

# FIGHT THE FLAMES

*An Evangelism Training Booklet*



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# Introduction

This manual is designed to better equip you to share the gospel with unsaved family, friends, and strangers. Statistics show that only about 2% of professed believers in Jesus Christ share their faith regularly (from Dr. Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ). Perhaps many professed believers really don't care about the overwhelming amount of unsaved people dying everyday, heading for an eternity of excruciating pain and suffering without Christ's blood covering their sin.

But perhaps many other believers really do care about the plight of the lost, want to do something about it, but just do not feel equipped to do so. They feel like an untrained fireman, sent into a blazing inferno to rescue dying people, with no more than a squirt-gun to fight the flames.

Water is the only thing that can extinguish the flames, and lead the endangered people to safety, but the rescuers commissioned to save these people don't feel equipped to spread enough water to lead the captives to safety. So, the rescuers remain outside, terrified for the future of those that remain in the inferno, but feeling unable to do anything about the awful situation.

In the same way, believers know that the living water of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only thing capable of leading sinners into a safe eternity with Father God, but perhaps they feel ill equipped to spread the Gospel. Instead, they keep their faith to themselves for fear of getting burned.

Now picture this. What if we take the rescuers and give them extensive training in methods for fighting fires? We then clothe them with a fire proof suit from head to toe. We equip them with the finest water pumping devices, and give them as many heavy duty water hoses as they need.

Best yet, we show them the plans to the burning building, and it reveals a fire-proof escape for their assurance of safe exit from the building with the people they rescue. Now they've got what they need. Now they are ready to do what they are called to do. Now they are ready to complete their mission!

By God's grace, it is my prayer that this booklet will equip you and give you the confidence to boldly share your faith with unbelievers in every area of your life. It will show you why you should be concerned for the lost, the nature of the mission field your being sent into, weapons available for your use in sharing your faith, detours from hang-ups that will attempt to impede you from being effective in sharing your faith, and how to have the attitude that God wants you to have while sharing your faith.

# Chapter 1: Go fight the fire? Why?

Evan-ja-what? I think some believers get confused and intimidated when the word evangelism is mentioned. Evangelism is simply the preaching, proclaiming, or spreading of the gospel. When you came to faith in Jesus Christ, you believed that He suffered and died a horrible death on the cross. You believed that He rose from the dead, conquering the power of death and hell. You also believed that He died in your place, took your sins upon Himself, paid for your sins so that you wouldn't have to, and fulfilled the debt for your sins to God the Father. You had faith that if you believed in Jesus, you would be spared the just punishment of eternal death for your sins, and granted the gift of eternal life. That is the gospel message.

The gospel is not, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life." The gospel is not, "Jesus wants to make you happy if you'll give Him your life." The gospel is not, "God wants to give you purpose and direction for your life." These are all nice things, but they are not the gospel. The gospel is about Jesus' substitute payment for our sins so that we could be made right with Father God. Evangelism is simply sharing this saving message with people.

The gospel is like a package that needs to be delivered to people. When a courier is sent with an important package, it doesn't matter what vehicle she uses to deliver the package, as long as it gets to the person it was intended for. Similarly, there are many vehicles that can be used to deliver the Gospel. You may be into art, writing, surfing, baseball, skateboarding, tennis, school, business, music, or a ton of other things. These can all be used as vehicles used to deliver the gospel to people. You can be a revolutionary for Jesus Christ, impacting the world for His glory, if you will focus your talents, energy, and resources on spreading His wonderful gospel message.

Many times believers make the mistake of thinking that evangelism is for an elite group within the church, or that it's a task reserved for those who have "the gift" of spreading the good news. This idea is totally false, and is an idea from hell. That is exactly what Satan wants believers to think.

If someone in your neighborhood took in all kinds of stray dogs, fed them, and cared for them, you would not say, "Wow, they have the gift of caring for stray dogs." No, instead you would say, "They really love dogs." In the same way, Evangelism is birthed more by a love and concern for the lost, than by a spiritual gift. If you will allow Jesus to give you a burden for lost souls, YOU can make a difference in this dark world with the light of God's gospel.

At this point you may be saying, "Okay Gabe, your right, God could use me to share the gospel. But, why should I be concerned? I'm saved. I'm safe, so why should I stick my neck out to share with others?"

## ***Reason #1 - People are dying and going to hell***

Let's just tell it like it is. That is the sobering reality. What kind of person would watch someone get hit by a car without warning them that a car is coming? How can I watch as people that I care about slip into death without Jesus? How can I not warn them of God's wrath against sin and the forgiveness found in His only Son Jesus Christ? Oh Lord, help me to be a bold witness. Help me to overcome fears of rejection. Help me to really care enough to open my mouth.

Readers, listen to me. I know what it is like to keep my mouth shut for fear of rejection. I know what it is like to slip into apathy and pull back from continually sharing Jesus with others, but this truth about hell never changes. We have to pray and ask God to give us a love for the unsaved that is so strong it overrides our fears. We have to pray for Jesus to give us some of His burden for sinners. I would guess that some of His burden is all we can handle. For if Jesus were to lay on us His full burden for the unsaved, I imagine that we would die in sorrow, but we must ask and receive from Him some of it. To refuse some of His burden for the lost would be wicked indeed.

Charles Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, once said, "Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself. Be sure of that." Read Jesus' words in Mark 9:42-48, Luke 16:19-26. He paints a picture of an awful reality full of unbearable pain and misery for the sinner who dies without receiving the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

### ***Reason #2 - Jesus gave us orders to do so***

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to many people. At one point, he appeared to the 11 disciples as they were sitting around at a table. Mark 16:15-16 records Him saying, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (NKJV) This was a mandate not only for the 11 disciples listening to Him then, but a mandate for all believers who would ever walk on the face of planet earth.

Romans 6:16 says, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (NKJV) When you became a Christian, you rejected the power that sin had over you and became a servant of God. A servant does what his master tells him to do. A servant obeys. Being Jesus' servants, we should obey His command to share the good news with others.

Ephesians 1:13-14 says, "And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession to the praise of his glory." (NIV) When you believed the Gospel, you became Jesus' precious possession. He sealed you with the Holy Spirit, which is proof that you belong to Him. You cost Him dearly. He had to pay for you with His very life (He must love you very much to pay so high a cost). No one pays a high price for something and then doesn't take care of it. Jesus will take care of you.

One day, either at death or when Jesus returns, He will redeem you as His rightful possession. He will not allow your soul to be swallowed in death. But for now, as His precious possession, He has commissioned you for a work. Jesus saved you so He could use you to save others.

This work He has called you to is a privilege. A commissioned fireman is honored to be found worthy of rescuing those in danger. His work is not a duty but a privilege.

### ***Reason #3 – If you don't share the gospel with sinners, who will?***

1 Corinthians 1:18 says, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." The Church of Jesus Christ is the only group of people on earth that even care about the gospel message of Jesus Christ. The rest of the world thinks that the gospel message is foolishness. Studies show that a minute percentage of believers are sharing their faith with the unsaved. If you don't take this mission seriously, who will? The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. God wants to use you. Don't let Satan distract you with every Christian activity other than reaching the lost. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost. He wants to use you to do the same.



## Chapter 2: Understanding your mission field

Look! That building is on fire! Inside, there are hundreds of families unaware of the danger they are in. While they enjoy the comfort of their upper level apartments, the entire foundation of the building is ablaze.

On the fifth floor a businessman is working on a new project in his home office. Engulfed in his work, he is oblivious to the danger below. On the tenth floor a large family is enjoying a baked chicken meal together. Licking their juicy fingers and immersed in conversation with each other, they give no thought to any calamity.

On the twelfth floor there is a party going on. Dancing, socializing, and a D.J. spinning their favorite disco hits, no one there is even considering the possibility of sudden death. On every floor people are living as they normally do, not even pausing to consider that their lives could end tragically at any moment. The only thing standing between them and a gruesome death is a short period of time. You are a fireman, a commissioned rescuer of lives. Your mission is to enter the building, warn the unaware people of the coming danger, show them the safe exit of escape, and lead them out of harm's way.

Jesus was praying to the Father in John 17:18 and said, "As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them [His disciples] into the world." The world is the mission field that Jesus is sending you into. The world is full of people living their lives as they please, trying to remain distracted from any thoughts of death, and unaware or uncaring about the consequences of sin.

Satan provides a wide array of distractions designed to keep these people away from the truth of God's Word, and lead them to an eternity of pain and misery in the flames of the lake of fire. Jesus wants to send us to reach these people with His plan for rescue, the plan of salvation. We must go into the building (the world), warn the people of the coming danger (the wages of sin is death), show them the safe exit of escape (Jesus is the way), and lead them out of harm's way (into the Kingdom of God). We cannot hide out in a church, we must go into the world to reach the lost.

I have a good friend named Keith who is a real fire fighter. When he is on duty he lives at the fire house, and is ready at any moment to jump on a fire truck and go fight a fire. When he was in school, training to become a fire fighter, he spent much time studying the nature of fires. I think that it would be a good idea if we take a look at the nature of our mission field: the world.

When scripture speaks of the world as a negative term, it is speaking of a spiritual kingdom upon the physical earth. We know that God would not speak of the earth negatively, because in Genesis 1 we are told that He created the earth and saw that it was good. So, the world is not the earth, but a kingdom upon the earth complete with its own king, people, value system, ambitions and motivations, wisdom, and teachers both spiritual and academic. The world is the kingdom of Satan. Let's look at the different parts of this kingdom.

### ***The ruler of the world***

John 14:30 calls Satan the prince of this world. He is the current ruler of this world, but he's ruling it illegally. He has unlawful rule of his kingdom. In Matthew 28 Jesus has risen from



the dead. He appears to the 11 disciples and says to them, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus is the legal, rightful ruler of this world, but He is currently away from His earthly throne, seated at the right hand of the Father.

While Jesus is away, the evil serpent Satan is illegally ruling on the earth. It is like the story of Robin Hood. In the story, King Richard the Lionheart is the rightful ruler of Nottingham. King Richard is a good king, but he has been gone for a long time, fighting on the battlefield for his country.

While he is away, the evil Prince John illegally begins to rule the kingdom. He puts the people of the kingdom under outrageous taxation, and keeps them in bondage to his evil system, which sucks them poor as he gets rich.

Robin Hood is the hero, who remains faithful to King Richard, and rejects the rule of the sinister Prince John. Robin Hood and his companions travel throughout the kingdom exhorting the people to reject Prince John as their ruler and remain loyal to the true king, Richard the Lionheart. Robin Hood also snatches wealth from Prince John and gives to those in the kingdom that have need.

Satan's rule, like Prince John's is unlawful. At the cross, Jesus redeemed the world from the dominion of the devil. So we are called to be like Robin Hood. We are to go and convince the people of this world to reject the power of sin and Satan over their lives, and become loyal followers of the true king, Jesus Christ. We are to snatch souls out from Satan's rule, and lead them under the authority of King Jesus to receive His free gift of salvation.

### ***Demons***

Luke 11:15 identifies Satan (Beelzebub) as the ruler of demons. Demons are Satan's servants that are invisible to the human eye. They are fallen angels that assist Satan in carrying out his evil work on earth. They are used in Satan's attempt to deceive the people of earth away from God's truth. They try to stop people who spread God's truth.

### ***The people of the world***

Let's go back to the burning building illustration. We are called to rescue people out of the building, but Satan is very tricky. He is like a demented building manager who calls each of the tenants in the building. He tells them that they may hear a fire alarm, they may see some fire trucks outside, they may even see some smoke, but not to be alarmed. He informs them that this emergency has nothing to do with them.

In the same way, Satan has duped many people in the world into believing that they are okay because they don't pledge allegiance to either God or Satan. They believe they are just neutral. The truth of the matter is that you are either under the rule and authority of God or under the rule and authority of Satan, whether you're aware of it or not. There is no middle ground, and there is no self rule.

The Christian is a citizen of heaven, not the world. The Christian is in the world, but not of the world. (John 17:14-18) You're either a citizen of heaven, passing through this world, and under God's dominion, or you're a citizen of the world, and under Satan's dominion. So, this kingdom of the world has many people.

### ***The world's value system***

James 4:1-4 says, "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." (NKJV)

The world's value system is based on the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. (1 John 2:16) The world teaches people to live for themselves, to get all they can get, and to do whatever makes them happy. The world's value system is in direct opposition to God's value system which teaches us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. (Luke 9:23)

### ***The world's wisdom***

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 says, "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." (NKJV)

The kingdom of Satan has its own wisdom which tries to justify the sinful ways of the people of the world. By this wisdom, ungodly men and women of the world write books and proliferate messages that go in direct opposition to God's truth. Many times the pseudo-knowledge they present appeals to a man's logic, for the sinful heart of man is always wanting to justify his own will, but their message goes in direct opposition to the revelation of God's Word. Therefore, their ideas are foolishness.

When I was in my last year of university training to become a history teacher, I had to take a class called theory of history. According to the professor, every student in this course was beginning from a view of history called modernism. Modernism is the idea that a person can uncover historic truth, or any truth for that matter, by use of reason.

The professor's goal was to bring everyone in the class to a view of history called post modernism. Post-modernism is the idea that truth can't be unveiled by reason, and therefore there is no absolute truth. In post-modernism, truth is something personal that you fabricate for yourself, something unique to each person.

The professor was brilliant, but he was a brilliant fool because he rejected the revelation of God's Word as absolute truth. I remember him dedicating a large portion of one class to the attempt of making God's Word look like a fairy tale. He spewed out a bunch of lies about the Bible, never once saying where his information came from. Everyone except me seemed to swallow everything this man said hook, line, and sinker. I hated going to that class. There were times that I would stand up for truth in that class. The professor would act like what I was saying was foolishness. 1 Corinthians 1:18 says, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (NKJV)

The Word actually teaches that if we want to receive the wisdom of God, we must first become fools in the world's sight. God will never reveal the truth to a self righteous, intellectually arrogant sinner. He unveils the truth to those who humble themselves before Him. So, there are many people in the world that are stuck in darkness because they remain blinded from God's truth by the false wisdom of the world.

### ***Spiritual teachers***

1 John 4:1 says, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (NKJV) Though the people of Satan's kingdom do not worship God, they will worship something or someone because they were created by God to worship Him.

So, if they choose not to worship God, they will still have some other object of worship. In light of this, the world has a myriad of spiritual teachers that teach falsehoods about spiritual things. We call them false prophets. They may teach people to worship idols, themselves, or they may teach lies about God the Father or Jesus Christ.

### ***Deceivers***

2 John 7 says, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." (NKJV) Deceivers are the people in the world that write books and teach falsehoods that lead people away from God's truth. They may not claim to be spiritual teachers. For example, there are many deceivers in modern academics that do not instruct people in spiritual things. However, they do spread ideas that they formulated using the wisdom of the world, and these vain ideas lead people away from the truth revealed in Christ.

Are you starting to visualize your mission field? Are you becoming aware of the world-wide conspiracy for human souls that Satan has so cleverly designed? Do you see how complex a structure the evil one has set up in order to keep people's minds blinded from the truth of the gospel?

Don't be intimidated or frightened. You are safe with your Father who loves you desperately. "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, (evil spirits) because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 NKJV) God the Holy Spirit now dwells in you, and His power is infinitely greater than Satan's.

All of the different parts mentioned in this chapter help to construct the kingdom of the world. Satan's kingdom of the world is temporary. 1 John 2:17 says, "And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." (NKJV)

Think back to the burning building illustration. Just like the building, Satan's kingdom will eventually be destroyed. Nobody wants to be in a building when it goes down in flames, so how should you relate to your mission field?

The following scriptures tell us how a believer should relate to the world:

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

- John 15:19 Jesus said, "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."
- John 17:16,18 Jesus said, "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

As believers we are supposed to have love for the people of the world. If you don't have this love currently, you can still receive it. It comes from God, it is actually His love, and you can receive it simply by asking for it. It is a love that calls us to action just like God's love which caused Him to send His Son on our behalf. Like a fireman, we should be moved by our concern for the people in danger, and attempt to rescue them. We also need to be aware that we are not part of the world.

Imagine for a moment that you spot a fireman about to enter a burning building. He rushes up the fire escape above the flames that have engulfed the bottom floors of the apartment complex. He reaches the tenth floor, enters a vacant room, takes off his suit, kicks off his boots, reclines on the couch, grabs a remote, and flicks on the television.

That would be ridiculous and a fireman would not do that. The fireman spends time in the burning building but he does not take residence in the burning building. In the same way, as believers in Jesus Christ, we are to be in the world but not of the world.

Jesus has sent us into the world to spread His gospel, but the world is not our home. We are citizens of heaven (Eph 2:19), passing through this world, inviting others to change their citizenship and join us at our place. As believers, we should never adopt the ways or principles of the world. To do so is to become an enemy of God.

Hopefully by now you have an understanding of your mission field. Maybe you feel intimidated and are thinking, "Wow! That is a blazing inferno for true. How can I possibly make a difference?" Don't worry; God is going to use you to impact this world for Jesus Christ! You are a hero. Heroes need effective weapons to carry out their mission. The next chapter will focus on equipping you to fight the flames and rescue souls!

## Chapter 3: Spiritual Weapons for Evangelism

As mentioned in the introduction, I believe that many born again believers really do care about the lost, and want to share their faith, but feel unequipped to do so. They feel like they are fighting a blazing fire naked with a squirt-gun. This chapter is going to focus on equipping you to share your faith. A fireman gains confidence as she is clothed with a fireproof suit, and given the finest, state of the art, water-pumping equipment.

My prayer is that this chapter will give you confidence in sharing your faith as it empowers you with God's weapons for your use. In this chapter we will talk about four spiritual weapons for evangelism: prayer, prophecy, the law, and focusing on death. First let us take a good look at prayer in evangelism.

### *Prayer*

Prayer is the most important spiritual weapon that is available for a believer sharing his or her faith. Prayer is like the fireman's Walkie-Talkie. It keeps him in direct contact with the chief at all times. The chief fireman has all of the wisdom and experience in fighting fires. He advises his rescuers to avoid dangerous pitfalls, counsels them in tough situations, and leads them to the safe exit out of the building.

Prayer keeps you in direct contact with Jesus. Without Him, our mission will most certainly fail. You should pray for God to open doors for sharing the Gospel, for the people you will be sharing with, and for yourself.

When Paul wrote to the Church in Colosse, he said in chapter 4 verses 3-4, "And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should." (NIV) We should pray for God to open doors for us to share the Gospel, and we should pray that He will make our message clear and understandable to our hearers. It is so much easier to share God's truth with unbelievers when God Himself has gone before you to prepare the way. We should also pray for the hearts of our hearers before we go to speak with them.

Jesus said in 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." (NKJV) We need to pray regularly for unbelievers that we share the gospel with. We need to pray that God would send His Holy Spirit to them to draw their hearts to Jesus. According to the verse above, if God does not draw an unbeliever, he can't come to Jesus. Remember, it is God's will that all people should be saved. (1 Tim 2:3-4) When you pray for the salvation of unbelievers, you are praying in God's perfect will. You can be sure that your prayer pleases God when it is a prayer for someone to be saved.

We also should pray for ourselves before we go to share the gospel with people. Satan and his demons hate it when a believer shares the gospel with the unsaved. He prefers the type of Christian that sits in pew and warms it, never going and sharing with others the truth of the Gospel.

Satan's demons will do everything they can to discourage you from sharing your faith. In light of this, we need to clothe ourselves with the armor of God. (Eph 6:10-17) The helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, feet equipped with the readiness of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit are all made available

to us by God. This armor is like the fireman's fireproof suit. The flames can't harm the rescuer when she is wearing the suit.

We should pray and clothe ourselves with this armor so that we are guarded from the enemy's attacks, and so that we are equipped to make offensive attacks against him in order to bring souls out from under his power and into the kingdom of God. Prayer is vital for the man or woman who wants to be used of God to win souls.

### ***Prophecy***

Prophecy is an excellent weapon available for a believer to use in sharing their faith. Prophecy is like a fireman's badge and uniform. It proves to the one in danger that the fireman is a valid rescuer, and should be listened to. You can use prophecy while sharing your faith to prove that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

There are hundreds of detailed prophecies in the Bible that foretold the future and then came true. When you recite these prophecies and show how they were fulfilled, you validate the supernatural origin of the Bible, and show the unsaved that he should listen to what the Bible says.

Prophecy sparks biblical interest in the mind of an unsaved person. The fact that the Bible foretells detailed future events fascinates the mind of any person. Here are some examples of prophecies in the Bible that were fulfilled exactly as the Word of God said they would be fulfilled:

1. **The nation of Israel would be born in one day.** Isaiah 66:8.

Fulfillment: Israel became a nation on May 14th, 1948. No one ever thought that it would be possible for this to happen.

2. **The Jews would regain control of biblical Jerusalem.** Zechariah 12:6 and Luke 21:24.

Fulfillment: This happened in 1967.

3. **The possession of Jerusalem would be at the center of international conflict and turmoil.** Zechariah 12:3.

Fulfillment: Today, the conflict over Jerusalem is a major concern for people all over the world, just as the Bible predicted.

4. **The city of Babylon would reemerge in the land of Shinar.** Zechariah 5:11, Genesis 10:10, Genesis 11:1-9, Isaiah 13.

Fulfillment: The land of Shinar is modern day Iraq. Saddam Hussein spent more than 20 years and hundreds of millions of dollars rebuilding the city of Babylon.

5. **The Jews would regather in Israel.** Jeremiah 31:7-10, Ezekiel 37:21-22, 38:8.

Fulfillment: The United States Central Bureau of Statistics reports that there are more Jews in Israel than in the United States. 5.4 million in Israel compared to 6.2 million in the U.S. (The U.S. data refers only to those who define themselves as Jewish by origin and have no other religion.) This means that for the first time since the destruction of the Second Temple, Israel has once again become the largest concentration of Jews in the world.

6. **The ancient city of Petra in Jordan would exist and become a refuge for fleeing Jews during the tribulation period.** Isaiah 16:1-4, Matthew 24:16, Revelation 12:6,14.

Fulfillment: Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1994. This treaty makes it possible for Petra to be used as a potential refuge for fleeing Jews.

7. **Messianic prophecy - The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.** Micah 5:2.

Fulfillment: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, not any of the many other cities in the world.

8. **Messianic prophecy: The Messiah would be pierced in His hands and His feet.** Psalms 22:16.

Fulfillment: This prophecy was written 800 years before the cross was ever invented as a means for punishment. When Jesus was crucified, he was pierced with nails through His hands and His feet.

I recommend memorizing a couple of these prophecies so that you can use them when sharing the Gospel with an unsaved person. It will cause your hearer to be more interested in your message, because you have shown him proof that your message comes from the very Word of God. You can further explore some of these prophecies and more at [www.eternal-productions.org](http://www.eternal-productions.org). You can also learn more about the use of prophecy in proving the Bible's divine origin from a book by Mark Cahill called, "One Thing You Can't Do In heaven." This is an excellent book about evangelism.

### ***The Law***

Another effective weapon for evangelism is the law. The law is made up of 613 precepts found in the Old Testament, but the core of the law is the ten commandments. The law is like the siren on the fireman's truck. Sometimes people living on the top floor of a building that is ablaze on the lower floors do not believe that they are in danger. They are enjoying the comforts of their home, and everything seems fine. However, when they hear the sirens screaming, and see the lights flashing, they become convinced that they are in danger.

The law exposes a person's sin, shows him the severity of his sin before God, convinces him of the danger he's in, and shows him his need for a savior. Galatians 3:23-25 says, "But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed."



Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." (NKJV) Everyone in the world that is not a born again believer in Jesus Christ is under the law of God. If they do not repent of their sins, and by faith experience the cleansing power of Jesus Christ, they will one day be judged for every time they broke God's law, and we are told that the penalty for sin (breaking the law) is eternal death. (Rom 6:23)

Born again believers in Jesus Christ are not under the law, they will not be judged by the standards of the law for their sins, because Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirements of the law on their behalf by suffering and dying on the cross. The born again believer is not under the law, but under grace. (Rom 6:14)

What is it that leads a person to Jesus Christ to be saved? It is the law. The law is a teacher, it shows a person the need they have for a savior. If you are sharing the Gospel with a person who is not convinced of their sin, you can use the law to show them their guilt before God, and their need for Jesus Christ.

Sometimes when I am talking with an unsaved person, the conversation will go something like this:

Me: "God forbid it, but if you were to die today, do you think that you would go to heaven or to hell?"

Person: "I think I've done pretty good, I'd say that I'd probably go to heaven." Me: "Why?"

Person: "Well, like I said, I think I've done pretty good in my life and I would be accepted."

Me: "There is a way we can find out how well you've done. God has a law that evaluates how good we've been. It is called the Ten Commandments. Let's see how good you've been."

Person: "Okay."

Me: "One of the laws says, 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.' In other words, don't lie. Do you think that's a good law?"

Person: "Well, yes I'd say so."

Me: "I agree, if people would stop lying to each other the world would be a better place. But, here's the problem; have you ever told a lie?"

Person: "Well, yes."

Me: "Thank you for your honesty. There's another law that says, 'You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.' This is when you use the name God or Jesus Christ the same way you would use a curse word to express your frustration or surprise. Have you ever used God's name that way?"

Person: "Yes, I have."

Me: "Thank you for your honesty. There's another law that says, 'You shall not steal.' Do you think that is a good law?"

Person: "Yes, I do."

Me: "I agree, if people would stop stealing from each other the world would be a better place. But, have you ever stolen anything, maybe an answer on a test when you were in school, or a cookie from the cookie jar when you were young?"

Person: "Yes, I have."

Me: "Thank you for your honesty. There's another law that says, 'You shall not commit adultery,' but Jesus said that if you look at a woman and lust for her, you've already committed adultery with her in your heart. Have you ever done that?"

Person: "Yes, I have."

Me: "Thank you for your honesty. Do you see how God is not only concerned with our actions, but he even looks inside our hearts to see our desires and motives?"

Person: "Yes, I see that."

Me: "There's another law that says, 'You shall have no other gods before me.' Have you ever placed anything in your life above God for any length of time?"

Person: "Yes, I have."

Me: "Thank you for your honesty."

I then go on to explain to the person that every time he breaks God's law it is called sin. I then tell him that what we earn for sinning is death. (Rom 6:23) I explain to him that this is not just a physical death, or just ceasing to exist, but a conscious eternal death full of pain and misery. Sometimes I will describe hell and the lake of fire to the person. I explain to him that God loves him, and does not want him to go there.

However, I tell him that in order for God to be a perfect judge that delivers perfect justice, He must punish any and all sin. If He just let "little sins" go, or exchanged forgiveness of sins for good deeds done, He would be like a crooked judge who makes deals and takes bribes.

So, because of His perfect nature God must punish sin. That is the bad news. Then I tell the person the good news. I tell the person that although God is perfect in justice, He is also perfect in love and mercy and that He is passionately in love with them. I explain that Jesus, who was God in the flesh, came to earth. I tell the person that Jesus was perfect, He never lied, stole, or committed adultery of the heart. In fact, He never even broke one of God's laws.

Then I explain that Jesus took the person's sins upon Himself, and suffered and died a horrible death on a cross. The death and suffering He endured were a payment for any and all the sins we have and ever will ever commit. Sometimes I tell of all the individual sufferings that Jesus endured at the cross. I explain to the person that Jesus descended into the realm of the dead, and He has all authority over death and hell. He then rose from the dead on the third day,

proving that He had power over death and hell, and that He has authority to release others from their curse.

I explain to the person that if he will repent from his sins, and put his faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, Jesus will wipe him clean of his sin. I explain that if He will believe, God the Father will see him as though he never sinned and will welcome him into the kingdom of heaven. I explain to the person that no one is good enough to deserve this salvation, but that God gives it as a free gift to those who will call on His name. I also explain to the person that God desires to have a relationship with us now, and He's provided a way for God and man to be friends through His Son Jesus Christ.

Do you see how the bad news makes sense of the good news? The gospel goes from being foolishness to the power of God as the unsaved person begins to understand the severity of his sin before God while the law shines light on his sin and magnifies it. (1 Cor 15:56)

The sinner begins to understand that his sin is a deadly illness, and begins to long for the cure of the gospel. I am convinced that a person must understand the bad news, before they'll ever cling to the good news. The law makes sense of the good news. It strips a self-righteous person of his false hope in his own perceived goodness. It shows him that in God's sight, he has not been good, and it stops his mouth from trying to justify himself. It leaves him with no hope other than Jesus.

The law of God is an excellent weapon available for use in the spreading of the gospel, and the winning of souls. A man of God named Ray Comfort taught me everything I have learned about the use of the law in evangelism. I highly recommend his website [www.livingwaters.com](http://www.livingwaters.com) and everything on it for your use in evangelism.

### ***Focusing on death***

There is one appointment in life that no man or woman can avoid. No one wants to be early for this appointment, but no one will be late for it. It is our appointment with death. The last part of verse 2 in chapter 7 of Ecclesiastes says, "for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart." (NIV)

I was watching a documentary about the life of Nelson Mandela. He was a fascinating man. At one point in the documentary, he was visiting his family gravesite. He mentioned that he would be buried at this site, but he said that he did not want to think about death for very long. Most people do not want to think about death, because they are uncertain about what awaits them after death.

God has set eternity in the hearts of men. (Eccl 3:11) People know deep down in their hearts that death is not the end of our existence. They know that when their hearts stop beating, and they breathe their last, their souls will live on. This terrifies the unbeliever, because he is unsure of where he will spend his eternity. Therefore, most of the world tries to remain distracted from thinking about death. According to the Bible, it is wise to think about death. It is wise to consider it deeply. Thinking about death will drive you closer to the only one who ever conquered death - Jesus.

Jesus takes the sting out of death. (1 Cor 15:55-57) Jesus paid for my sins, so that by faith in Him, I will be presented absolutely sinless before Father God when I die or am taken in the

rapture of the Church. Therefore, my fear of dying was swallowed up in Jesus' victory over death when I became a true believer in Jesus Christ. I know I am going to heaven. It is not because I am good enough, but because of what Jesus did for me on the cross.

1 John 5:13 says, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God." (NKJV) A believer really can know that she or he possesses eternal life. However, many unbelievers have no clue what is going to happen to them when they die, and they are petrified of death. Many other people think they know what is going to happen to them at death, but have completely wrong answers for eternity.

Still, even others have false hope in dead religion to get them to heaven. The alarming fact is that we, as believers in Christ, know the fate of all these unbelieving people if they do not turn to Jesus - hell. We need to present the truth of Jesus to as many people as possible.

You should talk about death when you are trying to share Jesus with unbelievers. Death is the ultimate equalizer. Rich or poor, beautiful or ugly, fat or skinny, black or white, brown or yellow, smart or dumb; if Jesus doesn't return first, we're all going to die. Conversation about death can be used as a powerful tool for sharing the gospel with unbelievers.

Imagine that a fireman enters a blazing building, rushes to the 5th floor, busts down the door of an apartment, and finds a woman sleeping comfortably in her bed as the building burns down. She is not even aware of the danger she is in. What will the fireman do? He will yell at her, shake her, or do whatever it takes to wake her up and bring her to safety.

Focusing on death while sharing your faith is like giving people a wake up call. Many people have distracted themselves from thinking about death for a long time, but they need to think about it. Many times I have asked people what they believe happens to a person when she dies. After I have attentively listened to her, I have an open door to discuss with her the truth about death, hell, heaven, Jesus, and forgiveness. If she gives me some strange answer about life after death, I usually ask her a question that I learned from a book by Mark Cahill. (markcahill.org) I ask, "Would it be possible for a person to die and find out that what she believed about eternity while she was living was false and something different happens to her soul?" (Example: The person believed in reincarnation, but they die and find out that she doesn't come back to earth but goes to either heaven or hell)

The person always says yes that it is possible for a person to be wrong about eternity. After they admit that, I say, "Now grab a hold of this. This is heavy. If there is a wrong answer for eternity, then there has to be a ..." I let them answer the question. This question is powerful, because it causes a person to realize that there can only be one right answer for eternity.

You can then tell the person the truth about death, sin, hell, Jesus, the gospel, and salvation. You can also ask people this sharp question; "If you were to die tonight, do you think you would go to heaven or hell?" After the person answers you, you have an open door to talk to them about the truth.

We have just reviewed four major weapons for evangelism. Prayer, prophecy, the law, and focusing on death in conversation are powerful tools for use in sharing your faith. However, remember that a fireman's main weapon is water. All of the equipment the fireman has is designed to help him distribute the water, put out the fire, and bring the people that are in

danger to safety. Similarly, all of the weapons for evangelism mentioned in this chapter are designed to help you distribute the living waters of the gospel.

The gospel is the only message that can save anyone from his or her sins. Jesus' payment for our sins by His gruesome death, His burial, the three days in the tomb, and His resurrection from the dead is what we ultimately want to share with unsaved people. Water puts out the flames that stand between a person in a burning building and the safe exit out of the building. The gospel quenches God's fiery wrath against sin and brings a sinner into the arms of Jesus, safe for eternity. Your primary goal in evangelism is to share this life saving message. When talking about Jesus with unbelievers let us be determined to share with them the gospel.

Hopefully this chapter has empowered you to effectively share your faith with unbelievers. These weapons are not confined to one type of evangelism, but can be used when sharing your faith at work, at school, on the streets, or wherever else you may go to share Jesus. The next chapter will focus on how to help you avoid hang-ups to your mission of sharing your faith.

## Chapter 4: Effective Answers for Hang-up Questions

You are a fireman rushing into a house that is engulfed in flames. You know that there is a person trapped upstairs, so you bust the front door down, and rush up the stairs to the aid of the person. You find him crouched in a corner, incapable of saving himself. You pick the person up, put his arm over your shoulder, and begin to walk towards your escape.

Rapidly, a smoke screen rushes in your path with a gust of wind from outdoors. You can't see the clear path for a safe exit. You are safe in your fireproof suit, but if you can't clear the smoke, and bring the man to the safe exit, he is going to get burned. You crouch low with the man, and pull out your extinguisher. One powerful blast clears the smoke, and reveals the safe exit for you and the person you're helping.

Sometimes when you are sharing your faith you will come across smoke screens. These are questions and issues that cloud a sinner's vision and keep him from accepting the gospel for the saving of his soul. These smoke screens keep the unbeliever from seeing why he needs Jesus to save him.

This chapter will help you clear the smoke for three major questions asked by unbelievers.

1. How do you know that God exists?
2. How do you know that the Bible is true?
3. What about evolution? It disproves the Bible.

If you would like to further explore answers to these questions and many more, I recommend [www.markcahill.org](http://www.markcahill.org). On this website you can order his fantastic book. I also recommend, "How Now Shall We Live?" by Charles Colson and Nancy Pearcey. Some of the ideas in this chapter are adapted from ideas in these 2 books.

### ***Proving God's existence***

Heb 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (NIV). Obviously, in order for God to save someone from his sins, the person must first believe that God exists. Some people have been so bombarded with the lies of the world that they are struggling with a basic belief in the existence of God. You can help these people with some simple reasoning.

Point to your shirt and tell the person that it has no creator. Tell them that one morning, you woke up, and sometime overnight the shirt formed itself on your body. Ask them if they believe you. They will say no. Then, point to some art nearby (maybe on the back of someone's T-shirt) and tell the person that it has no artist. Tell them that one bright day in the sun some colors materialized and formed themselves together into a picture. Ask them if they believe you. They will say no.

Point to your shoes and tell the person that they have no designer. Tell them that as you were walking barefoot, thinking how nice it would be for your feet to have shoes, they suddenly constructed themselves on your feet. Ask them if they believe you. They will say no.

Tell them that if we look around the universe we can see creation, design, and art. Where there is creation, design, and art there must be a creator, a designer, and an artist. A painting is proof that there is a painter, a building is proof that there is a builder. The detailed design of the universe is proof that an intelligent designer exists.

You can use the Earth as an example of design to illustrate your point. There are a ton of factors that just happen to be set in perfect order for life to be possible on the planet Earth (view in-depth video on this topic). For example, the Earth is set in orbit the perfect distance from the sun (93 million miles). If it were just a little closer to the sun, heat would evaporate all of our seas making life impossible. If the Earth were just a little further away from the sun, all of our water would freeze, again making life impossible. Not only that, but in order for the Earth to remain within the proper distance from the Sun so life can exist, it has to have an almost circular orbit. Guess what? It does, even though most other planets have elliptical orbits.

The Earth's water is essential to life. Water is the only known substance that becomes less dense as a solid, than it is as a liquid. This is the reason why ice floats. If it did not float, no fish or sea animal could survive, and the entire food chain would be a wreck. Why are all these factors and so many more set up perfectly for life to exist on Earth? The logical answer is that an intelligent being designed everything to be that way.

Proving that the Bible is true and that it is the Word of God -Ilike to mention three proofs for the Bible's authenticity when speaking with an unbeliever: archaeology, history ,and prophecy. The first two simply prove that the Bible is telling the truth about history, and the last proves that it is the very Word of God.

1. *Archaeology* - Archaeologists have dug up over 25,000 different finds that are related to people, places, and events in the Bible. All of the finds agree with what the Bible says about the past. Archaeology confirms the Bible. As a matter of fact, archaeology has been known to stop the mouth of skeptics.
2. *History* - The Bible speaks the truth about history. Nobody has ever uncovered even one single historical mistake in the Bible. As a matter of fact, certain events, like the resurrection of Jesus, are so well attested to by the historical facts that people who investigate them end up getting saved. Some skeptics have sought to prove the resurrection false, investigated the historical evidence for the resurrection, and ended up becoming believers in Christ.
3. *Prophecy* -If the Bible foretells detailed future events accurately, it must be the Word of God. Only the author of history could foretell history before it happens. Bible prophecy proves that the Bible is in fact God's Word. You can use the examples of prophecies listed in chapter 3 when you are talking with an unbeliever about the truth of the Bible. Here's another one my favorite biblical prophecies:  
Ezekiel 26:1-5 prophesied against the city of Tyre. God said that He would cause many nations to come up against Tyre, that the walls and towers of Tyre would be broken down and destroyed, that the dust would be scraped from Tyre, and she would be flat like "the top of a rock." (NKJV) God said that it would be a place for the spreading of nets.



Fulfillment - Tyre was besieged many times. Nebuchadnezzar (we'll call him King Neb) besieged the city for 13 years unsuccessfully. While King Neb had Tyre besieged, the people of Tyre moved all they could load and themselves to a rock island 300 yards from the shore. King Neb gave up. The people of Tyre ended up building a fortified city on that rock offshore.

Years later Alexander the Great attacked. He had his men scrape the dust and rubble from the ruins of the old city that was attacked many times, and used the rubble to build a land bridge for his men to attack the rock from, and Tyre fell. The site of the old city became a flat rock where fishermen cast their nets. God said this would happen 350 years before Alexander the Great.

### ***Proving evolution to be false***

Many people claim that evolution proves the Bible to be false. Well, evolution would prove the Bible to be false, if evolution were true. But, evolution is not a proven fact, as many people would like us to believe. Evolution is an unprovable theory, and there is much evidence available to us that proves this theory to be false.

Evolution claims that single celled living organisms arose spontaneously, through natural reactions, from chemicals in the primitive seas. It claims that these organisms changed again and again by chance mutations, until complex organisms were formed. It claims that over the course of billions of years, humans evolved from single celled organisms. In other words, evolution claims we are nothing more than a bag of chemicals. However, the fantastic claims of evolution are not supported by observable facts. Here are some simple ways to show a person the evidence against evolution.

#### *1. DNA as proof that God created humans*

If you were walking along the beach, near the seashore, and you saw a curvy, unorganized line of deposited sand, you might reasonably guess that the line was formed by the wind, the waves, and the tide. However, if you were walking near the shore on the same beach and saw several lines that formed the words, "I Love Michael Jackson," you would never guess that the wind, waves, or tide formed those words. You would guess that an intelligent person wrote those words (intelligent does not refer to the person's taste in music or men).

Inside the center of one human cell, we find a message far greater than, "I Love Michael Jackson." DNA is like a language in the heart of a cell that gives specific instructions. It tells the cells how to build proteins that build the body. One human cell has as much DNA information as three or four complete sets of all 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica. The discovery of DNA in the cell is like walking along the beach and finding 120 full length novels written in the sand near the shore line. You would never assume that kind of complex information came from blind natural forces.

Here's an even better illustration. Finding DNA within a cell is like walking into the basement of an enormous, complex structured building, and finding 120 books, which have every detailed instruction for constructing the building. You just found the builder's plans for the building! DNA is like God's building plans for living things!

#### *2. Evidence from computer science*

Starting in the 1960's, computer mathematicians began to write programs to mimic every natural process on planet Earth. Then they used their programs to simulate evolution by chance processes over the imagined time frame of billions of years. The computers showed that the probability of evolution by chance processes is essentially zero, no matter how many billions of years you assume. (because of this data, secular scientists now say that there must be a force within matter that caused life to emerge spontaneously, instead of assuming that an intelligent being created life)

### *3. Fossil Evidence*

If evolution were true, we would see many transitional forms in the fossil record. We would see fossils of animals that are half one thing and half another. Perhaps we would see a creature that was half mouse half bat. Instead we see no transitional forms whatsoever. Every different type of animal appears fully formed at its earliest appearance in the fossil record.

### *4. Missing Links turn out to be false*

Fossils of supposedly half ape, half human creatures have turned out to be false. Lucy was one of these famous fossil finds. Almost all the experts now agree that she was actually a three-foot-tall chimpanzee. Nebraska man was a skeleton that scientists formed from one tooth. First of all, how could these people figure out the entire skeletal structure of this creature from one tooth? Secondly, the tooth turned out to be from an extinct pig. Neanderthal man, he was a popular one for sure. I remember learning about him in school. This skeleton found in France turned out to be from an old man who suffered from arthritis. Many other supposed "missing links" have turned out to be a bunch of bologna.

### *5. Living things are irreducible complex*

That may sound complicated, but it just means that a living thing is an entire system of interacting parts working together, and if even one of those interacting parts is not present from the beginning, the living thing would not be able to survive. Think about it. Let's imagine that a fish evolves lungs through evolution. What happens to it? Does it keep changing and eventually become a frog? Nope, it just drowns. A frog needs every organ in its body to survive. It is irreducibly complex, so it could not have slowly changed from a fish into a frog. If you can't remember any of the other points in this evolution section, just remember this short story of a fish evolving lungs and drowning. Francis Schaeffer used that argument, and it is simple but powerful.

Now you are equipped with an extinguisher for clearing the smoke screens. Now you can help to clear the vision of those who are clouded and can't see Jesus as the safeguard of their souls. You know the message you need to deliver, and now you have the proper equipment for the delivery. Now you are ready to be a hero for the gospel. The next chapter will focus on having the heart of a hero.

## Chapter 5: The Heart of a Hero

Can you imagine a fireman who hates to save people's lives? He grudgingly pulls up to the scene of a fire while smoking a cigarette and taking his sweet time. He spots a person yelling for help out of the 3rd story window. Immediately he says, "Oh come on! How did this guy get himself into this mess? Now I have to go up there and save him." He slowly winds the rescue ladder up to the window, climbs up the ladder, stopping to scratch his backside on the way up, and finally reaches the person in danger. When he reaches the endangered person he pulls him out of the window and stubbornly stomps down the ladder to safety. A bystander walks up to the fireman and asks him why he saves lives? The fireman yells, "Because you people won't do anything about it, you just sit there doing nothing!"

Nadab and Abihu were the sons of Aaron the priest during the days of Moses. They too were priests ordained to serve God by offering sacrifices. Leviticus chapter 10 records their death. In chapter 9, Moses and Aaron entered into the Tent of Meeting. After they came out the glory of God appeared to all the people, and then fire came out from the presence of the LORD and totally consumed the entire offering that was on the altar. This was fire from God's presence! The people shouted for joy and fell on their faces.

After this, Nadab and Abihu filled their censers with "strange" fire and put incense in them. They offered this "strange", or unauthorized fire, before the LORD. This was going against the command of the LORD. God sent fire out from His presence that consumed them and left them dead. You see, Nadab and Abihu should have used the fire from the altar, the fire that the LORD sent to consume the offering on the altar, the fire from His presence. Instead, Nadab and Abihu kindled their own fire. They offered earthly fire.

In our efforts to share the gospel with the lost, we need to be fueled by the fire of the Holy Spirit, not by the fire of our own flesh. For example, I go out on a weekly basis and share the gospel with people on the streets. There are a few questions that I need to ask myself regularly. Is my ministry fueled by the Holy Spirit and by the love and grace that God has shown me? Am I concerned that people are dying and going hell, and I want them to come under the same grace that God has shown me? Or, do I perform this ministry because other believers are not doing it and they should be, fueling my ministry with my fiery disgust at my brothers' and sisters' shortcomings and mistakes? If I am fueled by the latter, I am filling my censer with strange fire before the LORD. God will not accept this fleshly fire, and the person who continues with this fuel will be judged by the LORD, like Nadab and Abihu.

You see if our ministry is fueled by the mistakes and shortcomings of other Christians, we will grow bitter and resentful like the disgruntled fireman at the beginning of this chapter. Our love will grow cold, and 1 Corinthians 13 teaches us that if we don't have love, we have nothing and we are nothing. Rather our ministry of sharing our faith needs to be fueled by the Holy Spirit and by the love of God. God is crazy in love with people and finds infinite worth in one human soul. It breaks God's heart that people are going to hell. He didn't create them for that, He created them to worship Him in bliss for eternity. This same love for the lost is available to us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The power of this love can be strengthened through prayer.

I recommend regular prayer for God to purify our motives for sharing our faith. I am not saying that our motives will always be perfect. Pride and wanting recognition for our work

sometimes creep up, but recognizing these impurities, bringing them to God, and asking for more of His Holy Spirit will help to keep our hearts right for the work.

Listen to this quote by Charles Spurgeon, "Do you want arguments for soul winning? Look up to heaven, and ask yourself how sinners can ever reach those harps of gold and learn that everlasting song, unless they have someone to tell them of Jesus, who is mighty to save. But the best argument of all is to be found in the wounds of Jesus. You want to honor Him, you desire to put many crowns upon His head, and this you can best do by winning souls for Him. These are the spoils that He covets, these are the trophies for which He fights, these are the jewels that shall be His best adornment." That is precisely what having the heart of a hero for Christ is all about, a passionate love for Jesus, and a passionate love for people. Jesus is jealous for souls. If we are truly passionately in love with Jesus, we will be passionately in love with the people He loved - sinners.

Oh precious Jesus. Please work in me a heart that is passionate about the souls of men. Ignite me with the fire of your Holy Spirit and let your holy flames burn out my fears. Open my mouth and pour out Your words so that sinners will turn to You, and love you, and be safe with You for eternity. Amen.

There is another aspect of evangelism that your heart must be prepared for. Imagine a fireman getting cursed by others for trying to save lives. It sounds preposterous doesn't it? However, this is exactly what you must be prepared for when you decide to be used of God in evangelism. Anyone who is not a Christian is still under the influence of Satan's deceptive power. (Rev 12:9)

Non-Christians think that the message of the cross is foolishness (1 Cor 1:18), and some are even hostile towards this message, and those who deliver it. You may be cursed, made fun of, or worse when you share the gospel, but that does not mean that your evangelism was unsuccessful. As a matter of fact, every time you share the gospel with an unbeliever you are successful no matter how they respond.

I recommend memorizing these words of Jesus, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile you and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12 NKJV) We can even be happy about the reward we will receive in heaven when we are persecuted for our faith! Every time you share your faith you are a winner no matter how the people you are sharing with react.

Yet another aspect of evangelism that your heart must be prepared for is the fact that you will not always see the fruit of your labor. More times than not, when I am out street witnessing, I am planting seeds, not gathering a harvest. Many times I leave from sharing the gospel with a person, and cannot even tell if it affected them or not. This does not discourage me, because I know that God's Word will not return to Him void. (Isa 55:10-11)

I remember meeting a young surfer when I was in Barbados. We surfed together and had fun, and one night the Lord opened up the door for me to share sin, repentance, the gospel, and the love of Jesus with this surfer, and two of his friends. Before they left, I gave this young man a gospel tract called, "Are You Good Enough To Go To heaven?" from Living Waters. I did not know whether the message really had any influence on these guys or not.

A few months later, the young man returned to Barbados to do some more surfing. He never mentioned a thing about the tract, or thinking about Jesus. Then, one day while we were surfing together, he brought up the fact that a certain pro surfer was a Christian. I asked him if he had thought any more about Jesus since we spoke. He told me that he had. He said that when he went home he almost had a nervous breakdown. He said he felt like such a bad person and felt guilty over his sin.

He read the tract by himself when he got home and he said he cried because he knew he sinned against God. I told him how much Jesus loved him, explained the gospel again, and told him that Jesus would wipe away all his guilt and shame and pour out His love on him. He understood, but wasn't ready to give his life over to the Lord yet. He said that he just wanted to talk with his girlfriend first. I told him I understood, but that he needed to do this even if she wouldn't come to Jesus. He said he knew, and that was what he was afraid of.

With tears in his eyes, he told me not to worry, that he was going to give his heart to Jesus. Now, I might never have found out how the gospel touched this young man if he didn't return to Barbados. Maybe the same thing happened to the other two guys. God is in control. I praise Him for using me. Our job is simply to present the gospel and pray, the results are up to God.

As ministers of the gospel, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to make us brave. For our mission is great. I remember a time when I was in college and I had an old, failing Subaru Justy for a car. It was only a three cylinder car (can you believe that!) and I drove it an hour and 40 minutes every day to and from school.

One day I woke up, started the car, and knew that it was going to break down that day. I just prayed that it would get me to school. It made awful noises, but it got me all the way to school that day. After class, I prayed to God that it would just get me home. I started it up and it sounded even worse. I began to drive and got as far as the first 1/3 of the Howard Franklin Bridge in Tampa.

On my way up the hill on the bridge, I heard two noises that sounded like cannon shots. I knew the car had it, I knew it was the trusty Justy's last trip, but I didn't mind. I just wanted to get home. I took the car out of 5th gear and put it in 4th. It was still going! "Praise God," I thought, "I'm going home!" I knew there was a problem, but I didn't know the severity of the problem. Instead of listening to the radio and pulling over, just wanted to get the journey over with as comfortably as possible.

I rolled up the windows, turned the A/C on full blast, and cranked up the radio so I wouldn't have to hear the awful noises of my car engine. Not long after this, I noticed man to my left side driving two lanes away from me in his car. He was angrily waving and yelling at me to get off the road. I couldn't hear a word he was saying. I reacted with anger. I thought, "Look buddy, I know I have a problem. I just want to get home. You're alarmed with the sound and think you're giving me some big news. Quit making it worse."

Finally, turned down my radio, turned off the air conditioner, and rolled down my window only to hear the man yell, "YOUR ON FIRE! PULL OVER! PULL OVER!" I was in shock and I pulled over immediately. I quickly got out of the car, and saw that the front of my engine was ablaze.

Many people in the world know that there is something wrong with their life, something missing, but they try to get the journey over with as comfortably as possible. Others are so consumed with the pleasures of this world (like the music and the air conditioning in my car) that they are oblivious to the sin that is leading them to perish in flames. Either way, when a messenger comes to passionately warn these people about their eternal destination, some of these people get mad at the messenger, Like I did with the man who warned me about my car. They think things like, "Look, know there is something wrong but it's not that bad," or, "Leave me alone you lunatic, I'm enjoying my ride." However, we must share the gospel with people. Once the Holy Spirit convicts the person of their sin and their need for the lover of their souls, once they realize the truth, they will thank us for being brave and sticking our necks out to share with them.

Oh God, please make us ambassadors for Your kingdom. Please make us truth bearers that love the souls of men, and win them for You. Amen.

