

Titus Miller
**SESSION 3 | Face Your Fear and
Begin to Speak**

I. FACE YOUR FEAR

A. We all Fear

- “But evangelism is not complicated: if we wait to share our faith until our fears have completely evaporated, we will never share it.”
Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 56.

B. What Satan Wants to do in our Fears

I. To Stop Us

- “The devil is busy keeping sinners from opening their eyes, and he does so by keeping you from opening your mouth.”
Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 62.
- Romans 10:14 puts it this way: “How then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”

II. To Blind our People

- “He [the devil] knows he can prevent sight if he can simply prevent speech. And so he is laser-focused on keeping us quiet—and thereby shielding the lost from spiritual light, which streams through the beautiful, hope filled gospel he hates.”
Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 62.

- 2 Corinthians 4:4: “the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

III. To Postpone Us

- “If I’ve learned one thing as I’ve tumbled along in evangelism, it’s this: the interaction almost always goes better than I feared. Which makes me wonder, ‘might there be someone else in the equation who is scrambling, desperately, to postpone our gospel conversations until it’s too late?’ When it comes to evangelism, Satan is busier than we are...” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 60.

C. What God wants to do in our fears

I. To Encourage others - Evangelism Together

- He lists in his book several advantages of corporate evangelism — doing evangelism together.
 1. We hold one another accountable
 2. We strengthen our mutual love
 3. We learn from one another
 4. We rejoice together in success and cry together in disappointment.
 5. We bond through shared experiences in intense situations.
- “Since difficult tasks tend to become easier when we are not alone— when we can share the load with others— corporate witness is a game changer in facing down our fears. The world, our own flesh, and the devil constantly oppose us in evangelism. When we’re witnessing alongside others, the wind is at our back.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 60.
- Acts chapter 2:42-47: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles, teaching, and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread

and the prayers. And awe came up upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings, and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their numbers day by day, those who are being saved.

II. To Show His Power

- “When someone finally sees where they’re actually heading, what do they do? They freely turn and run the other direction with joy. God doesn’t make us come against our will he makes us willing to come. And here’s the liberating lesson for us: we are not in the blindfold lifting business! We cannot unblind a single mind or heart. Our job is to simply hold out Christ; God’s job is to lift the blindfold.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 64.
- “This is the antidote to fear. For people who reject the gospel are not finally rejecting us; they are rejecting God. We are just mail carriers delivering his message.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 65.

III. To Show His Nearness

- “ as comforting as it is to hear the ‘Lord is my shepherd’ (Ps. 23:1), there is an even better promise: the lamb is my shepherd (Rev. 7:17). And just before he ascended to glory, he left us with this indomitable assurance: ‘Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’ (Matt 28:20). You may be afraid in evangelism, but you will never be alone.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 67.

II. START TO SPEAK

A. Words are Necessary

- “Someone could master everything we’ve discussed—grasping the gospel, checking their context, loving the lost, facing their fear—and never actually get around to speaking. ‘Pre-evangelism’ is vital, but the prefix is there for a reason. It’s not the real thing. Indeed, if we’re not careful, we can pre-evangelize people into hell.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 70.

I once was _____ and _____, but then Jesus _____ and _____ me. Now I’m _____ and learning to be _____.

Do you have a story like that?

B. Pray

- “In the weighty endeavor of evangelism, prayer must never be an afterthought. It is not a nice accessory or optional add-on. It is central to the mission and critical to the task. We are in a war, after all. The enemy is real. The stakes are high. Eternal destinies hang in the balance.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 71.
- “Prayer is arguably the most objective measurement of our dependence upon God. Think of it this way. The things you pray about are the things you trust God to handle. The things you neglect to pray about are the things you trust you can handle on your own.” – H.B. Charles
- “People walking in darkness have no better ally than a group of believers on their knees, united in the work of pleading for the light of Christ to shine in their undying souls.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 74.

C. Seize the Opportunity

- “As you go about your day, then, be on your toes. Ask the Lord to arrange, ‘Divine appointments’—unforeseen encounters that may seem coincidental to you, but were on God’s schedule all along. Some of my

richest gospel conversations over the years have not been planned...by me. But God has a calendar of His own, and He delights to arrange encounters that stretch and strengthen our muscles of faith for the good of the lost and the glory of his name.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 77.

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D. Hope

- “ We often focus on the multi ethnic, multicultural diversity of this multitude, which is indeed glorious. But don't miss its size. There are too many persons, John says, for any mortal to count Each has a unique story. And each is present around the throne because Once Upon a time, an ordinary Christian mustered up some courage and told them about the lamb slain.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 87.
- This is the sure future. Multitudes from every tribe, nation, and tongue all gathered around the throne. And how many of them do you think were once a name, written down in a prayer meeting? Or a neighbor that someone once mustered up the courage to talk to?
- “ The most important factor is not our oratory or training or smarts, but the savior to whom we point. Let's keep the spotlight on him, and watch his grace transform hearts.” Matt Smethurst, *Before You Share Your Faith*, 86.



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