



Acts

Amplifying Hope | November 5, 2023

Sermon: Intellectual Faith Sharing

Scripture: Acts 17

Summary: In Acts 17, Paul and Barnabas continue their partnership in mission work on their second missionary journey. At Thessalonica, Berea and then Athens, Paul reasoned with the people from the Scripture in the local synagogue, the marketplace and eventually at the Areopogus. The good news of faith in Jesus was shared first with the Jews and devout Gentiles in the local synagogue, then publically in the marketplace with those who happened to be there and eventually by invitation at the Areopagus with philosophers. Paul's approach to faith sharing was similar no matter who he was sharing with or where he was sharing but he used his knowledge to tailor the message. Because of Paul's level of education, his knowledge of Scripture and his degree of intellect, he reasoned with them from the Scriptures using what he knew about the audience to effectively share the good news of the gospel. All who follow Jesus, those who have been saved, are filled with the Holy Spirit are gifted and empowered to be His witnesses. Use the gifts you have received to bring people face to face with Jesus. In Acts 17, we see Paul using his intellectual faith sharing gifts effectively no matter the audience or the setting!

1. Intellectual Faith Sharing: Reasoning, Explaining and Proving the Good News of the Gospel from the Scriptures (Acts 17:1-9).

- **Reasoning** - to converse, discourse with one, argue, discuss
- **Explaining** - (KJV Opening) to open by dividing or drawing asunder, to open thoroughly (what had been closed)
- **Proving** - (KJV Alleging) to set forth
 - Time Consuming work of Faith Sharing
 - Rewarding work of Faith Sharing
 - Dividing work of Faith Sharing

2. Share the Word Passionately Looking for Those with Eager Hearts and Minds (*Acts 17:10-15*).

3. Be Ready to Share Your Faith Using the Scripture with Believers, Unbelievers, and Disbelievers (*Acts 17:16-34*).

- Believer - someone who believes Jesus is Savior and Lord
- Unbeliever - someone who has no belief
- Disbeliever - someone who refuses to believe Jesus is Savior and Lord

Life Application Questions

1. Visit this website and take the test! <https://www.perimeter.org/files/4394/?r=868064192>
2. Review the results of your test. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. Describe a time when someone shared their faith with you? What style(s) of faith sharing did they use? Intellectual...Invitational...Interpersonal...Confrontational... Testimonial...Serving
4. Relate a time when you used your style in sharing your faith with someone. What are some take aways that will help you and others share more confidently and effectively in the future?

5. Do you feel "prompted" to share your faith? With whom? When and Where?
6. What, if anything is holding you back from sharing your faith? What do you need (to do) in order to share your faith (with confidence)?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to lead you to people who are lost, to prepare their hearts and for the wisdom, opportunity and courage to share your faith!