

COMMISSIONED Prt 6

As we draw to the close of our series on commissioned, we are going to take some time to equip ourselves on how to be that witness that God has called you to be. Many people know what they should do but they don't know how to do it. In that regard, I would like to talk to you on the subject matter:

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

1. Use your testimony to share your faith

Your personal testimony is the most powerful tool in witnessing to your faith in Christ.

A testimony is a public affirmation of an experience. If you have had a genuine experience of Jesus Christ, you should be willing to give testimony of it.

- People can argue with you concerning many things, but they cannot argue with you regarding your testimony, "Once I was blind, but now I see"
- John 9:25 *He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."*

2. How to prepare your testimony

- You should write out your testimony in a succinct form.
- You should practice sharing your testimony in 10 minutes or less. (this is part of preparation - making provision before time).
- What to include in your testimony?
 - Your life apart from Christ (do not glorify the life of sin).
 - What brought you to a point of decision for Christ.
 - The changes in your life since receiving Christ.
 - Your experience of water baptism and the baptism of the Spirit.
 - The challenge of separating from the old life.
 - The importance of your identification with the local church and other believers.

3. Use the "Roman Road" as a foundation to share your faith

- Several key passages in Romans are often referred to as the "Roman Road." The truth contained in these verses can assist you in sharing your faith with others.

a) Romans 3:23 *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*

Truth Contained:

1. All people on earth are sinners.
2. Sin separates us from God and keeps us from fulfilling our destiny.

b) Romans 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death...*

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Truth Contained:

1. The penalty for sin is death.
 2. The death that is referred to is both physical and spiritual.
 3. Eternal death is separation from God.
- c) Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Truth Contained:

1. God sent love upon us in spite of our sinful condition.
2. Because of God's great love for us, He provided a plan for our condition.
3. God in His holiness could not simply ignore our sin.
4. God sent Jesus to pay our debt and die in our place.

d) Romans 6:23b *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Truth Contained:

1. Christ died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin. He became our sinless substitute.
2. Because of what Christ did, God offers to us a free gift of eternal life.
3. In order to receive that gift we must reach out and accept the gift.

e) Romans 10:9-10 *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Romans 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Truth Contained:

1. When Christ died on the cross He made it possible for us to receive the forgiveness of sins.
2. This gift of salvation is given to those who acknowledge their sin, call on the name of the Lord Jesus and accept him as their Savior and Lord.

4. How to encourage people toward an actual "decision" for Christ?

- While not everyone will be ready for this step, there will be some people that are ready to make a decision for Christ.

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- When you discern that they are ready you can walk them through some basic steps based on the above scriptures. Ask and, if necessary, briefly discuss the following questions before you pray.
 - Do you realize that you are a sinner (3:23)?
 - Do you realize that Jesus died on the cross for your sin (Rom. 5:8)?
 - Are you willing to repent of and turn away from your sins (Acts 17:30)?
 - Are you willing to receive Christ into your life as the Lord of your life (John 1:12)?
 - Do you understand what that means?
 - Are you willing to come under the authority of the Word of God? Do you have a Bible? Have you ever read the Bible?
 - Are you willing to begin a new lifestyle under the direction of God's Word?
 - Are you willing to do it now (II Cor. 6:2)?

5. How can I lead people in the “sinner’s prayer”?

Many people who come to this point do not really know how to pray or they do not really know what to say in this kind of prayer. By assisting them in praying you can help them be more specific with God.

a) Have them repeat a prayer along these lines:

Dear Lord,

Today I realize that I am truly a sinner. I realize that my sins have separated me from God. I call upon You as the only One that can save me. I thank You that You love me and that You sent your Son to die in my place on the cross. I repent of all my sins and all of those things that have separated me from You. I am willing to put away my sinful ways and live the way that You have designed for me to live. I acknowledge You as the Lord of the universe and the Lord of my life. I believe that Christ died for me and rose again from the dead. I want to live a life that pleases You in every way. Help me to know what to do. Help me to do what I know is right to do. Thank You for saving my soul.

b) Ask them to pray to God additionally in their own words.

- As they pray listen to what they say because it might help you to discern their understanding of what they are actually doing.

6) What to do with those who have received Christ into their lives

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- Praise the Lord with them for their new found salvation. Help them to understand that this experience is based on faith in Jesus Christ and in what the Word of God says not on their feelings.
- Talk to them about the importance of water baptism to seal the work that they have just begun and to assist them in overcoming sin in their life.
- Make sure that they have a Bible and encourage them to read the Gospel of John over the next couple of days. Ask them to take notes on what they feel that God is saying to them as they read. Let them know that you will be calling them.
- Talk to them about prayer and communing with God.
- Talk to them about the importance of gathering with other believers for support and encouragement.
- Warn them that Satan and even their relatives and friends may try to talk them out of what they just experienced.

7) How to follow-up on them in the days following

- Call them the next day to find out how things are going. Check to see if they are reading the Gospel of John. Pray with them every time you talk to them.
- Invite them to your cell group meeting
- Call them on Saturday night to remind them about the service on Sunday. Invite them to lunch following the Sunday service. All of these things are going to help them change the patterns of their life.
- Talk to them about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let them know that any time they are ready to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit you are ready to assist them.

8) How should I encourage them in the longer term?

- Stress the importance of fellowship with other believers.
- Introduce them to other believers with whom you feel they may have an affinity.
- Assist them in being able to attend activities for their age or lifestyle group.
- Encourage them to find an area to serve God.

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