

# WITNESSING WITHOUT FEAR

*Learn an Exciting, Blessed New Habit*

**Jesus wants to reach the 'not yet saved' through you & me!**

Most Christians don't witness to their friends for two reasons: fear and little experience. Of course our fear makes it nearly impossible to gain much experience. So it's a challenge to begin a habit of witnessing. (The term 'witnessing' simply means you are sharing with someone that Jesus is your Savior.) It is of course normal that when we anticipate witnessing to a friend that we can get nervous, since we haven't done it before.

**HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REASON TO BE FEARFUL! BUT, THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO SPEAK ABOUT GOD!**

When we speak to someone about Jesus, we should always strive to be friendly. Confrontational witnessing is not productive; you may actually be doing harm in someone's spiritual growth. Jesus always showed a loving approach to the 'not yet saved' people that he encountered in His daily life. Jesus often shared the Gospel in a casual manner. (The term 'Gospel' means that Jesus is the Savior of the world.) You can follow Jesus' example, and then there is nothing to fear. You are showing your love for a friend, or possibly even a stranger.

Why should we speak about God? Well Jesus commanded us to be His witnesses, and invite people to love and follow Him. Our lives are very short compared to our eternal after-life. We certainly want people to spend their eternity in Heaven! The alternative, Hell, is a terrible place. If you care about your friends you will share the Gospel with them.

## THE PRINCIPLE

During a routine conversation with someone in your daily life, look for an opportunity to bring up a related Godly topic. Bring up the topic in a friendly manner and watch the person's reaction in their facial expression, and in what they say in response. If there is a neutral or positive reaction, then continue with your Godly topic proceeding toward a discussion of Jesus as your Savior (see the next section on presenting the Gospel). If at any point in your discussion the person reacts negatively, then politely drop the 'God' related topic.

**ALWAYS BE FRIENDLY AS YOU SHARE JESUS; ALWAYS BE IN PRAYER ABOUT WITNESSING.**

If you utilize this approach, then you can be fearless as you consider who to witness to next. During years of witnessing to people, friends and strangers, my wife and I have enjoyed many pleasant experiences as God has used us for His purposes. In fact we have been able to make new friends as we share about Jesus!

Prayer is absolutely crucial; witnessing is God's work and you certainly want His blessing and guidance. The key to someone accepting the message of salvation is the Holy Spirit. We can't force the Gospel on anyone. We can only present the Gospel, and it is the Holy Spirit who works in the heart of the 'not yet saved' person. By the way, if someone reacts negatively to your Godly conversation topic, do not take their reaction personally. Remember your job is simply to present the Gospel. Therefore the bottom line is that you can witness without any fear. In fact you can witness and **greatly enjoy** the experience. After you read this paper please try this principle of witnessing within 24 hours. Don't let fear rise up in your thoughts and stop you.

## THE METHOD

OK. Let's say that you are speaking with a neighbor about their children in your front yard. During the conversation their children come running by where you are standing. At that point you can say: "By the way our Church just started a new kids program on Sunday morning. They will be playing games, and there will be a Bible study. It should be a lot of fun for the kids. Do you think Joey would be interested in trying it out?" As you are speaking watch your neighbor's reaction. If the reaction is negative simply say: "I just thought that I'd mention the opportunity. Anyway, what were we saying..." But if the neighbor's reaction is neutral or positive

you can continue the Godly conversation and say: "Are you attending Church anywhere?" Of course watch their reaction. If positive invite him to come to Church with you. If positive tell him about the wonderful programs and people involved with your Church. And, if positive you can ask: "God forbid, suppose you were to die today, do you know for SURE that you will go to heaven?" If the person's reaction is positive you can say: "Can I share with you what Jesus said in the Bible about how you can know for SURE that you will go to heaven?" If positive tell him that Jesus loves him, that we are all sinners who don't deserve heaven, that Jesus died to pay for our sins, and that Jesus asks us to put our faith in Him and follow Him.

**This method of witnessing is simple: during a routine conversation with someone ask Godly oriented questions in a friendly manner. Watch the person's reaction and, if negative, just return to the previous routine conversation. If there is a neutral or positive reaction continue with the Godly oriented discussion moving from a general question, to a personal question, toward the question about heaven. You are in reality asking if the person possess the assurance of salvation.**

After you have tried this technique a few times you will become comfortable with the approach, and you will become more adept at moving toward the question of salvation. But most important is that you will always be friendly and loving toward the other person. These discussions can be **fun, exciting, and blessed!** The initial Godly question that you ask can be on many different Godly topics, depending on your routine conversation. You could ask the person about joining you at Church for a parenting class, a marriage class, a Bible study, a men's dinner, a financial seminar, a Christmas musical, an Easter play, etc. Just use your imagination.

If this person is someone that you see again (e.g. a neighbor, a family member), then your progression of Godly questions may occur over a long period of time. At work I frequently spoke with men (during work breaks) and asked these types of questions, progressing over a period of a few days or even months. If this person is someone that you will not see again (e.g. a waiter, a grocery clerk), then you have planted a Godly seed with them even if you only ask one question.

### **GOD'S PROMISE**

When you ask someone "God forbid, suppose you were to die today...", you are making it easy for them to realize that they are not saved. And, most people are intrigued by the thought that they can know for sure that they will go to heaven. So when you ask them the next question "Can I share with you what Jesus said in the Bible...", you are establishing Jesus and the Bible as your source of information and truth. This is critical because you are sharing facts from the Bible which are not just your opinion. The person you are conversing with will usually be interested in what Jesus had to say. Most people have a high regard for Jesus.

At this point you are presenting what many Christians refer to as "The 4 Spiritual Laws": God loves me; I'm a sinner and separated from God; Jesus died and paid for my sins; I repent and receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I find it very useful to actually carry a small booklet from Evangelism Explosion called "Do You Know??" It's very easy to review this booklet with an interested person, and then give them a copy to read in detail.

After presenting this material be sure to ask the person if they would like to pray with you to accept Jesus' payment for their sins and put their faith and trust in Him, following His wisdom for their life. If they say "yes", simply lead this person in that prayer. The "Do You Know??" booklet includes this prayer of salvation.

Once again let me emphasize that as your discussion progresses with this person, if you receive a negative reaction, simply end the Godly discussion and return to a previous conversation. **DO NOT CAUSE A CONFRONTATION.** It's simply not possible to argue someone into accepting Jesus as their Savior.

You can witness without fear! In fact after you have shared the Gospel with a few people you will feel **blessed!** And, God promises us that we will be rewarded for doing His work.