

SOME KEYS TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO AND PREACHING TO OTHERS

1) The absolute importance of Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- i) Prayer less people are powerless. We need God's help and enabling power to see our nation turn to Christ. Without Him we can do nothing. Prayer moves God's hand in our circumstances. (*Jeremiah 33:3*) (*Acts 4:23-24*) (*Acts 4:29-31*) Prayer is the key to seeing breakthroughs and miracles in our life. (*Acts 16:25-26*)**
- ii) Prayer Walking (*Joshua 1:3*)**
- iii) Pray as led by the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:26-27*)**
- iv) We need to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest (*Luke 10:2*)**
- v) Travailing in prayer – Praying in the harvest**
- vi) We need to persevere in our prayers for the lost (*Luke 18:1*)**
- vii) Praying for protection from the enemy**
- viii) Prayer covering for outreach teams (*Colossians 4:12*)**
- ix) The Lord is our example for prayer (*Luke 5:16*) (*John 17:6-26*)**

2) Some things to consider when approaching people

- i) Be led by the Holy Spirit as to who to approach**
- ii) Making a good first impression (friendly / smile)**
- iii) Don't be pushy (*Colossians 4:6*)**
- iv) Ice Breakers (help to break down any barriers)**
- v) Conversation – First the natural and then the spiritual (We need to be first GENUINELY interested in those who we are witnessing to. Wait for the Holy Spirit to direct the conversation to the sharing of our faith)**

ICE BREAKERS:

- Compliments**
- Weather**
- Child or Dog (talk about)**
- Any prayer need?**
- Invite to our church meetings**
- An open ended question such as, "what do you think happens when someone dies?"**
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our conversations**

3) Overcoming Fear (2 Timothy 1:7)

- i) Fear can pull us away from God's call (*Ephesians 2:10*)**
 - ii) We need to keep focused on what God has called us to do**
 - iii) Perfect love casts out all fear. Having an ongoing intimate relationship with the Lord helps to keep our heart full of God's compassion. Having a genuine love for people is a great key to overcoming our fear of being rejected**
 - iv) Know that when God directs us to share our faith with others He will give us the words to speak. Jesus said, "Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist." (Luke 14-15)**
 - v) The more secure we are in our relationship with the Lord, the more we are able to love people unconditionally – We must pursue wholeness in Christ**
 - vi) Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to others (*Ephesians 5:18*) (*Acts 1:8*)**
 - vii) We must never take rejection of the gospel message as being rejection of us. People are free to accept or reject the message of the gospel. Our responsibility is just to share our faith and to love people irrespective of their choices.**
 - viii) Know that all people have some insecurities and fears in life. Some are just better at putting on masks than others. A person will only ever be secure and free indeed when they make Jesus Christ truly Lord of all their life. So when we share the gospel it is GOOD NEWS for all**
- 4) WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT GOD HAS A GREAT LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND THAT IT IS HIS WILL THAT NONE SHOULD PERISH**
- "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)**

5) Some Other Practical Considerations

- i) We must prayerfully make plans as a church to outreach into our community with the gospel message. God has the best strategies to help reach our community with the love of Christ and to see people coming to Christ. Individually we need to also be prayerfully seeking the Lord as to who we need to be sharing our faith with.

Without making plans to purposely outreach into our communities and to others, we can more easily be distracted and sidetracked from effectively reaching others in our life and communities with the gospel message.

The Devil will continually try and prevent the gospel message from being made know to people. Planning helps us to be focused and efficient in the use of our time and to see others coming to Christ on a regular basis. In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)

- ii) Don't compete with each other when ministering in pairs or in a team – Where brethren dwell together in unity God commands a blessing (*Psalm 133*) When one shares the other/s can pray in the background
- iii) We need God's compassion for the lost (*Matthew 9:36*)
- iv) We need to genuinely care for people (*1 Thessalonians 2:7-8*)
- v) We need to have a genuine interest in people's lives
- vi) The more real God is in our own life (when He is truly at the centre of all that we do in life), THE EASIER IT IS TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS. When Jesus Christ is truly Lord of all and our first love, it is natural to share our faith with others with passion and compassion (*Psalm 37:4*) (*Luke 6:45*)
- vii) Be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do and say (*John 16:3*)
- viii) There is power in the use of Scriptures. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (*Romans 10:17*) (*John 8:31-32*) (*Isaiah 55:11*)
- ix) We are most anointed when we flow in our own unique gifts and calling (God has created us uniquely different) We need to be ourselves (*Romans 12:4-8*) (*Ephesians 2:10*)

- x) It is good to prepare ourselves so that we are always ready to preach the word in season and out of season (*2 Timothy 2:15*) (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*) We need to learn to share the gospel message simply and clearly, so that all that we minister to can understand the message that we preach and share
- xi) **AGAIN ALL THAT WE DO MUST BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE** (*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*)
- xii) The importance of preparing our hearts before we go out to witness to and to preach to others (Worship and prayer is a key to preparing our hearts – Praying in tongues helps to build up our spiritual strength) *Jude 20*
- xiii) We need to be careful about the company that we keep. (Psalm 1:1) To keep our fire and passion for Jesus ablaze we need people of Godly passion and vision in our lives. (*Proverbs 12:26*)
- xiv) We must continually live a disciplined thought life. We need to be always quick to dispel wrong and critical thoughts that the enemy would want to put in our mind and replace them with Godly thoughts. (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*) If we can win the battle for the mind we will always have a soft and loving heart towards others, a key TO REACHING OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST and the gospel message. In the book of Proverbs we read, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (**Proverbs 4:23**)
- xv) We need to commit each outreach to the Lord in prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to minister through us. We need to also ask for God’s will to be done in all that we do and for divine appointments. We need to also pray for God’s presence to be tangible in all of our outreaches and for unity in the team.
- xvi) Enjoy yourself when reaching out to people with the gospel message during the outreaches. The more relaxed we are, the more comfortable others will feel when we share our faith with them
- xvii) Always humbly give all the glory to God in all that we do and say
- xviii) **GOSPEL TRACTS ARE A GREAT TOOL FOR WITNESSING TO OTHERS, and**
- xix) Never forget the grace of God and from where God saved us from