

## Readiness to Witness- Before the Conversation

### Part 2-FAQ's

Because there are so many aspects to this subject, I will make a list of a few frequently asked questions (FAQ's), and I plan to do this for future subjects to there won't be pages and pages of reading material.

1. Question: So I understand that a person needs to love God and people before he/she can witness but what if I am a Christian and know that there is something that I need to change in my life and I just don't feel like I'm ready. Can I not share the gospel just yet?

Answer: The short answer to this is be quick to restore your relationship with Christ. This doesn't mean before a ministry or a spiritual duty but for your own sake. Your problem is not readiness for ministry but your problem is your relationship with Christ and this is most important. However, because of your sin your relationship with God has weakened and God cannot use you. This is also dangerous for two reasons. First, you are going against the will of God and second, the people around you who need to hear the gospel are not hearing it. "Well, there are others who God can send too" you might say, but the truth of the matter is that God wants to use you. In Acts chapter 10, the gospel is preached to a man named Cornelius. Because I really want you to know this passage I will ask a few question from you.

#### **Questions 6-7. Acts 10:1-23**

6. Before Peter came to Cornelius, who appeared to him saying that the gospel will be preached?

7. What vision did Cornelius see?

When the **angel came to Cornelius the angel didn't even preach the gospel. Why? Because God wanted Peter to do this.** Therefore, God was preparing Peter because Cornelius was not a Jew. You see, just like Peter, God wants to use His people to spread the Gospel message. God could have chosen someone else if Peter would have rejected God's call, but would that have pleased God? No. And we see that Peter responded and preached the message of hope. Last verse for you on this. Matthew 5:23-25. *"Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."* Notice how Jesus says that if you remember something that you did against your brother, go and ask for forgiveness but then come back and continue with your service to God.

2. Question: I am a Christian, but I just don't think evangelism is my calling. Isn't witnessing a gift that some people have and others don't?

Answer: So for this question I want to ask all of us 2 questions

**Questions 8-9.** Acts 8:1-4

8. Who were the scattered people from verse 1?

9. Who went and evangelized in verse 4?

You see, God calls all of His people to go and share the gospel. This doesn't necessary mean that everyone must go overseas and be a fulltime missionary. Something like this is a calling to individual people **but talking about Jesus is not a calling just for some. It's a must for all believers.** If Christians don't talk about Jesus when they are in social gatherings such as birthday parties, family gatherings, and spending time with friends, what are they talking about? It is our duty and privilege to talk about Jesus! Actually, this course will focus mainly on talking about Jesus in our daily life. Also, this is the calling of the church. If it's not us Christians who will tell the world about Jesus, who will it be? Should we rely on professors, politicians, doctors, or news anchors to spread the gospel? Unless they are Christians, they can't lead people to Christ, and it's only the Church of Jesus that can do this. Finally, if we talk about a gift, we will not find a gift of talking to people about Christ. Why? Again, because it is the duty and privilege of every single Christian.

3. Question: So, I am a Christian and I know I need to witness but should I grow spiritually before I talk with people? I just think I need to study the Bible more and be stronger in my beliefs.

Answer: I do agree that one must grow spiritually before they do more for God. In other words, before we can do more for God, we must be ready and spiritually mature. My question however, is what does it mean to grow spiritually? Again, just like in the first part of this topic, I want to point out that the goal is to grow closer and closer to Jesus. This is what it means to "grow spiritually". This is a whole subject on its own but a few things I want to mention on spiritual growth. First, it includes reading the Bible ( 1-Peter 2:2). Reading the Bible not for the purpose of getting lots of knowledge to be able to use this knowledge, but reading the Bible to become closer to Jesus. Something important I want to point out here. Witnessing is not an intellectual battle, it is a spiritual battle. We don't go out and shoot intellectual bullets in hopes of winning souls. **Although knowledge is important, knowledge of God on a personal level is most important.** In my

practice one of the most effective people who have witnessed were not always the most knowledgeable in the Bible but always those who had a passion for God. We will discuss more about this on our Answering Questions section. Another important aspect of spiritual growth is prayer (Phil. 4:6-7, 1 John 1:3). Prayer, or talking with God, is so important in our Christian life. **We must first learn to talk to Jesus before we can talk to others about Jesus.** I remember when I was engaged with Jessika, my wife now, and we were living in different states at the time. I was in school and she was working and I remember how I would do everything just to slip away from class for a few minutes just to talk to her and hear her voice. Isn't that what we should strive for as Christians? When we love someone we want to talk with them and share things with them. Prayer is an indicator that we love Jesus. If you have a desire to witness but don't know how, have you shared this with Jesus? I remember how I would ask Jesus every single day for a whole year to give me wisdom on how to witness. And I really saw how Christ was answering my prayer! The last point I want to make about spiritual growth is that witnessing is actually something that will help us grow spiritually. Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6: 15 writes *"and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;"*. In this passage the Apostle writes about the spiritual armor that we must have for us to be ready for spiritual battle. One of the spiritual armors is shoes for the feet. Imagine a warrior going to battle without shoes. This is a very difficult task to do especially if there are rocks, or extreme weather conditions. A soldier might not go very far without shoes. **God calls us to witness so that we can grow spiritually!** I have seen this in my life too. Whenever I talk to people about God, I have such a joy in my heart that I cannot contain. It is hard to explain how this happens, but I can truly say that witnessing helps me become closer to God.