

### ***THE PURPOSE OF SHARING THE GOSPEL***

Just as someone shared the good news, the gospel of Jesus Christ with you, God wants you to share it with others. Matthew 10:8 *Jesus said. "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."* God commands you to share the gospel because of His great love for all men, and His desire to have them in His family. Romans 5:8 *"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"*. His reason for creating man and woman was to have sons and daughters to love and to have with Him for eternity.

### ***THE RESULTS OF NOT SHARING THE GOSPEL***

Unfortunately, not everyone will choose to be in Gods family. Those who reject Christ as Saviour and Lord will spend eternity in hell, separated from God's presence and glory. 2 Thessalonians 1:9 *"They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power."* For their sakes we need to share with them the way of escape from this terrible future condemnation John 3:17-19. *"Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and rose from the grave for this very reason: to seek and to save those which were lost."* Luke 19:10. This is the good news!

### ***PRACTICAL STEPS IN SHARING THE GOSPEL***

We can learn many things from the ministry of Philip, the evangelist. Acts 8:26-40. The first thing that we can see is his willing obedience to the Spirit of God (vs. 2-29). Philip received a tremendous response to the gospel in Samaria, but left it behind because of God's leading (vs. 5-8). He was taken from the comforts of the city of Samaria to a steaming desert in Gaza. We also need to be sensitive to God's leading when witnessing to people.

We also notice that Philip was called to speak to one man, an Ethiopian eunuch and court official (vs 27). Philip loved preaching the gospel and ministering to peoples' spiritual needs, whether it meant speaking to the multitudes (v6) or to an individual (vs 27). The love of God, not the love for fame or success should similarly motivate all of our witnessing. The fact that this converted eunuch spread the Christian faith throughout his own land demonstrates to us that we never know what just one contact will eventually produce in ministry for Christ!

Notice too, that Philip spoke to a man who had been prepared by God (vs. 30-31) before Philip talked to him. He was actually seeking for the knowledge of God. Philip came to assist him and point him to the way in Christ. God asks of you the same thing: seek out those who are already hungry and thirsty and lead them to Christ. If people are not hungry, do not push them. It means that they have not allowed God to prepare their heart for salvation.

Philip used the Scriptures (vs. 2-35) to present Jesus Christ to this court official. Philip knew that God's Word was the most powerful means of witnessing and so did not try to appeal to his high position or to intellectual arguments. God's words, not ours, are eternal and weighty. Only they can bring lasting results.

Finally, Philip led the man to a solid decision for Christ (vs. 37). Philip did not push the man into a premature decision or forced baptism. You must remember that believing with all one's heart, and accepting the Lordship of Jesus, will manifest itself in the new convert being willing to be baptized in water.

If you will utilize these principles in witnessing, you will find a successful ministry in leading others to Christ.

### ***THE MESSAGE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL***

In presenting Christ to others, you must simply but completely cover the essentials. Study and memorise these points along with a verse from the Bible for each point. You should write out those points with their Scripture references and give them to the new Christian to keep or give them a gospel tract to study that includes all of these points, such as "Two ways to live"

1. God has a real love for you John 3:16; *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Romans 5:8 *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* He also has a great plan for your life. Jeremiah 1:5. *"Before I formed you in the womb I new you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*
2. All men have sinned against God. Romans 3:23 *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Because of sin we have been separated from God. Ephesians 2:12 *"Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. Because of sin, all men are living in spiritual death."* Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
3. Jesus Christ is God's only answer for man's sin. Acts 4:12 *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* Only through Him can you experience God's love and plan for your life. John 14:6 *"Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*
4. You must personally repent Mark 1:15 *"The time has come", he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"* Ask God for forgiveness of your sins. I John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from an unrighteousness."* Receive Jesus Christ as your saviour and Lord. Revelation 3:20 *"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."* John 1:12 *"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* Commit yourself to total obedience to Him. Then you can have and experience God's love and plan for your life. Then you will be saved from hell .

***"I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before men will be disowned before God"***  
**Luke 12:8-9.**

### **OUR OBLIGATION**

We are obligated to share the gospel. Not only are we obligated to share the gospel because we want to be acknowledged before God, but because we are surrounded by people going to Hell. There is no return, no escaping, no purgatory (paying off the penalty of sin), No way out of Hell once someone is there. Someone of great wisdom once said, "If a man were to experience one minute of Hell, he would spend his life time trying to prevent others from sharing in the same experience." It is not our obligation to "get people saved"; that's a job only God, through His Holy Spirit can do. We are commanded to, *"Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation"*. Mark 16:16. Born again Christians such as yourself are sometimes all that stands between the lost and eternal torment. If we don't tell them, who will?

When Jesus left this earth, He left us with an enormous task, one too big for any one man or any one organisation. That's why he gave us His Holy Spirit, to empower us to be bold witnesses. Hebrews 13:6 *"So we say with confidence, the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"* When you reach out in faith to the lost you need not fear what they will say or do because God is with you.

Write out and memorise Luke 12:8-9

1. What is required before people can call upon the Lord? Romans 10:13-17.
2. Do I have an obligation to preach the Gospel? 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. Why?
3. What should I ask God for as I witness for Jesus? Colossians 4:3. & Acts 4:29.
4. What helps my credibility when I witness? Matthew 5:16
5. To whom will I probably first witness? Mark 5:19
6. What do these verses tell you about what you should include in your witness to others?
  - a. Romans 3:23.
  - b. Romans 6:23.
  - c. Romans 5:8.
  - d. John 1:12.
7. Read John 4:7-26. Write down the verses that show:
  - a. That Jesus talked to the woman about a meaningful subject.
  - b. That He guided the conversation to the gospel.
  - c. That He caused her to admit her sin
  - d. That He was able to help her.
8. Read the following verses and show what response you could have to the following objections to salvation through repentance and Jesus Christ?

- a. "I've done lots of good works!" Ephesians 2:8,9
- b. "All religions lead to the same place!" John 14:6.
- c. "I have never done anything wrong!" John 3:3
- d. "I'll be a Christian later in life after I've enjoyed myself a bit." 2 Corinthians 6:2.& James 4:14.

9. What is the essence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

10. Why should I continue to boldly share the gospel to others? Romans 1:16

What is the most important truth you have learned from this lesson?

Name some people in your life that you may have opportunities to share the gospel with and start praying for them.

Write down any questions or comments you may have about any area you would like to discuss.