be to try and win people from spiritual darkness to light using only carnal means. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to fill us to overflowing so our evangelism will become as effective as it possibly can be.

There are no two ways about it: If you want to be effective in evangelism, then you must be filled with God's Holy Spirit. Catherine Booth once said, "It doesn't matter how you get it, just get it!" The world that Jesus died for is at stake, so we must do God's work in His way—and that way is always Spirit-filled and Spirit-led.

A Life Laid Down

When we are filled with the Spirit, we come into every life situation with one purpose only, to serve, wanting only to lay our lives down for others, we can never be disappointed. Jesus gave his own life so that we who deserved nothing could have everything there is, now and in the life to come.

This is the first major aspect of the aroma of Christ in the world. By making service to others our highest priority, we will become appealing people. 'Many others benefit from our actions, we have a deep inner satisfaction that we are accomplishing the work of Christ, and our true joy for others will be communicated. We will not be hurt if others get the credit; in fact, we will want others receive credit, and we will rejoice with them when they are recognized. We will serve unselfishly without secret desire for consolation. In short, we will be laying down our lives for others with no expectations for ourselves. We will gain the inner "peace of God, which transcends all understanding" (Phil 4:7). And we will dearly communicate our practical love for everyone around us.

Salvation Appeal

Christians should have salvation appeal. There should be something about them and about their loving action in the world that draws people to God. Paul describes earlier in 2 Corinthians this essential appealing nature of the Christian when he writes, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved," (2 Corinthians 2:14-15). When you are right with God there is a natural Peace and Joy that emanates from you, and those around you can't help but notice it.

Pray for God to use you

The Divine Appointment

As we continue to walk with the Lord, we grow in our ability to be sensitive to His leading in our life, both in day-to-day matters and when we are out sharing our faith with others. A good practice is to schedule a time into our weekly routine that we use specifically for sharing the good news about Jesus with the lost. We schedule and discipline every other area of our life—going to work, recreation, entertainment, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and so on. So why not schedule a weekly time to spend with non-Christians in whatever type of outreach or friendship evangelism that seems applicable? Don't just wait passively for it to happen, but *passionately pursue* "divine appointments" that the Holy Spirit arranges in the course of your day. Often we are so engrossed in our daily affairs that divine appointments just seem like another interruption. We must be alert and actively seeking them.

Second Mile Living

Second-mile living and loving is learning to do the unexpected, the unusually costly or thoughtful thing. For the Christian this will mean acting in a way that is contrary to the normal worldly response. Acting in this way toward others causes them to stop and think about the experience they have had. When Christians do the startlingly unusual thing for someone else and do it with genuine caring, the act is like a direct gift from God to the person

Ask The Lord For Opportunities To Share Your Faith.

A friend of mine used to end his letters with the phrase. "Don't keep the faith—spread it." Right now, no matter where you are, you can think of unbelievers—names and faces—with whom you have regular contact. Be they relatives, fellow workers, friends, gas station attendants, or even an ice cream dipper in the park, they are all people for whom Jesus died and who could be reached through you. Perhaps you are the only Christian contact they will ever have. God challenges us: "Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Thy possession" (Psalm 2:8). 'we need to accept this challenge, ask God for specific opportunities to share our faith with those mentioned above, and then wait expectantly.

Often the door is already open, but we have missed it by not expecting it to be. We should be like the horse at the starting gate: He is waiting—but waiting *aggressively* for the gate to open so he can throw himself into the race. God wants us to witness for Him, and all we have to do is be ready and waiting. Then He can use us to 'do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Practice Personal Evangelism.

The word "practice" often sounds like a dirty word to many Christians, but lets face it: As unspiritual as it may sound, even Billy Graham didn't start out by preaching to thousands. Instead he practiced his God-given gift on much smaller groups.

We need to develop a lifestyle of evangelism, but, like most things In life, it takes practice. Paul told Timothy to fan the flame of his spiritual gift and to do the work of an evangelist. (See 2 Timothy 1:6; 4:5.) You may not be an evangelist—neither was Timothy. But we are all called to be witnesses, and that requires exercising our evangelistic muscles.

If you wanted to teach someone to surf, you could give them Nat Young's book on the history of surfing, a book on oceanography, or a subscription to Surfer magazine, but none of these would help unless they went out and tried it. Just as you learn to surf by spending time on a board in the water you also learn to witness by witnessing, Sure you can study the various witnessing techniques - Four Spiritual Laws, Four Facts of Life, Five Steps to Peace With God, Six *Quantum* Leaps to Christ, whatever they are all good. But they may not

necessarily be *you!* When evangelism is worked into a lifestyle, then it becomes the natural outflow of what's inside you. It's spontaneous, alive, and not just a pat formula. It's "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

Conclusion

The fact is that the harvest is ripe in a field with painfully too few workers: "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for the harvest (John 4:35). We must become an army of World-Christians who are not content just to be "normal." We are not normal, we are *ecclesia*- "the called out ones", called out from the darkness of this world into the light so we can rescue those still perishing in darkness without Christ. *The normal Christian life is to be the radical Christian life.* It should be as different from the lifestyle of this world as light is from darkness. As we learned from Abraham's life, God has blessed us so that we in turn will be a blessing to the nations of the earth.

God wants modern day William Careys and Hudson Taylors who will pioneer frontier regions of the world for Him. He wants disciples who aren't just engaged in theological controversy and debates, who aren't arguing about the timing of the Second coming but are out busily Proclaiming the good news of what Jesus did at His first coming. He wants an army that won't be asking, "How much does it cost?" but rather, "Where do I pay?" They won't want to know how much sin they can get away with and still be saved. Instead they will ask, "how much can I do to further the Kingdom"

Our heavenly Father wants people who are consumed with love for Him, whose desires are one with His, and who won't be content until *the* earth is "filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters Cover the sea" (*Habakkuk 2:14*).

Jesus is King

Paul and his team "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) by preaching that Jesus was King and rightful ruler over all the earth. They didn't see Jesus as an optional extra to be added to the pantheon of gods but proclaimed Him as the Divine Sovereign with the right to rule over people's lives.

The early church had a theological basis for the aggressive evangelism with which they turned the world upside down. Their watchword was, "Jesus is Lord." He is King and desires to bring His rule and reign to this earth: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Understanding this will help us to be bold in our evangelism. We are not a people groveling in the dirt of the devil's world, begging others to accept Jesus as their "personal Savior." Rather, we are a people who realize, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and all who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1).

We have been given a mandate, The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). We don't need to be intimidated by people as we witness. After all, we not only have the responsibility but the right to carry out the work of evangelism because of the authority of Him who has commanded us to do so.

Go Therefore and make disciples..