

Sharing Your Faith – Master Class

"Having Conversations..."

- There's another Master Class on "MAKING DISCIPLES," which is the **Great Commission**:
 - "Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." [Matt 28:19-20a]
- But how can one make disciples if they don't first evangelize; if they don't first [redacted] unto all nations, all places and SHARE IT?
- Evangelism is simply [redacted] [redacted] [redacted], so that others might also believe the TRUTH, which is that salvation has come, and is only by trusting in Jesus Christ, which He freely offers today to all.
- So, a true DISCIPLE **EVANGELIZES**. (GO...all nations – *share your faith*)
- One who has been EVANGELIZED is **DISCIPLED**. (*make disciples*)

CHRISTIANITY has two sides: **EVANGELISM** and **DISCIPLESHIP**

- Evangelism: **Heads** → Discipleship: Tails
- Evangelism: **Reaching** → Discipleship: Teaching
- Evangelism: **Spiritual Birth** → Discipleship: Spiritual Growth
- Evangelism: **Conversion** → Discipleship: Transformation
- Evangelism: **Life Eternal** → Discipleship: Life Overflowing
- Evangelism: **New Life** → Discipleship: Thriving life
- Evangelism: [redacted] → Discipleship: [redacted]
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- Sharing your faith is about [redacted] [redacted] !
 - Are you having conversations?

IT STARTS WITH:

- **OUR [redacted]:** [the Lord Jesus Himself said that He "NEEDS to go thru Samaria" -- John 4:4]
 - is Who is at work concerning SALVATION, in the FIELD of mankind. One plants, another waters, but God brings the growth for harvest.
 - is the Farmer, and we are His workers in the field
 - Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me..." Mat 6:37
 - Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." Mat 6:44

- **OUR [redacted]:** ["...we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal thru us..." – 2Cor 5:18-20]
 - is assigned by God to *share your faith*
 - of making disciples / followers of Jesus Christ, [redacted] with "sharing our faith."
 - is to be a living ambassador for Christ [2Cor 5:20]
 - is to be an everyday missionary [1Cor 3:7]
 - "One plants, another waters, but God causes it to grow" [1Cor 3:7]
 - Sharing your faith is just one step in a multi-step process!

- **OUR [redacted]:** ["Now those who were scattered went around PROCLAIMING the good news of the Word." -- Acts 8:4]
 - is to go to be present in all the places God has scattered you.
 - Where has God scattered/sent you? [Cities, states, communities, neighborhoods, white collar, blue collar, schools, children's sports teams]
 - Is to be intentional about what you go around doing? Are you [redacted] to SHARE the Good News of Jesus Christ?

- **OUR [redacted]:** ["...always ready to...give an account for the hope that is in you." -- 1Pet 3:15; Acts 3:8-10]
 - is being EXCITED enough about our own salvation, that we're **excited to share it** with others!
 - If you're not excited, you're not going to be exciting!
 - "All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized that he was the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. So, they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him." (Acts 3:8-10)

- **OUR [redacted]:** ["pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ." -- Col 4:3b; Acts 14:27]
 - Is to PRAY weekly or daily, asking God to put three to five people on your heart who need Him.
 - Is to then, start praying for God to soften the "soil" of their hearts, so you can **plant into** (influence) their lives.
 - Is to pray for an open door!

I. WHO DO WE BELIEVE – *It takes FAITH to SHARE your faith...*

- So, let's begin with learning what **FAITH** is:
 - Faith is **BELIEVING WHAT WAS** [Romans 4:3]
 - Ok, then, what was said?? → [Rom 10:17](#)
 - "...faith comes *from hearing*, and hearing by the Word of Christ" (NASB)
 - "...faith comes *from what is heard*, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ" (CSB)
 - Faith is not believing what you hope! This is the world's definition they call "stepping out on blind faith." This is not the Christian's definition.
 - Faith has to have a subject or **modifier**, which points to a **Person...**to what a Person **said /**
- The opposite of fear is faith. The opposite of faith is doubt, which leads to fear. So, we don't *SHARE OUR FAITH* because we don't believe the Word of God → which tells us to be His witnesses (*Acts 1:8*).

Many of us therefore, don't share our faith because

- a) We FEAR (don't believe) that people will be receptive – *fear of rejection*:
 - There will always be rejection! So, get used to it.
 - But often, we have the WRONG EXPECTATION that the person we're sharing our faith with are always gonna say right then and there, "YES, I believe!"
 - This is not usually the outcome
 - b) We doubt (don't believe) that the time is short. (*Rom 13:11*)
 - c) We doubt (don't believe) Jesus, Who said that the field is really in full bloom, ready to harvest (*John 4:35-38*)
 - d) We don't understand the process of planting and harvesting
- We must ask ourselves, are we trusting God enough to 'share our faith' when the opportune time shows itself?
 - So, **WHO** do you believe?
 - Be like Abraham → [Genesis 15:6](#); [Romans 4:3, 19-21](#)
 - Do you believe God, that the time is short??
 - Do you believe that Jesus Christ is Who He said He is, and demonstrated Himself to be!
 - Then share your faith, with bold **!**

II. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE – Know the BASICS Tenants of the Faith...

- Do you know what you believe?
 - Salvation is a GIFT from God to man. Because man can never make up for his SIN (our ACTIONS, our NONE-ACTIONS, our WORDS, even our SINFUL THOUGHTS) by doing good works, because the WAGES of any and all sin is DEATH! BUT, accepting and trusting JESUS CHRIST'S death, burial and resurrection as a SUBSTITUTE for our sins is the ONLY WAY man can be saved from sin's penalty (eternal death). Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. [Rom 6:23, Eph 2:8-9, John 14:6, John 1:12, Titus 3:5, Gal 3:26, Rom 5:1, John 10:29, II Tim 1:12, Heb 7:25, Heb 10:10-14, I Pet 1:3-5]

- Can you say what you believe in a simpler way??
 - I believe that Jesus Christ is who He said He is, and demonstrated Himself to be – the Son of God, Who came and took on our deserving death as a sinner, that we might take on His eternal life and holiness with Him in Heaven forever.
 - I believe that all humankind are sinners and cannot deliver themselves, but all have the need to be saved, which is only through Jesus Christ, and that the alternative to Heaven with Jesus is a Christless eternity, what the Bible calls Hell.
 - I believe that Heaven is for perfect people, not good people...and that mankind is sinful by nature. In order to change that nature, he/she must be born again, spiritually, for God is spirit. Spiritual birth is only possible thru faith in Jesus Christ, the God in the flesh.
 - John 3:16 – 18
 - 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. (Rom 10:9-10) ...For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (Luk 6:45b)
 - Roman Road – Romans 5:12, 1:16, 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 10, 13

- Another style:
 - God created us for a relationship with Him (Gen 1:26)
 - But, we sinned, separating ourselves from God, the Source of all life. The absence of life is death. (Rom 3:23; 6:23)
 - Thankfully, God made a way for us to know Him and RECONNECT to Him, by sending His only Son, Jesus, to save the world by dying on a cross and rising from the grave. (John 3:16; Rom 5:8-9)
 - And once we believe in Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, we receive eternal life. (Rom 10:9-10)
 - This new birth is from imperishable seed – the living and enduring Word of God (1Pet 1:23)

- Do you have other ways to say it?

- Like, any good doctor, the person must "first" see the problem – the **true prognosis** of their life and eternity
 - Do you feel that? Have you noticed the symptoms of sin [*wrong thoughts, bad actions, regretful reactions...*]
 - You have spiritual cancer, an incurable disease.
 - You're dying...you need help. You need a miracle
 - But there is Good News! There is help only in Jesus Christ!

THE SALVATION PROCESS:

- 1) THE **PROBLEM** WITH SIN -- Everyone is GUILTY of sinning...and sin's punishment is DEATH. (Romans 3:23)
 - 1) Have you ever committed ONE sin in your life?
 - **ADMIT IT!** [Admit that you are a sinner!]

- 2) JESUS CHRIST IS THE **ANSWER**. (John 3:16)
 - 1) "For God so Loved the World that he gave His only Begotten Son, that whoever Believes in Him should not perish but have Everlasting Life."
 - **ACCEPT IT!** [God took on human form, lived a perfect life and died in our place, offering us life and blood as a sinless and perfect sacrifice, and taking on the punishment that we deserve, thus offering us a divine pardon.] (Rom 5:8)

- 3) **TURN TO** JESUS CHRIST AND BELIEVE IN HIM. (John 1:12)
 - 1) "To all who RECEIVE Him, to those who BELIEVE in His Name, He gave the right to become Children of God."
 - **TRUST HIM!** [Become a child of God by trusting and receiving Jesus Christ]
 - If you say (it) with your mouth Jesus is Lord and *believe* in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

- 4) ATTEND A GOOD BIBLE CHURCH, BE BAPTIZED, and LIVE NEW SPIRIT-FILLED LIVES!
 ...as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives."
 - **GROW IN HIM!** (Romans 6:4)

 Simply said:

- **ADMIT** you have sinned. (Romans 3:23)
- **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave. (John 3:16)
- **COMMIT** your life to living for Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:4)

 The Bible clearly and consistently states that receiving Jesus Christ as Savior, by grace through faith, grants salvation:

- John 1:12; 3:16, 18, 36
- Acts 16:31
- Romans 10:9-10,13
- Ephesians 2:8-9