

LIGHT UP YOUR WORLD
Stories for Easier Evangelism (Part 1)
“Evangelism: Admonitions and Instructions”

INTRO: Few find evangelism (having a spiritual conversation about the “good news” of Christ) easy (maybe those with the spiritual gift). What is it that makes evangelism so difficult? Why is it so nerve-racking? Think for a moment . . . Lots of reasons: fears, ignorance, lack of concern, etc. I’ll deal with later. A disclaimer about the series: Hearing (and trying) will not make evangelism easy; nothing can do that – too much is at stake, but these lessons can make it easier to “Light Up Your World.” I do pray these lessons will make it slightly less difficult. God’s Word addresses the subject (habit) of evangelism with both Admonitions (*What* we should do) and with Instructions (*How* we should do it).

I. ADMONITIONS (The What) ON EVANGELISM

A. C. S. Lewis . . . The COMMAND by Jesus (Matt. 28:16-20). Context (vv. 16-17) . . . He tells us why we exist. Our mission is to partner with Him in the process of introducing people to Christ. We are His ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:20).

1. *Process* includes: burden, prayer, sensitivity, conversations, believing, discipling. Paul addressed in 1 Cor. 3:5-9. Process includes “going” (vv. 18-19), “teaching . . .”, “baptizing them . . .”
2. *Product* is to “make disciples” (a command), literally, “keep on making as you’re going about life.” More than getting them to make a decision, but a commitment to be followers of Jesus. That’s the “teaching” element. This is an imperative to every Christian, not a suggestion. Jesus said years earlier (Matt. 5:13-16).
3. *Promise* (v. 20) – His continuing presence. How so? Sending Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us – not alone (Jn. 16:7-11).

B. Jesus’ Admonition Echoed (Lk. 14:15-24; Lk. 15 parables) – Dr. Luke (Acts 1:8) and he joined the process on Paul’s Journey. Paul (Phil. 2:15), Peter (1 Pet. 3:15).

II. INSTRUCTIONS (The How) FOR EVANGELISM (Col. 4:2-6)

Verses 2-4 are on prayer; Verses 5-6 are about evangelism (spiritual conversations). Both are needed. In *prayer* we talk to God about people. In *evangelism* we talk to people about God. They go together. You can start with either.

A. Three prayers mentioned (vv. 2-4). The opening command set the stage: “continue steadfastly in prayer” (v 2). Be constantly in prayerful posture, always sensitive to Spirit’s leadership.

1. Pray for *Opportunities* (open doors). Watch for God to open doors. “I’m scared!” So am I! That’s why next . . .
 2. Pray for *Boldness* to seize opportunity. “I’m still scared!” Me too! Afraid I’ll mess it up. That’s why next . . .
 3. Pray for *Clarity* as you enter this spiritual conversation. Let’s stop and pray as Paul instructs. I’ll lead in prayer . . . When God opens the door and you boldly enter it, and share with clarity, next here’s how to engage in the spiritual conversation (vv. 5-6).
- B. Engage in Spiritual Conversation. “How?” in order Paul explains how . . .
1. Seek and walk in Wisdom (v. 5a) – ask for sensitivity, seize the moment.
 2. “Make the most of (seize) the opportunity” (v. 5b) – He doesn’t say make the opportunity (God’s job), but make *the MOST* of the opportunity – so liberating. To make the most of the opportunity is to help in the best possible way. Be curious. Ask questions . . . talk less, listen well.
 3. Engage carefully (vv. 5-6). – Paul provides clear instructions about our:
 - (1) Walk - Demonstrate grace (v. 5). Evangelism isn’t just about saying certain things, it’s also about being a certain kind of person. Communicate with heart (Lk. 4:22). If we want them to love Jesus, then we must love like Jesus. Our motive is not to win the battle or to prove we are right, but to love them. Be real, be honest. Paul said “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) about honesty, not perfection.
 - (2) Talk - Provide answers as best you can to their personal questions with honesty and sincerity. How over what. Also 1 Pet. 3:15. Doesn’t say you must teach a lesson. Just engage in a loving spiritual conversation, esp. being able to answer for how your decision to follow Christ has changed and is changing your life. Here’s your assignment “My Christ Story” Be Authentic, Intentional, Concise, Write it out . . .

CONC: Will Houghton said, “Our only excuse for living is to be a witness.” Jesus tells us to let His light and love shine through us to a lost world. So, go and “Light Up Your World.”