

PERSONAL EVANGELISM: LESSON SEVEN
YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Nobody ever gets saved by accident: somebody has prayed for that person and somebody has persuaded them. Jesus told His disciples to go out into the highways and hedges and urge people to be saved (Luke 14:23). In Acts 18:4 we read that Paul reasoned with and persuaded the Jews and Greeks, and in the next chapter (19:26) we read that Paul persuaded many people. In Acts 26:28 he almost persuades a king!

The point is that if you are going to win souls to Christ you will have to be persistent and be prepared. Use the tools God makes available to you – His Word; your prayers; and your faith.

Remember above all that soulwinning is not an intellectual exercise and people are not saved by losing an argument on their doorstep. Be confident in what you know and how to share it, but don't ever be combative. While the message is always the same the dynamics of the conversation may vary because opportunities for sharing your faith are everywhere, from talking to your neighbor or witnessing to a stranger at the supermarket or going from door-to-door with a soulwinning partner. A key in every case is to build bridges – find an effective way to engage the other person in a meaningful conversation about the Gospel.

This is why I like to make use of simple questions to get a conversation going under almost any circumstance. Questions are very useful when they form a survey as I go out and knock on doors to meet total strangers. I don't have to explain why I'm standing on a doorstep if I have a clipboard in one hand and a pen in the other and a big smile on my face.

We will look at this aspect of soulwinning in the next video, but first I want to briefly mention one more tool you should consider using – your personal testimony.

When you share your own story of how you came to be saved you can do it with enthusiasm and conviction because it is about your encounter with your Savior. If the Jesus you are talking about is seen to be alive in you, the impact on others is powerful. Moreover, people may disagree with your ideas or beliefs, but they cannot disagree about what you have experienced, and you can share details about salvation as things you learned, rather than things your audience must learn. For example, you could say that you were dissatisfied with religion because it was dead and cold – then you discovered that you did not need religion, you needed Jesus.

You should be able to tell your story in two minutes or less, and it takes a little practice to get it right. Always include the following points but don't go into too much detail and don't dwell too much on your sinful past. If your life was a mess, just say that.

- **WHAT YOU WERE LIKE BEFORE YOU GOT SAVED**
- **WHAT HAPPENED ON THE DAY YOU GOT SAVED**
- **HOW CHRIST HAS CHANGED YOUR LIFE**

You should end by saying that you are certain of your salvation because you did what God's Word said to do, and you are aware of a new life inside you that is very real to you. (If you don't know that, you should not be out soulwinning!).

And if you are challenged at the end about how you or anyone else can know for sure that you are saved and on your way to heaven, refer to the wonderful Bible story told in John chapter nine, about a man born blind. He was a simple, uneducated, blind beggar. After Jesus restored his sight the religious authorities challenged him to explain how Jesus did it.

The man's answer was that he did not know. In fact, he did not know much about anything. But he did know the most important thing: once he was blind, and now he could see! *And that is your testimony also!*