

HOW TO WITNESS EFFECTIVELY

"And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men." Mark 1:17.

Many of God's children have never known the joy of introducing a lost person to Christ. It is with a sincere desire to help such persons that these remarks are being made.

In the light of my study of the Bible and of Christian literature, it is my conviction that the following suggestions will help you to witness effectively.

1. Live close to Christ.

Unless you live close to Christ, your words will lack the essential quality of helpfulness.

Before any good surgeon performs an operation, he uses antiseptic soap, lathering his arms to his elbows. Then the nurse places a white apron on him. He wears powdered rubber gloves. He puts on a white cap, and wears a partial mask over his face. If a man is that careful when touching a human body, how much more careful ought Christians to be when touching human souls.

2. Pray much.

A prayerless worker is a powerless worker. Your possibility of success in witnessing will depend on your fellowship with God through intercessory prayer. Pray that your own heart may be right, that you may be able to speak the right words in the proper spirit, and that God's will may be done in and through you. Pray that God will lead you to the right person, that He will go before you and prepare the heart and mind of the one to whom He is leading you and that your method of approach will be right.

3. Study the Bible diligently.

Be sure that you have a clear conception of the sinner's need and of God's provision for that need. Study the lives and ministry of Christ and Paul especially.

4. Let the Holy Spirit guide you.

If you will do this, you will approach the right person in the right place at the right time and in the right manner. Illustration: Philip and the eunuch. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6). Christ said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

5. Remember that faith is essential to victory.

"All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23). Christ said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

6. Be willing to try.

It is a certainty that you will never win a soul to Christ until you try to do so. We learn to do by doing.

7. Locate your prospect.

Win the respect and affection of your prospect. As a general rule, you must win the lost person to yourself before you can ever win him to the Saviour. So, win his confidence regardless of how long it may take you. Convince him that you have a genuine and vital interest in him, and that he has much greater possibilities in and through Christ.

8. Be tactful in your approach.
Tactfulness in approach is very important. Talk with your prospect at the opportune time.
9. Talk with the individual alone.
If possible, talk with your prospect at a time when and a place where you cannot be interrupted. If a third person has to be present, he should listen and pray and not break into the conversation, even though he may think that he can witness more effectively than the one who is talking.
10. Be courteous in your manner always.
Regardless of what happens, don't lose your temper.
11. Be sympathetic.
Do not assume a "holier-than-thou" attitude. Never leave the impression that you have already attained and are on a pedestal and are therefore urging the lost person to climb up to the place where you have already arrived.
12. Do not allow your prospect to sidetrack you.
Hold him to the subject of his personal relationship to Christ.
13. Refuse to be drawn into an argument.
Controversy will always divert attention and lead one in the opposite direction from salvation.
14. Show him his need of Christ.
"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
15. Show him that he cannot save himself.
One is not saved by personal character, keeping the law or good works. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
16. Show him that Christ is the only Saviour.
There is no substitute for Him. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).
17. Teach him that he can be saved only by trusting Christ. "And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31).
"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).
18. Relate your own Christian experience.
All conversions are not alike.
19. Never try to over-persuade a person.
Christ never begged anybody to accept Him. Success in winning others does not depend on insistence as beggars, but in the ability to present Christ in a way that He will pull the heart strings. Don't substitute human persuasion for the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit.
20. Be persistent in your efforts.
No work requires as much patience and persistence as witnessing for Christ. Do not quit simply because you fail in your first attempts. Christ failed to win some. George Mueller of Bristol, England, prayed and worked for the salvation of two men

for more than sixty years. One of them was saved when Mueller was on his deathbed and the other was saved after Mueller had died.

21. Depend upon the Holy Spirit.

Christ said the Holy Spirit would come into the world to convict men of their sin. By the help of the Holy Spirit show the sinner that he must receive Christ into his own trusting, believing soul, if he expects to be saved.