



## **Taking the Initiative to Share Christ**

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

And when I came to you, brethren, I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God

#### **1. Take the initiative**

“And when I came to you, brethren...”

A. Take the initiative by living contagiously

Matthew 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

B. Take the initiative by praying proactively

Colossians 4:2-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*; <sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; <sup>4</sup> that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.<sup>5</sup> Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

### C. Take the initiative by befriending lovingly

1 Thessalonians 2:8

Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

### D. Take the initiative by transitioning the conversation faithfully

Romans 10:13-14

<sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”<sup>14</sup> But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

- 1) Can I pray for you?
- 2) Do you think much about spiritual things?
- 3) In light of all that’s going on in the world, do you think a relationship with God is important in a person’s life?
- 4) If you could know God personally would you be interested?
- 5) If God were real and you could know Him, would you like to know how?
- 6) Have I ever shared with you my own journey with Jesus?
- 7) On a scale of 1-100, what percentage of certainty do you have that you will go to heaven when you die? Would you like to be 100% certain?

## E. Take the initiative by speaking positively

1 Thessalonians 2:11-13

<sup>11</sup> just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children, <sup>12</sup> so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

## 2. To share the message of Jesus

“<sup>2</sup> For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified...”

### A. The gospel of Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

### B. The King Jesus gospel of the kingdom

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

### C. Share your story of coming to know Jesus

### D. Share the “Cross the line” gospel

There is God

There is humanity

There is the line of separation=sin

There is Jesus: Son of God, died for our sins, rose from the dead, the only way to God

We must cross the line through Jesus

We cross the line through repentance, faith, receiving Christ

### 3. In the power of the Spirit

“I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom, proclaiming to you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. <sup>3</sup>I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”

A. It is the work of the Spirit in us

1 Thessalonians 1:5

<sup>5</sup>for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

Acts 17:2-4

. <sup>2</sup>And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” <sup>4</sup>And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women.

B. Ask God for Holy Spirit power to be Christ’s witness

Luke 11:13

<sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

Acts 1:8

but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

#### **4. Leave the results with God**

“...so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God”