



Part 3 – Sharing our Savior

Remain in Christ

A connection with Christ is essential for helping us share our faith. We cannot share what we do not have. Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Our purpose on earth as Christians, to be Christ’s witnesses, stems from our connection with Jesus. So, in order to grow in our ability to confidently share our Savior with others, we need to remain connected to him. And we do that by remaining in the Word. Ask yourself, “What will have to change in my attitude, my priorities, and my schedule to become a better student of God’s Word?”

Prepare

Growing spiritually through the power of the Word is fundamental for sharing our faith. Careful preparation is also very important. The apostle Peter wrote: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). The gospel is the means that God uses to work faith in the hearts of people. Our preparation helps us to speak it clearly and completely so that the power of the gospel can accomplish God’s saving purpose.

Attitude

A Christian attitude has a lot to do with sharing our faith. As we hear and study God’s Word, our hearts and lives are impacted by the joy of knowing Jesus as our Savior. Our love for Jesus shows in the way we conduct ourselves. When our faith in the resurrected Lord is visible in our lives, we draw attention to Jesus and the importance of knowing him as Savior and Lord.

God’s Word Works

Our unbelieving friends will not come to faith in Jesus by observing our Christian lives. Faith comes by hearing the message of Christ, the Scriptures teach. People need to hear the gospel. Therefore, a big part of our preparation for witnessing will be to concentrate on the content of our testimony. We share a message of God’s justice and his love—both law and gospel. We must speak the law because it is God’s message to show that none of us can save ourselves from the punishment we deserve as sinners. We gladly tell the good news of Jesus, proclaiming how he saved us from sin’s punishment and that through faith in him God gives us the free gift of eternal life.

Take time to think through what you want to communicate about Jesus. Write out an outline or several paragraphs that you can study and learn. Consider what Christ has done for our salvation: He *lived a perfect life* for us under God's law. He *died for us* to pay the debt of everyone's sin. He *rose from the dead* to prove and proclaim his victory for us. Let people see Jesus and the vital truth that he is the world's Savior!

The Apostles' Creed serves very well to explain the main truths of the Christian faith: God is the all—powerful Creator and Preserver of everything (First Article). God's eternal Son, Jesus Christ, in great love came to rescue us from eternal death which we deserve as sinners (Second Article). God the Holy Spirit has given believers the sure hope of heaven and helps them through daily struggles until they get there (Third Article).

Personal Point of View

Carefully thinking through the content of what we want to say and practicing it will help us overcome some of our nervousness about witnessing. It's also good to remember that sharing our Savior is more natural and less confrontational when we speak from a personal point of view. As Christians in this world, we can tell people what wondrous things God has done for us. Through his powerful Word, he brought us to faith in Jesus and keeps us in the saving faith. We can tell about the peace that we have in God's forgiveness of sins, the assurance of his promises, and the security of his abiding presence in our lives. And we can tell our friends, and everyone else too, that God's good news of salvation in Jesus is also for them!

We can explain what it means for us to trust Jesus when we hurt, face setbacks, or even when life is going well. It is important to remember, though, that the center of attention is not on us; it is Christ. As we describe our life of faith in Jesus, we point directly to the love and power of the Lord who accomplished all for us. Our conversation focuses on Jesus and the salvation he accomplished by his life, death, and resurrection. We relate how our faith in him and our hope of eternal life because of him give us comfort and strength each day.

Trust God's Promises

In whatever manner you share your faith, do it confidently by placing your trust in the Lord's promises. Jesus said, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). We are not alone in the mission of sharing our faith. Jesus is with us, and he is the one to whom "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given" (Matthew 28:18). His powerful presence helps and encourages us as we share the message of his salvation.

As you prepare to share the Savior with those people you know, remember the love that Jesus has for them, too. He loves and cares for them even more than you do. He paid the tremendous price of his blood to redeem their souls. He has a passion for them to be connected to him by faith, and like branches joined to the vine, he wants to give them spiritual life. He desires to have them as members of his eternal kingdom and longs to have them live with him in heaven.

God promises, “My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11). He will use our witness, however simple or inadequate it may seem, and make it serve the purpose that he intends. Trusting God’s promises, we know that God will bless our preparation for witnessing and help us to share the message of salvation through Jesus.