

EVANGELISM: A WAY OF LIFE

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PLSAL.ORG – summarized by Danny Sherman, translated from Spanish

When thinking about sharing your faith with others, remember that you are sharing your own faith, not someone else's. Do you know Jesus Christ personally? If you can answer "Yes," sharing His gospel will be very simple. In evangelism, what matters is not what you know...but who you know.

Beyond this, it is necessary to develop a sincere love for other people. Tomorrow, if you pass by a building that is on fire and see someone who needs help and you can assist them – how will you react? Perhaps you will try to do something. But tomorrow when you are before someone who will perish eternally in hell – how will you respond? Without doubt, one of the most important motivations for evangelism is having a sincere love for others.

Another important motivation is obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. He commands us in Mark 16:15: *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every person.* If you truly want to participate in sharing the gospel, you must begin in the very place where you live. (see Acts 1:8)

So what you should share is your OWN faith, and the way to share it is WITH LOVE and IN OBEDIENCE to the Lord.

Now you find yourself in the presence of someone who probably does not know Jesus Christ... and you are thinking, "What do I do now?" There are two very important steps to take:

- Commit the time to God in prayer
- Depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you

It is so important to learn to pray to God... "Lord, what should I do? What should I say?" One must develop an attitude of prayer as expressed by Paul in Colossians 4:2-4:

Continue steadfastly in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving; praying also at the same time for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak.

By coming to God in prayer, you remind yourself of your complete dependence on Him. When you have committed the time to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit responds to your request, guiding you in all wisdom. Christ teaches in Acts 1:8 that it is impossible to be His ambassador without the help of the Holy Spirit. Paul expresses this idea also, in 2 Corinthians 3:4-6:

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God; not that we are competent in ourselves to think anything as from ourselves, but our competence comes from God, who also made us competent ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

You must commit the time to God in prayer and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you.

And after this? What will you do? Should you remember a verse you know by heart? Or do you have your spiritual manual open, striving to identify the classification of the one who will be your next evangelistic project? Or are you searching in a book, studying the methods of great evangelists, analyzing which one to use? The secret of evangelism is found in Paul's words in Philippians 2:3-4:

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more important than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Do not expect people to conform to **YOUR** way of thinking and **YOUR** interests, if first you do not demonstrate interest in **THEIR** way of thinking and **THEIR** interests.

When Christ wanted to communicate a spiritual truth to someone, He usually began by focusing on the person's current interests and needs.

The Samaritan woman came to draw water from Jacob's well, and Jesus asked for a drink of water, beginning with something already related to her activity at that moment... and then, with love and skill, without condemning her for her sin, He led her to such a point that she herself recognized her sin and wanted to believe in the Messiah. (John 4:5-26)

With Nicodemus, a learned Pharisee who had great interest in studying the kingdom of God, Jesus could begin directly with that interest. Focusing on what interested Nicodemus most, Jesus showed him his need to believe in Him.

Jesus tried to focus first on the current interests of the individual that He wanted to reach with the gospel.

THE BEST WAY TO BEGIN SHARING YOUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

IS TO **BEGIN**.

THE BEST TIME TO BEGIN

IS **NOW**.

THE ONLY MISTAKE YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT

IS THE MISTAKE OF **DELAYING**.