

WEEK 1

Developing a Real Desire to Share Jesus

Did you have an opportunity (chance) to share your faith, but did not? Write down some of the reasons why you did not. Place a check before each reason that, you believe, is a good one.

Then circle each one which you could change in God's power.

It is possible to lead others to faith in Christ. We need to be ourselves as Christians. We need to be the kind of Christians that God can use. God has called us to be a witness . . .

By the way we live.

By the way we do toward others.

By the choices we make.

By our decision to live for Jesus no matter what it will cost us.

God also calls every Christian to do something for lost people.

Lost people need to know how they can have a spiritual birth. Every Christian can lead lost people to Jesus. Jesus through the Holy Spirit will give them a new or spiritual birth.

Share Jesus without Fear will show you how. It will help you not to fail in your witness for Jesus. It will change your life. You will learn something. Success is more than just leading someone to Jesus. Success is living the Christian life every day. Success is sharing the gospel or good news with lost people. Success is trusting God for the results. Success is not bringing someone to Christ.

This study will give you a list of questions. These questions will help you. They can help you know what people think about Jesus. The questions can help you see how God works in a lost person's life. They can help you know if that person is ready for God to save him or her. The person's answers may lead to a change of life forever. The Bible will guide you in this witness. That person may be ready to listen. If so, God's power will work in his life. God will take help him understand what he does not know. God will turn his doubt into faith. God will turn what that person argues into the answers for him.

Witnessing as a Christian is normal. The Bible does not say that witnessing is limited to only few people. It tells that witnessing is to be a part of each Christian's daily life. God is at work all around you. He gives you opportunities for witnessing. He wants you to obey him. He expects you to act on these moments. He depends on you to do His work. A recent study shows that many of us do not witness to the lost people. The reason for that is that we are afraid. There are four (4) big fears (see Week Three, Day Three for more details on our fears):

Fear of people not accepting you..

Fear of not knowing enough.

Fear of making a friend or family member angry.

Fear of having others making fun of you.

God gives the opportunity with the promise of His power. Yet we say, "No." We say, "No," because we make excuses or give reasons for our fear. To say "No" to God for any reason is sin. There is a first thing for us to do in our Christian witnessing. We need a change of heart. We must choose to obey God. "But make sure in your hearts that Christ is Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect" (1 Peter 3:15, NIRV).

People argue about which wound done to Jesus really killed him. Jesus received many kinds of wounds. There is a feeling that none of them killed Jesus. What really killed him was silence (being quiet). No one spoke up for Him. One of the pains that hurt Jesus was that Peter said that he did not know Jesus. Different persons asked Peter three times if he was the one who followed Jesus. Three times he said, "No." I have said that in my own heart. I have heard others say the same thing. All of us have said, "I would never do that to Jesus."

Most of us can remember the times we chose to be quiet. We could tell others about Jesus. We are like Peter. We chose to be silent. Maybe Peter thought it would be better not to put his life in danger. So he kept quiet and said, "No! I don't know Jesus." Many of us do the same thing. We do not want people to hurt us, make fun of us, or talk about us. So we choose to be quiet or silent.

There is another kind of sin of silence. We witness just enough to make us feel better. Or we do it to show that we did our part. We tell the people that we love the Lord. We tell people that we will pray for them. We may place a Christian sticker on our car bumper. We must admit that we don't share enough information with lost people. We don't allow the Holy Spirit to change their hearts. We fail to tell our friends that they can go from dark sin into God's wonderful light (see 1 Peter 2:9). We need to share our faith. If we don't, our friends will never understand the gospel. They will never have a chance to let the Holy Spirit help them believe.

There is a wonderful story. A young boy picked up starfish from a beach. He threw them one at a time back into the ocean. A man said, "Son, look down that way." The boy saw that there were very many starfish on the beach. The man said, "You can't expect to throw all of them back. It doesn't make any difference. No matter how many you throw back, there will be more left. The boy picked up a starfish. He threw it back into the sea. He said, "Well, I sure made a difference for that one."

It is the same with a lost person. One person's life can change every time you share the gospel. This should make you stop and think! It is possible for God to change a history in a person's life through you. There is the proof of truth. Remember that you were lost in sin. Someone shared the gospel with you. God changed your life forever. It is the same with a lost friend. That friend's life depends on knowing the truth.

We must not forget what will happen to people who do not choose to live for Christ. Many of them know what the Bible teaches about life that lasts always (or forever). They try to find the middle ground. I once lived like that. We call it the "lie of the middle." I believed that I was not that bad. I believed that I was in the middle. I felt that I was going to heaven. That was a lie. Here is the truth. Either you follow Christ or Satan. Either you are with Jesus or against Him. Either you are born again or not. Either you are God's child or God's enemy. Either you are building up God's angry or His mercy. Either you are going to heaven or hell.

No one is in the "middle." No one is "almost there." God already judges people for their sins when they choose to turn away from Christ. See John 3:18.

We must stop believing the lie. The lie is that God will look the other way when lost people stand in front of Him. We must stop believing that people will go to heaven without Jesus.

There are two kinds of people in our churches:

- * Those who talk about lost people.
- * Those who talk to lost people.

The big worry is not which of these two kinds of people you are. The big worry is which people you will choose to become. That is after you learn how to share Jesus with others. Will you continue to talk about lost people? Or will you really talk to lost people about Jesus?

There are five (5) important things to help you not to be afraid: (1) a deep interest in lost people, (2) prayer, (3) working with God, (4) power, and (5) preparing for God's work.

Look at the first week of study. You will understand how 5 things can help you. They will help you to be sure of yourself. They will give you a desire to witness for Christ without fear. During week two, you learn to use simple questions. You will use these questions to lead a person to faith in Christ. You will learn to let the Bible give the answers. You will see that it is important to be quiet and to pray while the Holy Spirit speaks to a lost person.

In week three, you will learn five (5) closing questions. They come with important verses. You will use them to guide the person to receive Christ in his life. You will learn to stand up to your fears and not to be afraid. You will understand that obeying Christ is possible. You will find that Christ will be with you, give you His power, and fill you with His joy.

Remember that you can't fail if you are faithful. God will work in the life of a lost person. He will use you to guide that person to Christ. He will use you as a part of His work. Always remember that the Bible will give you the answers. The Holy Spirit will give you His power.

Day 1

Very Strong Feeling

It was early spring. I attended a worship service. I felt the hope of the new season. But hope did not just come from everywhere in the town where we lived. The pastor received a letter from a woman. The woman did not live far from the church. She asked for prayer and help for her family. Her husband was in drugs. He was about to go to jail. The problem became worse. A social agency got in touch with the family. They were going to take the children away from the home. The woman needed help badly. So the pastor read the letter during the worship service.

One day the pastor went to the address on the letter. He found the family at home. He led the husband and the wife to Christ. They gave their lives to Christ.

Later the man and his wife stood in the baptistry during a worship service. A baptistry is where a church pastor baptizes new believers. The pastor talked about the letter. That letter led him to this man and his wife. He asked the woman, "How did you happen to write our church?" She answered, "I did not just write your church. I wrote all the churches in the community (place where we live and work). You were the only one who answered."

God wants every Christian to have a deep love for lost people. It is really good to have a deep love for witnessing. But it is far more than just wanting very much to witness for Christ. It has to have a purpose. It is love for God and for people. Love is what leads us to witness. The pastor's love for God led him to have a deep love for people. The pastor's love for the man and his wife helped give them hope. They found their hope in Jesus.

Sometimes we have a simple question or statement about our own faith. It helps hold a loose string in a lost person's heart. A caring person can heal a broken heart. He can show hope. He can bring salvation to a person lost without Jesus. It does not mean that he can save a lost person. Rather, it means he can bring the message of salvation. He can lead a person to Jesus who can save him.

Several years ago I started asking Christians to think. I asked them how many times they heard the gospel. That was before they came to trust in Jesus as Savior. I found that the average Christian heard the gospel 7.6 times. The average Christian gave himself to Christ after the seventh (7th) time. So on the average the lost person received Jesus as Savior and Lord after the 7th touch. You may not know this. You may stand next to the person. You don't know if someone never told him about Jesus at all. You don't even know if someone told him one or six times. It does not matter. Success comes from obeying God. Remember this. You might not win that person to Jesus. You may be one of God's touches in the lost person's life. A lost person may receive the gospel from someone. That someone shares the gospel with him. He may hear a pastor's sermon during a worship service. God uses two of many ways to reach a lost person. Who knows that you may be the one to lead the lost person to God? Or you may be one of seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) knock to his or her heart's door. You may be the first touch. You may be number 7 or even 10 or 30 for some people.

There is more than just making up one's mind to witness for Jesus. A deep interest in people is more like love. In Jesus we see a strong feeling for people. He opened the way of salvation for people. For Him it even meant death on a cross. So Jesus wants us to share His love for lost people. He says to us, "The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you" (John 20:21, NIRV).

We find some books in the Christian bookstores. They tell about the right purpose and dream. The churches need the right purpose and dream to do God's work on earth. We find a clear example in the book of Acts. The book of Acts gives a picture of a church in action. The church shared with people what Jesus came to do. Jesus came to bring peace between God and sinners. This was Jesus' mission.

Apostle Paul opened his heart and mind to us. He told us in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 what was on his heart. Paul was willing to do anything. He would gladly become "a slave to everyone." He wanted to share His love for Christ. He wanted the lost people to know Christ. This does not mean that he would make weak the truth and the right. A person can do the same without making weak Bible truths. Paul kept the purpose in front of him. he said, "I have become all things to all people so that in all possible ways I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22b, NIRV).

Now look deeply in your own heart and mind. The Holy Spirit lives in you. He puts in your heart a desire to share Jesus with others. Take time to admit that to God. Tell Him that you want to be a part of His plan. Let him know that you are willing to be a servant. Ask Him to help you experience Him in deeper ways. Most Christians want to have a deep and full life with God. Spiritual growth comes as you join God in His work. You do your part to make His purposes come true in your life. Being brave to share Jesus helps you have a deep life with God. Trust Him. Admit to Him that you sin and fail to obey Him. Tell Him that you desire to trust and please Him. Then God will give you power to share Jesus with others.

The deep interest or love you should have has nothing to do with fanaticism. Fanaticism means letting one's own beliefs do something. It makes him go too far beyond reason. You do not need to try hard to force Jesus on a lost person. Just obey Paul's words. He says, "Let the words you speak always be full of grace" (Colossians 4:6, NIRV). In Romans 12:11 Paul tells us: "Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord" (Romans 12:11, NIRV). Remember Solomon's words: "It isn't good to get all stirred up without knowledge" (Proverbs, NIRV). You must base your interest or love on obeying God's purpose.

**** Think about the persons who led you to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. Write down their names. Do this while you look at the following questions.**

Where would you be without them? Did they love both God and you? Did they obey God's command to witness? What would your life be like without Jesus? Can you remember what they shared with you?

There is an important difference between the two. One is loving to reach lost people. The other is loving lost people. A person who loves only the act of witnessing will soon lose interest. S/he moves on to do something else. It happens if s/he does not come to love people as Jesus did.

The Bible lets us see that many things came to Jesus. They took his time and effort. Yet he kept his heart and mind on people. "At sunset, people brought to Jesus all who were sick. He placed his hands on each one and healed them" in Capernaum (Luke 4:40, NIRV). The people wanted him to continue his healing work in their town. Jesus refused to stay there. "But he said, 'I must announce the good news of God's kingdom to the other towns also. That is why I was sent'" (Luke 4:43, NIRV). He never kept his mind away from His real purpose. Luke 4:44 tells: "And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea" (Luke 4:44, NIRV). His real purpose was to tell how lost people could be saved. Even His wonderful healing work took a second place in His plan. His first work was to keep lost people from dying in sin. He wanted them to know the way to have life that lasts forever.

There is a reason for us to witness to lost people. Jesus commanded us. The church's first mission is to open the way for every lost person to hear the gospel. You can give the greatest honor to anyone. You honor that person when you tell him or her about Jesus Christ. There are clear reasons for you to accept your duty to share Jesus.

Read Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus gives this order to every Christian. "Then Jesus came to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you to the very end'"

Witnessing is not something that is up to a Christian. A Christian, who really loves God, will want to obey and to be faithful to God. Witnessing is not a choice for him or her. Jesus commands him or her to do what He asks.

The right words for "go" in Matthew 28:19 are: "as you are going." "As you are going, make disciples." "As you are going, baptize new believers." "As you are going, teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." Jesus has made a promise to you. He will always be with you. Witnessing is a part of your reply to Jesus when an opportunity comes up.

When you are very close to Jesus, you will have a growing desire to tell others about Him. Being close to Him helps you to develop opportunities for sharing Him with others. Witnessing does not really require more time from your busy schedule. It requires you to think more about sharing Jesus.

Jesus commands us to go to lost people. He tells us to do our three big duties:

- (1) Give attention to the needs of lost people.
- (2) Obey Him and share your faith in Jesus.
- (3) Help them find a church where they can grow in the Lord.

A deep interest in or love for people can push a person to witness. Christians know that people are lost in sin. This knowledge helps Christians decide whether or not they will try to witness. Christians do not decide each time they have an opportunity. The decision is already done. The decision is not "Should I try to meet or reply to this lost person. Rather, it becomes, "How am I going to meet or reply to this person who is lost?"

**** Have you put off sharing your faith even though you wanted to be a witness? Yes No**

Write down the short reasons you put off sharing Jesus with lost persons.

Paul wrote a letter to Philemon. "I pray that you will be active in sharing what you believe. Then you will completely understand every good thing we have in Christ" (Philemon verse 6, NIRV). Paul knew that Philemon would grow close to Jesus while Philemon shared his faith. Witnessing always helps a Christian have a deep or strong faith. When you obey, God reaches lost people through you. God also changes your life. He brings you close to Him. Write down the names of persons that need to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These are the persons you want to lead to Jesus.

Day 2

Prayer

Prayer is very important in developing a heart for witnessing. Prayer makes the difference. The Holy Spirit works. The things that prevent come down. God's kind hand guides you. You have opportunities for obeying and sharing.

Witnessing does not require hard training. It does not require you to have college or seminary learning. It is God's work. Prayer connects you with God's great power. With God's power, your personal witness becomes a special practice rather than a set of special rules. Some people for some reasons believe that it is very hard to become a Christian. It is not true. You need to remember how little you knew when you first believed.

Sometimes a witness puts a lot of value on the need for one witnessing method. It does not require a very high talent. Witnessing from the heart is more important. It is more important than any method. The power through prayer helps prepare the witness for a success.

Deep daily prayer prepares you for anything that comes up. I was in a recent worship service. I gave the invitation for people to come forward. I told the people to pray for lost loved ones. Many were in small groups crying and praying. I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to the front of the church. There I noticed a man, Phil, standing alone. I asked him if he attended church every Sunday. He said, "No." I said to him, "Do you know the Lord?" He answered, "Known Him all my life."

Phil said he knew the Lord all his life. Yet he could not look me in the eye. He could not tell me that he was born again. I asked him if he was saved. He said that he was not saved but wanted to be. I asked, "Who brought this morning?" He told me that he came with his brother and sister-in-law. He and I found our way back to the altar. I noticed his sister-in-law in a group praying. I came up behind her. I heard her praying for her brother-in-law to be saved.

Phil's life changed that morning. God's power was there. The sister-in-law felt God's power. Her life changed, too.

Prayer is the first way for you to be close to God. When you pray, you put yourself into God's power. You develop a heart that pleases God. Prayer develops the inside life of a Christian. Prayer puts you in a close connection with God. Without it you are mostly talking *about* Him. With it you are talking *with* Him. It is very important to be close with God through prayer. It helps to develop a deep feeling for people. You will find God's heart through prayer. Discovering it will change your life.

Prayer makes your connection with Jesus deep and strong. Spiritual growth depends on a prayer connection with God. This regular prayer life helps Christians to witness to lost people. Without a strong prayer life, Christians will have a hard time. You can become busy doing spiritual things. As a result, you can fail in making a deep spiritual life with God. Are you doing "church" acts or meeting people's spiritual needs?

**** Make a list of Christian actions. Write down, too, how you handle these actions with prayer.**

"The harvest is huge. But there are only a few workers. So ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37-38, NIRV).

One church put apart each week's prayer meeting to pray for lost people. They continued these meetings for several weeks. One church member said he was going to say a different prayer. He said, "We don't need to pray for all the lost people. God knows who and where they are. He went on to say that praying for lost people is not enough. It does not do any good to pray for the lost if that's all we do. He was going to start praying as Jesus asked him to pray. He prayed for more workers in the field.

It is important to pray for lost people by name. But be very careful that you don't just pray for lost people. God needs people to go and take the good news to the lost. Pray for God to touch your own heart. Ask Him to make you care for lost people.

I served as a pastor in a farming town. God gave me an experience. It changed my prayer life from that time on. I answered a telephone one afternoon. I knew a farmer by his voice. His voice told me that he was worried. The farmer saw dark clouds moving toward his farm. The weather man did not say anything about rain. The farmer had many acres of newly-cut hay. The hay lay all over the field. It waited to be taken to the barns. A farmer was afraid that the rain would spoil the hay and make it not useful.

The farmer told me his son was in a truck going to town. Workers and others met at a corner in one place. They waited for farmers who needed short-time workers. Trucks usually came by early in the morning. The farmers chose the number of workers they needed for the day. They loaded the workers and took them to the fields. It happened to be in the afternoon that a farmer called a pastor. He was afraid that the workers already gave up and went home.

I will never forget the sound of the faithful Christian farmer's voice. He asked me, "Please pray that there will be workers at the corner. And enough workers to help me get my hay up before it rains."

The prayer favor was not for the hay in his fields. The hay was not going anywhere. He did not ask for prayer so that the rain would not come. He hoped to find enough workers. He depended on them to do what needed to be done.

Many times I pray for lost people. Often I remember the farmer's voice asking God for enough workers. At the same time I also hear Jesus' voice. He asks us to pray for people willing to go to lost people. He asks them to tell lost people how to be saved.

"The prayer of a godly person is powerful. It makes things happen" (James 5:16, NIRV).

Day 3

Working Together

Working together is a third way to have a heart for sharing Jesus. Cooperating with Jesus requires a Christian to trust and obey Him. You must really do your part. Many Christians just watch others do the work of sharing Jesus. They think highly of those who do it. It takes more than just getting others' respect.

It means I have to offer my life.

I must find myself deeper in Christ's life,

in His teachings,

in His moral rules,

in His dying and raising to life,

in everything He has said and done.

It means I have to share more

in peoples' lives.

I do not stand and watch to see how it goes.

I am to be there where it is happening.

From the past times God promises to be with us and to work with us. God told Joshua, "I will be with you, just as I was with Moses, I will never leave you. I will never desert you. . . . Be strong and brave. Do not be terrified. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go" (Joshua 1:5 and 9, NIRV).

Sharing Jesus is as important as Joshua's work was. There is no better work for Christians. Christians help lost people know the truth. They tell lost people that Jesus died on the cross for their sins.

Jesus has promised that the Holy Spirit will always be with us. The Holy Spirit is our paraclete. "Paraclete" is a Greek word. It means "One who is a helper. One who will never leave you." The Holy Spirit is there to keep God's promise. He is there to give you His power. He is there to help you do the things He asks. "But what I'm about to tell you is true. It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Friend will not come to help you. When he comes, he will prove that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment" (John 16:7-8, NIRV).

You can't expect someone else to do the things God has asked from you. You may think that another person can do the work better. But you are the one God has asked. You may feel like Moses. Moses felt that he could not do it. God brought Aaron his brother to work together with him. God did not excuse Moses from his duty. Moses had to work with Aaron. Both Moses and Aaron worked together. They depended on each other. They were there together. They did what God expected them to do. To work together means to be brave and faithful together. It means carrying out a duty. It, also, means that you can depend on another person to work with you. The other person depends on you to do it, too.

Working together means you are not doing the work alone. You have another person to help you. Working together means that two or more persons agree on a plan to work together.

In the Bible we see the connection between God and His witness. God found Gideon under an oak tree. God called him to free Israel from Midian. See Judges 6:11-14. Gideon told God that he was not the person for that job. Gideon said, "But, how can I possibly save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh. And I'm the least important member of my family" (Judges 6:15, NIRV). God heard all kinds of excuses before. Gideon looked for different proofs that God would help him and give him power to do it. We find that Gideon, not God, was going through a test.

Gideon had 32,000 soldiers with him. Gideon was ready to go to war and to save Israel. Before he did, God left him with 300 soldiers (Judges 7:1-8). Gideon had to trust God and to depend on Him for help. Gideon was able to finish what God told him to do.

God asked Moses to go to Pharaoh in Egypt. Moses was to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses was the one to make God's message known (Exodus 3:10). Moses gave some excuses why he should not go and tell God's message to Pharaoh. Today we are giving the same reasons or excuses for not sharing Jesus with lost people.

First, he told God that he did not have the position to meet a powerful Pharaoh. See Exodus 3:11-12. Today Christians may say, "A pastor or preacher is the best person to go to my lost neighbor. The preacher already got some training. People respect him. They will believe him." Moses gave his excuses to cover up his real reason.

Second, Moses told God that the people had no way to know that Moses was speaking for God. Moses is like many of us today. Moses said that he did not know God enough to make the people believe. Today Christians might say, "I don't know the Bible enough to explain to a lost person. Somebody should go to a lost person. He knows more than I do."

Third, Moses told God that the people would not believe his story. See Exodus 4:1-9). Today Christians may say, "A lost person will not see any reason in my life to believe my story. Someone else is a better witness than me."

Fourth, Moses told God that he was not a good speaker. He could not talk easy. He could not say the right things. See Exodus 4:10-12. Today Christians might say something like that. "I don't do a good job talking to the people about Jesus or the Bible. I might say the wrong things."

Then Moses shows the heart of most Christians today when God calls Christians to share Jesus. Moses said, "Lord, please send someone else to do it" (Exodus 4:13, NIRV). Christians say the same words that Moses used many, many years ago. Christians have a deep fear in their hearts. This fear will not bring honor to God. It will hurt Christians.

Christians like Moses do not see God's promise. In Exodus 3:12, "Now go. I will help you speak. I will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:12, NIRV). God called Aaron, Moses' brother, to go with him. Moses and Aaron worked together to speak to the world's most powerful Egyptian king. What God did to Moses is still true today. God wants Christians to work together with Him. God is with those who trust and obey Him and who share Jesus with lost people.

In Acts 1:8 we read that Jesus calls every Christian. He calls Christians to work together with Him. God chooses to work with Christians for many important things. Sharing Jesus with others is one of the best things that Christians can do.

There are things a Christian can do that will last a long time. He has to do them with Jesus. Jesus says, "You can't do anything without me" (John 15:5, NIRV). The same is true with what Paul says, "I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13, NIRV).

Day 4

Power

We find the answer for power in Acts 1:7-8 (NIRV). "He said to them, 'You should not be concerned about times or dates. The Father has set them by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.'"

Jesus promises the power for a special purpose: "You will be my witnesses." Do you have a hard time sharing Jesus with others? Acts 1:7-8 may help you get over with your fear. There are two things to know. First, you need to obey God. Second, God will provide the power when you obey Him. You will find success in bringing someone to Christ. Not only that, you will find success in living the daily Christian life. You will find yourself sharing the gospel and trusting God for the results.

In all you do, you can take the power of a higher love. You know what Christ has done: "No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends" (John 15:13, NIRV). Paul wrote about this power. He said, "I want to know Christ better. I want to know the power that raised him from the dead" (Philippians 3:10, NIRV). You have that power, because Christ is alive in you. God's power is stronger than death. This power can help you get over with your fear. It will open the way for you to be strong in sharing Jesus with lost people. It is God's desire that Christians share the gospel. You must ask God to free you from depending on yourself or your talents. You must depend on God's power. Jesus tells us that there are many possible things we can do in His power and love. See John 14:11-13.

Be happy that you have God's power. You can't fail, if you are faithful to God. God has asked you to do what He wants. The Holy Spirit will be with you as you share Jesus with others. You never need to fear that He will not be with you. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came with power. He poured Himself into believers. Since that time much attention has been on receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter witnessed to the Jews in Jerusalem. He said, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38, NIRV).

The Holy Spirit will give success in all that you do for Christ. The Holy Spirit proves "that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment" (John 16:8, NIRV). It is wonderful to see the Holy Spirit at work. He will cause some persons to show interest. The hard questions you fear will not remain important. Working with God will help the power to grow. You will feel the Holy Spirit work through you. The Holy Spirit guides the lost person to ask the right questions. He helps that person find the right answers. He helps the lost person to make a decision. Your fear to witness is turned into joy. You see what God will do when a common Christian is doing his part. God will give His power according to the need. Remember that God will not give you any work without providing you His help. You can't feel His power ahead of time. You must trust that God will keep His word.

God calls you to do different things. One of them is sharing Jesus. You must believe that you can't do it by your own power. You must depend on God to be there to provide the power. God says to Zechariah, "Your strength will not get my temple rebuilt. Your power will not do it either" (Zechariah 4:6, NIRV). Jesus talked with a woman who came to the well. She came there to satisfy her thirst. Jesus showed Himself to her as the Messiah. The woman ran to her town. She said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Christ?" (John 4:29, NIRV). We see two parts in what she had said to the people in town. The first part shows what she knew. She said, "A man who told me everything I've ever done." We see the second part in her question. She asked the town people, "Could this be the Christ?" The woman was very honest in what she had said. She was very sure about things that happened. In her experience with Jesus there was only one thing left. It was her question. She wanted to know if Jesus was the Christ. What she had said changed the lives of lost people. It happened not because of the method she had used. It happened through the power of love for her Lord and for others.

Day 5

Preparing

I left my office one Wednesday evening. I drove home on a dark and winding road. I came around a corner. There were several police cars in front of me. There was a Flight for Life helicopter. A car ran into a tree. The driver was a 19-year old man. The people had to cut the car parts to get the driver out of the car. The EMS workers put IV in his arms. EMS means Emergency Medical Service. I looked into the circle of EMS workers. God spoke to me. I pushed my way through the crowd. I put my knees down on the ground. I was close to him. I found that he could not speak. I asked him to let me know if he could hear me. He made a groan (a low and long sound of suffering). I knew I had only seconds before they took him away. I said, "If you can say 'yes' from your heart to these 5 questions, God will enter your life today." Then I asked:

"Are you a sinner?" He showed "yes" with a groan.

"Do you want forgiveness for your sins?" He showed "yes."

"Do you believe that Jesus died for you and rose again?" Another show of "yes."

Do you want Jesus Christ to come into your life and into your heart. And at last the 5th groan. This young man was in a very bad condition. But he accepted Christ at that time.

He died the next day.

I know this fact. The young man said "yes" to Jesus from his heart. If true, he is a young man walking the streets of gold today. He is saying, "Wow! This was close." I was very happy. I prepared myself to share the simple gospel with him. You will as you learn to share Jesus without fear.

Learning to witness does not mean that you will have no fear. It does mean getting yourself ready to take advantage of opportunities. You have chances to share Jesus with those who have no hope for salvation. Witnessing without fear means not letting fears take control of you. Fears keep you from obeying God. You must look away from things. They cause you to be afraid. You must look to the Holy Spirit for power. You can say with Paul:

"I didn't come with fancy words or great wisdom. I preached to you the truth about God's love. I made up my mind to pay attention to only one thing while I was with you. That one thing was Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. When I came to you, I was weak and afraid and trembling all over. I didn't preach my message with clever and compelling words. As I preached, the Holy Spirit showed his power. That was so you would believe not because of human wisdom but because of God's power" (1 Corinthians 2:1-5, NIRV).

Have faith in God and His Word. You can have success without fear. You will not be afraid to fail. You discover a heart for lost people. You really prepare yourself with prayer. You work together with God. When you do these things, the Holy Spirit will provide the power.

**** Take a few minutes. Picture in your mind the faces of family, friends at work, and people living close to you. Write down the names. Or describe them. Show "yes" or "no" if each is a Christian.**

_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Continue this study. You will learn a comfortable way to discover their spiritual needs. You, also, will learn a better way to share your faith. Ask God to put a load on your heart for lost people. Pray that He will guide you to be ready for opportunities.

Peter wrote, "Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it" (1 Peter 3:15, NIRV).

God will never force you to obey Him. Things will come up to keep you back. God will open the way for you to witness. Satan is not someone you can beat in your own power. You must "let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power" (Ephesians 6:10, NIRV).

Satan wants you to keep quiet. He does not want you to work with God in a lost person's life. Satan wants you to have a fear of making mistakes. You don't have to fear what may go wrong. Do what you can to guide someone to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is your part to obey God. Fear may not be about the lost person him/herself. Fear may be more about your not feeling comfortable. Failing is not possible when you are faithful. Remember that success is living the Christian life. Success is sharing the gospel. Success is trusting God for the results. Success happens the moment you obey God to go and to share.

Satan has his own limits. What he is doing is not enough to cause your witness to fail. John wrote, "The One who is in you is more powerful than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4, NIRV). The Holy Spirit is more powerful than Satan. The Holy Spirit lives in you.

God's people must know what kind of a person Satan is. They must know what Satan's plan is. They must know what it means to go against Satan. They must know how important it is to deal with Satan. Satan is very smart. He does things to keep you from doing anything for God. He does not want God to get the honor. He does not want God to have the advantage. We must understand the enemy (Satan). He does his best to prevent us from witnessing. He wants us to believe that lost people have good reasons not to listen to us. Learning to witness is not about improving your talents. It is not about using the right methods. Learning to witness is really more about learning to trust and obey God. Witnessing is not about measuring success by results. It is really more about obeying God.

I flew from Denver to Newark, New Jersey. I was busy with some reading until just before we landed. A woman sat next to me. She, too was reading. She closed her book. I asked her, "Is this the end of your travel today?" She answered, "Yes." I asked her, "What do you do for a living?" She answered that she was an engineer for a large company. I said, "That's great." Then I asked her one of the best questions. The question was to lead her think about Christian things. It was "Do you go to church anywhere?"

This simple question often helps to know what the answers might be. One answer I get is something like this. "My third cousin in Nebraska is a pastor." He or she can never remember the name of the church where he serves. A popular answer is "I go to the big white church where I live." But he or she can't remember the name of the church or the pastor.

This woman said quickly, "Yes, I'm a Coptic Catholic." I knew enough about this. She went to a church that accepts some teachings from the Greek Orthodox Church and some from Roman Catholic Church. I never asked the next question before. It was "How does a Coptic Catholic become saved?" The plane was moving toward the airport gate for two minutes. She said, "I wish someone would tell me how I could be saved?"

I experienced an opportunity to witness to a person. God prepared her heart to hear the gospel. It was clear that she was open to God working in her heart. But we had only seconds before we reached the gate. I could not see how I would have the time to do what God wanted. Suddenly the pilot came on the speaker system. He said, "Sorry, ladies and gentlemen, we can't go to the gate right now. There is a plane at our gate. It will be about 10 minutes."

I found my feeling stirred up. It seemed like God reached down and stopped everything. The woman wanted to hear. I was not afraid to share.

I realized later that it was easy for me to forget who is in control. God, not I, is in control. Not just a happening. God is at work in the hearts of people everywhere. I can not fail if I will not be silent. This delay may lead others to be unhappy. I was happy to have the advantage. I was able to lead the woman to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of her life.

We can turn any talk into an opportunity to share the gospel. It does not require you to put aside two hours each week to witness. You reach people as you go through life. You must be ready to obey God when opportunities come to you to share.

As a Christian, you should be ready to give a personal story. You tell a lost person how you became a Christian. You describe it in three (3) minutes. First, you tell in 1 minute what your life was like before you met Christ. Second, you tell in 1 minute how you became a Christian. Third, you tell in 1 minute how different your life in Christ became.

**** Write down your own story. It is important that it is easy for you to share it with others. Stop now. Spend the time to think about what Christ has done in your life. Tell it in a clear and simple way.**

A loving desire to share Jesus is the way to go. A desire to prove a lost person wrong is a very bad way to witness. Don't do it!

Always live your faith. Not only a lost person hears what you say, he watches how you live. "Live so that you don't have to feel you've done anything wrong. Some people may say evil things about your good conduct as believers in Christ. If they do, they will be put to shame for speaking like that about you" (1 Peter 3:16, NIRV). Your Christian life supports what you say about Jesus. It is very hard for a lost person to believe what a Christian (who does not follow Jesus' teachings) says. Such a Christian will turn away the lost person from Jesus.

There are three (3) steps or ways to share your faith or to guide a lost person to Jesus. The first (1st) step is a set of five questions. The questions will help you discover the other person's spiritual condition. The second (2nd) step gives a set of Bible verses to ask the lost person to read. The third (3rd) step is a set of five questions that give the short truths of the verses. These questions lead the lost person to make an important decision. In the next two weeks you will give strength to your connection with Christ. This strength comes when you follow the simple steps or ways.

Week 2

Learning a Way to Share Jesus

This week you will learn two of three steps to share your faith. Through these steps you will let God work in a lost person's heart.

In the first step you will learn five (5) questions. These questions will help you discover a person's spiritual condition. These are only guides. We should not use them for arguing deep religious truths.

In the second step you will learn seven (7) Bible verses. You use them to share your faith. You will start with Romans 3:23 and end with Revelation 3:20. You will ask the lost person to read and speak the verses. After each verse you will ask that person, "What does this verse mean to you?" Then you wait for the Holy Spirit to do His work in that person's heart.

In the third step you will find five (5) questions again. The questions will give short truths of the verses. They will lead the person to the last question. The last question is "Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and life?"

Following these steps will help you stay away from arguing or defending. Arguing and defending do not help in your witness. It is good for you to know two important facts:

This method makes witnessing very simple.

You cannot really fail. Why?

**** Write down the answer to the question "Why?"**

You must work together with the Holy Spirit to share Jesus with a lost person. Once you do it, the Holy Spirit's power will surprise you. You will say, "I wish I had known how to do this before now."

Day 1

Use Questions that Decide Where God Is Working

The first step is a set of five questions. The questions will help you decide the person's spiritual condition. These questions will come up with important information. The information will help you sense how God is working in that person's life. Asking questions helps you to talk less and to listen more. It is important to listen to what God is saying to the person. God speaks to him through the Bible verses. Let the Holy Spirit make the person see his sin. The Holy Spirit will lead him to see his need of Jesus to save him.

A thermometer is a tool that measures the heat. It has a metal stick. You push it into a turkey or roast beef. You put the meat in the oven. You want to know if the oven really heats the meat the way you like it. Sometimes the meat cooks fast. At other times it cooks slowly. You want to make sure that the oven heats the meat right. So you use a thermometer.

You can use the questions like a thermometer. The questions help you know what goes in a lost person's mind and heart. You can use the questions in any kind of talk. Let me give you an example below.

I was waiting in an airport recently. A young man asked me if there was a delay with the plane. We talked for a while. I asked where he was going. I said, "What is your favorite sport?" He told me that he was a big NBA basketball fan. I said, "Wow, it is something. Some of the guys make a lot of money. I just heard that one player signed a deal. The deal gave him several millions of dollars for several years. Once in a while you pick up the sports page. You read that some player has ruined his life. Still, he is making so much money. Do you sometimes wonder how much money a man has to make before his life is OK? For me life is great as long as my family is healthy and safe. I have a nice job. My family is active in our church. Is your family active in a church anywhere?"

You see the natural way the talk moved to Christian things. This young man and I went from basketball to his spiritual life. One question led the young man have deep thoughts in a minute.

I attended a meeting. A woman talked with me after the meeting. I asked, "What do you think is the biggest problem women face today?" She thought a second. She answered, "Too much to do. Not enough hours in a day to do it." I said, "I don't see how women do it. I am not sure that a 40-hour week would do it for you. God has given you a woman's feelings. Do you at any time stop to think about life? Have you thought about really important things? I mean, do you take the time to stop and wonder about life? What would happen to you if everything stopped and you died?"

See the natural change in direction. The questions made it possible. Questions are a wonderful way to show what is going on within a person's spiritual life. Five (5) questions can help you move a talk to spiritual things:

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died right now, where will you go?
5. Suppose what you believe was not true. Would you want to know it?

There is something else that can help you here. It is S. A. L. T. It helps you to remember to look for ways to turn any talk to witnessing.

S helps you remember to *say* something.

A helps you remember to *ask* questions

L helps you remember to *listen*. It is the best way to know what is going on. You get the chance to reach what you try to do.

T Helps you remember to *turn* the talk to spiritual thought.

Question One

Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?

**** Take a moment to write your own answer to this question.**

It is important to start where people are. Don't begin where you wish they were. Most of us don't grow up in a home that has a strong religious influence. Today most people understand little about what Christians talk. There are questions that make people feel not comfortable. The questions are "Do you believe in God?" and "Are you a Christian?" It is not wise to use these questions today.

People love to share their opinions. Suppose you bring up this question: "Do you believe in God?" Some people may feel that it is very personal and direct. It is better to ask "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?" This question does not put them in a corner. The question makes it easy for them to share their opinions freely. People really want to talk about their spiritual questions. They often hide their feeling or thought by acting as if they do not care. They may hide it by saying short words to the point. Still, they have a deep need. They seek to talk safely about spiritual things.

Question one, "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?" opens the way for talking about Jesus. This question will allow the person to bring what he does not believe into the talk. Remember this. It does not matter if he answers in 10 seconds or 10 minutes. You should not answer or try to make clear what he says. Just pay attention to what he says. Listening to him is an act of love and care. Your only answer should be "Umm" or "Uh huh."

Open your Bible to Acts 8:26-39. There was a desert road going from Jerusalem to Gaza. The Holy Spirit sent Philip to that road. Philip met a man from Ethiopia. The man was going back home. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?" The man answered Philip with a question. His question was: "'Who is the prophet talking about? Himself, or someone else?'" Then Philip began with that same part of Scripture. He told him the good news about Jesus" (Acts 8:34-35, NIRV).

Be open to many opportunities. God will give you the opportunities to use this question. You can use the question with family members, friends, people at work, and people around you where you go. Be sure to think about others who come across your way. Others may be a store clerk, a barber, a lady who fixes your hair.

It does not matter if a person answers "yes" or "no" to your first question. It is important for you to let him or her talk. The person will have nothing to argue about when s/he talks.

Day 2

Questions two and Three

QUESTION TWO

To you, who is Jesus?

**** Take a moment to write your own answer to this question.**

Read Matthew 21:10-11. Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem. He stirred up the people. They asked, "Who is this?"(v.10). Today we find that people still want to know Jesus. Find a way to get this question in the talk quickly. This is an important question. It will open the lost person's heart like no other question.

Read Matthew 16:13-16. "Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'"(v.13, NIRV). He went to what really mattered. "'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'" (verse 15). Everyone has to answer this same question. You can't find a better way to guide a lost person to Christ. It is best to bring up this question gently. So s/he can answer it for him/herself.

Read John 8:12-30. Many persons can say that Jesus is the subject of the New Testament. Still, they do not know Jesus in a personal way. In John 8 Jesus made it clear that it is necessary to know who He is. There was a very religious group. They called themselves the Pharisees. They called on Jesus to answer and to explain what He had said about Himself. He told them that He came from God (verse 13). Jesus asked them to believe in Him as the only way to heaven. They found His words hard to accept. They did not believe Jesus when He said He was with the Father. Their not believing in Jesus meant that they were going to die in their sins. What was true for the Pharisees is true for everyone.

Jesus told them that He is "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life" (John 8:12, NIRV). They refused to believe Him. "I am going away," he said. "You will look for me, and you will die in your sins. You can't come where I am going" (v.21, NIRV). He warned them. "But Jesus said, 'You are from below. I am from heaven. You are from this world. I am not from this world. I told you that you would die in your sins. Do you believe that I am the one I claim to be? If you don't, you will certainly die in your sins'" (John 8:23-24, NIRV).

You ask, "To you, who is Jesus?" Some people will answer, "The Son of God" or "The man who died on the cross." Look! Their answers are religious. But they do not show that they have a personal connection with Jesus. A Christian would just say, *My* Lord and *My* Savior."

A lost person may want to know that you have a personal connection with Jesus. It is important for you to say, "He is my Lord and Savior." Saying it will give a powerful witness for Jesus. Your answer will give the Holy Spirit the opportunity to speak to that lost person.

Suppose you ask a lost person, "To you, who is Jesus?" What should you do after you asked that question? It is best for you to say nothing. The purpose is to cause the other person to think about Jesus. It is for the Holy Spirit to work in his or her life. The Holy Spirit will show that his or her life is empty without Jesus. The purpose is not to teach a lesson. It is not to prove something. It is best to leave this to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will speak to the lost person's heart. Remember that it is your duty to obey God and to share Jesus. You must respect the freedom that God gives to each person. Each person is free to say "yes" or "no" to Jesus.

QUESTION THREE

Do you believe there are a heaven and a hell?

**** Take a moment to write your own answer to this question.**

This question does not cause a lost person to feel not comfortable. You are not asking him to say "yes" or "no" about where he is going after death. You give him an opportunity to talk about the subject. Lost people often talk freely about what they believe or don't believe.

Faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the important step. Just ask the question. It is "Do you believe there are a heaven and a hell?" Let the lost person tell you what he believes. Let the Holy Spirit use this question to bring him to Jesus.

Jesus did not push away the fact that there is a hell. He really spoke more about hell than heaven. But He did not spend all His time talking about hell. It is not a good idea to give all your time and attention to talking about hell. It is a worse idea not to say anything about hell.

Read Luke 16:19-31. Jesus told a story about the rich man and Lazarus. He gave a clear picture of sufferings in hell. He gave clear proofs that hell is real. What He said does not mean that people will accept Jesus in faith. There will be some people who do not want Jesus to save them from their sins. The rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus from heaven. He wanted Lazarus to tell his brothers. He felt that his brothers should hear from Lazarus. He wanted them to know what heaven and hell are like. The rich man said, "I have five brothers. Let Lazarus warn them. Then they will not come to this place of terrible suffering." Abraham replied, "They have the teachings of Moses and the Prophets. Let your brothers listen to them." "No, father Abraham," he said. "But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will turn away from their sins." Abraham said to him, "They do not listen to Moses and the Prophets. So they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead" (John 16:28-31, NIRV).

Day 3

Questions Four and Five

QUESTION FOUR

If you died right now, where would you go?

**** Take a moment to write your own answer to this question.**

Not long ago a woman received the third question. It was "Do you believe that there are a heaven and a hell?" Her answer was a very strong "no." When asked, "Where would you go?" she said quickly, "Heaven."

The third question has something to do with the mind. You have to think and then answer. The fourth question requires an answer from the heart. This question makes the person become more personal. People begin to think about the personal parts of their lives. They become very serious.

Suppose a person says, "Heaven." Ask him or her, "Why will God let you into heaven?" A given answer will open his or her heart for more truth.

Most lost people decide not to show their weak side. They do it when others ask them some serious questions. Many times people do not plan to talk too much. The process of talking falls apart when there is a growing connection between persons. I have sat next to people on airplanes. They opened their talk by saying that they don't talk much. They at first do not plan to talk. We are in the air for a time. I find myself surprised to hear many deep personal things in a discussion

Lost people know that they are lost. They have their own personal fears. We often do not recognize their deep thought and feeling. There are people who seem sure about their unbelief (no belief). These persons may become more opened, if it is done in the right way. Talking or asking questions in the right way is very important. It may help these persons open themselves up to the gospel.

QUESTION FIVE

If what you believe were wrong, would you want to know it?

**** Take a moment to write your own answer to this question.**

This is a very important question. People are afraid that they might miss the opportunities. Why? It is because they might not know or have the right information.

Jesus was willing to ask the hard questions when the time was right. Learn from His example. Suppose a lost person understands what it means to accept Jesus. S/he knows that to accept Christ means to take Him as Savior and Lord. It is important that you be clear and direct when it comes to this. You can help the lost person know that Jesus can save him or her.

There are two possible answers to question number five. They are "yes" or "no." Suppose the answer is "yes." You go to Step 2 (reading Bible verses with voice (hearing person) or hands (deaf person)). Suppose the answer is "no." Stop right there. I have never, not once, had a "no" that sticks. I have asked many people, "If what you believe is not true, would you want to know it?" I have had people say, "No." I just do nothing. Silence often makes a lot of talk. Most of them have said something like this. They ask, "Well, are you not going to tell me?" I make a joke. I say, "Why, no, you did not want to know." They say, "Yes." And here we go again.

Suppose you get a strong "no." Remember this. A person's choice is not your act to think and to decide. S/he is using the freedom that God gives. It does not mean that you fail to share Jesus. You have already obeyed God and been faithful to Him.

Read 2 Peter 3:9. "The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. He is patient with you. He doesn't want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins" (NIRV).

God delays the second coming of Jesus. It shows that God is very patient. He gives more opportunities for lost people to accept Jesus. God has other opportunities for them. These opportunities are in God's hands. You can be sure that God is patient. He does not want anyone to be lost. Still, God will never take from someone his or her freedom. Any person is free to choose to be saved or not to be saved.

Many people have had a special time or event. It caused them to see their need to accept Jesus. Paul had this kind of experience. It happened while he walked on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9). Many others seem to find Christ as Lord through events or experiences. Suppose a lost person does not accept Christ. A Christian, who shares Jesus, must not think that he has failed. Be patient. You left your witness with the lost person. It may be the experience for him or her. It may open the lost person's heart to Jesus. It may happen the next time the Holy Spirit speaks to his or her heart.

A lost person may not accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Accept his or her decision in a kind and sweet spirit. Your gentle care for that person will likely provide a future opportunity. That future opportunity may be for you or someone else. Don't rush the lost person. Learn a lesson from God. You don't find God rushing the lost person, do you? He waits for the lost person to make a choice. While we wait, we use the opportunity to build a strong connection with the lost person. It may open the door for more opportunities.

We know that many people in this world have heard the cure for sin. Others have told them that they must look to Jesus to forgive them from their sins. Many still refuse. Remember that success comes in three ways. One is to live your Christian life. Second is to share the gospel. The third is to trust God for the results. Success is not leading someone to Christ. You have only one duty. You are to be faithful. You let a lost person know an important truth. A lost person can find life through faith in Jesus as Savior. The Holy Spirit is the One who leads this person to be saved. Suppose a lost person does not accept the gospel from you. It is a great comfort for you to know the fact. The Holy Spirit continues to speak to that person. He works in that person's heart and mind.

Think about what could have happened below:

You enter a cafe. Karen invites you to sit at her table. The talk leads to a church where you are active.

Karen: "I have thought about going to church. But I keep putting it off."

You: "Well, I would really love for you to come with me, How about next Sunday?"

She: "No, not next Sunday, perhaps another time. I am not a Christian or anything. I might try it someday."

You: (What would you say?)

The opportunity is there in the talk at this moment.

* Read the choices below. Check the one you would like to be your answer.

[] Continue to try to talk her in coming to church with me next Sunday.

[] Change the subject.

[] Ask the Holy Spirit to help me. Use the first 5 questions to guide my friend in a gentle way. Lead her to God's Word and to faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Day 4

Let the Bible Speak

There is a second step in sharing Jesus without fear. It is to allow the Bible to speak. God uses His Word to change people's lives. Learn to let the Bible speak to the people's hearts.

This step provides a set of Bible verses. Ask the lost hearing person to read out aloud. If a person is deaf, ask him or her to read it in the sign language. Do it with every verse. If you ask the lost person to read the verse again, do the same thing (with voice or sign language) again.

1. Romans 3:23
2. Romans 6:23
3. John 3:3
4. John 14:6
5. Romans 10:9-11
6. 2 Corinthians 5:15
7. Revelation 3:20

Make it a habit to carry a small New Testament in your purse or pocket. Remember to ask the five opening questions. Asking the questions is an easy part of sharing Jesus without fear. The questions will lead a lost person to talk about spiritual things. It is different with the Bible verses. A lost person might not be willing to listen to or read the Bible.

Some people may make two excuses for not accepting the Bible. First, they may say, "There are many mistakes in the Bible." With all the love I could show, I hand the person my Bible. I say to the person, "You know. I have been reading this for many years. I wonder. Could you just be kind enough to show me one of the mistakes?" It never fails. The person will admit that he really doesn't know of any mistakes. S/he only heard people talk about them. I answered the person in a loving way. I say, "Well, I have heard those opinions. But I have never found any." Right away I say, "let's turn to Romans 3:23." Don't make a big issue of what the person has said.

Some people may offer another excuse. They say, "There are many Bible translations. How do you know which one is right?" My answer is, "Yes. That's right. There are many translations and paraphrases. There are the King James Version, the New King James Version, New International Version, New American Standard Version, and more. I add, "Did you know each of these Christian versions all share the same meaning. People often reply, "No, I didn't know that." I ask him or her to read the verse loud. (If a person is deaf, ask him or her to read it in the sign language.) I have never had anyone refuse.

For 2000 years men and women have studied the Bible carefully. Some do it to prove it true. Others do it to prove it false. The Bible proves itself to be true many times. It has not once been proven false. God used human writers who were not perfect. Through them He brought the Bible without error. You can trust the Bible. God will pour out His power through its reading. You can trust God to speak through it.

There are two important rules for using the Bible verses to share your faith.

1. *Hearing.* (If a person is deaf, it is *seeing*.) It is important to say, "Read the verse aloud. (If a person is deaf, ask him to read it in the sign language.) Read Romans 10:17. It says, "So faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the word of Christ" (NIRV). Faith comes from hearing. Hearing is the important thing. (If a person is deaf, faith comes from seeing. Seeing is the important thing for that person.)

There are some good reasons for asking the person to read the Bible aloud. It helps the person to hear the Bible message. S/he is hearing Christ Himself speaking the message of salvation (saving from sins and hell). Other than that, you want to be sure that s/he is reading the right verse. It is possible for a person not to be familiar with the Bible verses. Such a person might pick out the wrong verse. His reading aloud makes you sure that s/he is reading the right verse. (The same is true when you share Jesus with a deaf person. Let him or her read a verse in the sign language. In this way you will know that s/he is reading the right verse.)

2. *Question.* It is important to ask, "What does it say to you?" Do this after s/he has finished reading the verse. Read Luke 10:25-26. "One day an authority on the law stood up to put Jesus to the test. 'Teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to receive eternal life?' 'What is written in the Law?' Jesus replied. 'How do you understand it?'" God's Word does all of the "proving guilty" a person. The Holy Spirit does the same thing. You are in the business of turning the pages of the Bible. There is one important duty. You stay out of God's way. That is all you do. You just stand by and watch God work. You will hear what the Bible verse says to the lost person. Your duty is to listen. Your only answer may be something like this, "Umm" or "Uh huh."

Remember:

*The lost person will be reading aloud or in the sign language.

*The lost person will be talking. Remember to listen. In a way s/he will want to talk.

*The Holy Spirit will be doing the work of proving guilty.

*God's Word will bring the act of proving or declaring guilty.

Remember that you cannot fail. The Holy Spirit takes over. He does His work of proving to any person that s/he is a lost sinner. The Holy Spirit speaks to the heart. A lost person will see the need of a Savior to save him or her from sins.

"When he comes, he will prove that the world's people are guilty. He will prove their guilt concerning sin and godliness and judgment. The world is guilty as far as sin is concerned. That is because people do not believe in me. The world is guilty as far as godliness is concerned. That is because I am going to the Father, where you can't see me anymore. The world is guilty as far as judgment is concerned. That is because the devil, the prince of this world, has already been judged"(John 16:9-11, NIRV).

***Mark Your New Testament**

One of the fears comes to Christians. Christians become afraid when they look at the verses. They say, "Wow, I will never be able to remember all the verses." You will find a card on the back cover page of this workbook. It is there to help you. This is a real help for Christians. Don't worry. There is nothing wrong for you to have a card. The card comes with the verses. The verses will guide a person to life that lasts forever. God will bless you for being faithful. He wants the lost person get the verses from you. You first ask the questions. You wait on the Holy Spirit to do His work in the person's heart. The Holy Spirit speaks to him or her through the reading of God's Word. Suppose you share Jesus a few times. Then what happens. You will find that it becomes natural for you to do it. Then you will feel comfortable to share Jesus further.

Take a pocket-size New Testament wherever you go. Be sure that it is the one that a non-Christian can understand. Use this one only for witnessing. Maybe you have a study Bible. It may already have marks on its pages. The verses may already have special colors. Some pages may already have notes. If so, don't use that Bible. It may be hard for a lost person. He may see a Bible verse for the first time. It might cause him or her to look at other verses. It is best to keep it from happening. So get a small New Testament only for witnessing.

Make a line under Romans 3:23. Or use a special pen to color it. You will ask a person to take your Bible. You will ask him to read Romans 3:23. The underlined or colored verse will help him find it fast.

Find an empty space on the page where you have Romans 3:23. Write with a pen "Romans 6:23." You may want to write it upside down at the top of the page. It helps you see it when the person sitting across you holds your Bible. The person reads Romans 3:23. You see Romans 6:23 on the top of the page. It tells you where to go next. It is a good way to help you go to the next verse. Suppose you usually sit next to a person. Then write "Romans 6:23" in a natural way. While the person reads Romans 3:23, you can see "Romans 6:23" on the same page. It helps you get ready for the next verse.

Go to Romans 6:23. Color the verse. Circle the words *sin* and *death*. Write *hell* over the word *death*. Also circle the word *in* or *through* that comes before "Christ Jesus our Lord." Be sure to write John 3:3 on the same page where you find Romans 6:23.

Now go to John 3:3. Color it. Write John 14:6 on the same page. Draw a cross on the empty space near John 3:3. Draw an X next to the cross. In that place write the question: "Why did Jesus come to die?" The X helps you know that this is a different process. You don't ask the person, "What does this verse mean to you?" It might cause the person to feel that you put him or her on the spot. Instead, ask him or her, "Why did Jesus come to die?"

Go to John 14:6. Color it. Write "Romans 10:9-11" on the same page.
Go to Romans 10:9-11. Color them. Write "2 Corinthians 5:15" on the same page.

Go to 2 Corinthians 5:15. Color it. Write "Revelation 3:20" on the same page.
Go to Revelation 3:20. Color it.

See the card on the back cover of this book. Keep one of these in your purse, pocket or Bible. You may find a comfort to have the verses in your Bible or on the card. Either one makes it easier for you. There is no proof that putting the Bible verses to a memory brings more lost people to Christ. Often a lost person is more comfortable when s/he finds a Christian using the verses with help. Someone, who is not a Christian, will recognize that a person does not have to be very smart. Anyone with some help can find the way to be saved and to have peace and hope.

Day 5

Use the Word of God

See and note how two rules of hearing and questioning work.

Verse One ----Romans 3:23

Ask the person to read Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Point your finger to the colored verse in your Bible. Don't take anything for granted. The person is reading verses that will change his life.

Let the person finish reading the verse. Then ask, "What does this verse say to you?"

****Write your own answer to this question.**

The person will usually answer your question in this way. S/he will say, "Everyone has sinned." Do you know what to do next? After you listen, just turn the page to Romans 6:23. There is no need to argue here. You are not trying to bring out the meaning of the verse. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to do it. The Holy Spirit is speaking to his or her heart through the reading of the verses. It is your business to turn the page right now. You stay out of God's way. That is all you do.

Suppose a person talks about Romans 3:23. He may talk about sins that s/he has not done. S/he may defend her/himself. S/he may say that s/he has not murdered, stolen, or done other big things that are clearly sin. You don't have to take time to explain sin. You may want to answer that God's model or rule is to be perfect. God is perfect. Most of us are ready to admit that we don't know anyone who is perfect. The Bible shows the glory of God as the model or rule. Our sins stand opposite to God's glory. They make us feel that we need a Savior to save us. In Romans 3 Paul tells the fact that God judges. It does not matter what a person's life or religion is. Paul tells us that "there is no one who does good, not even one" (Romans 3:12). People on earth are not perfect. God is perfect. So the people fail in their thought and action.

There is a good way to help a person understand that "all have sinned." Turn to Matthew 22:37: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." You can ask, "Have you really loved God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?" S/he will say, "No." Answer, "That's what sin is.

This truth will help the person understand "sin." The word "sin" you have circled in Romans 3:23 will help the person see the truth.

Verse two ---- Romans 6:23

Ask the person to read Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Wait until the person finishes reading the verse. Then ask, "What does this say to you?"

**** Write your own answer to this question.**

Use a pen and circle the word *sin*. Or use a pen to point to *sin* if you already circled it ahead of time. Point out that the circled word is *sin*, not *sins*. If you have not done it before, circle the word *death*. Write the word *hell* over the word *death*.

Say something like this, "Did you notice that in my Bible I circled the word "sin"? Point to the word. Give the person an opportunity to answer. Tell the person, "This makes me remember that there is no 's' at the end of the word. God says that one sin puts me in hell." When you say it, point to yourself. You don't want the person to think that you are not a sinner. Then say, "Did you notice that I have written *hell* by *death*? In the Bible *death* often means *hell*."

Point to the word "in" or "through." Either word depends on what Bible version you are using. Be sure that you already circled it. Tell the person that this word helps make you remember a truth. The truth is that you have a personal *connection* with Jesus Christ. Many lost people have a hope. Their hope is connected with actions they may have done. The actions may be baptism, church membership, good life, etc.

Romans 6:23 allows the Holy Spirit to show that the lost person has no hope. There is no hope for him or her without faith in Jesus. There is no hope without giving one's self to live for Him. God's Word will show false reasons for hope. The Holy Spirit will help the lost person understand a lot more from this simple reading. He will make the person think about his or her spiritual condition.

There are many ways to share your faith. But it is different when you use God's Word. You will be surprised how quickly the Holy Spirit does His work through the Word of God. He makes the person believe that s/he needs to trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. Watch God at work. You continue to guide a lost person to read the verses.

Someone asked me to help a young woman. She was in deep trouble. I asked her the five questions. It shows that she knew little about the Bible. No one ever shared Jesus with her. She let me open my Bible. She read Romans 3:23. She told me what it meant to her. I turned to Romans 6:23. She spoke the verse slowly and clearly. I said, "What does this verse say to you?" She thought for a moment. She answered, "I need to ask God to forgive me for all my sins. I need to invite Jesus Christ into my heart." I was surprised. Does that verse say that? Not really. Where did she get her answer? The Holy Spirit gave her the answer.

I did not say, "Wait. I have five more verses." God uses the power of His Word. He may show truth in one or more verses. You just turn the pages and ask questions.

Never be afraid of witnessing to anyone. Understand that many things come in his or her decision. But the Holy Spirit is more powerful. And God's love is greater than anything that can make the heart dark.

Verse Three----John 3:3

Ask the person to read John 3:3: "No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Point to the cross that you already drew. Ask, "Why did Jesus come to die?" (There is an "X" next to the cross. The "X" is here for a reason. It is there to tell you not to use the question: "What does this verse say to you?" You use that question to go with each verse on your list, but **not** this verse. Instead, you say "Why did Jesus come to die?") Most people will answer, "He came to die for sin." You answer, "That's right. Remember the verse you just read---the payment of sin is death."

**** Write your own answer to this question.**

Verse Four----John 14:6

Turn to John 14:6. Ask the person to read this verse: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Then ask, "What does this verse say to you?"

**** Write your own answer to this question.**

S/he may tell you that there is no other way to be with God, but through Jesus. The verse is clear. You will never have to add to it for the person to get its message.

A lost person may ask about other ways for people to get to heaven. You don't have to try to defend against those positions. John 14:6 will stick in the person's mind. Don't try to explain away or attack the false teachings and ideas. Just present what the Bible says. Let it stand on its own. Sharing Jesus in your talk with a lost person in this way is always the best.

Verse Five----Romans 10:9-11

Ask the person to read Romans 10:9-11: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your hearts that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, 'Anyone who trusts in him shall never be put to shame.'"

Then ask, "What does this say to you?"

**** Write your own answer to this question.**

There is one hard thing for many people to believe. They find it hard to believe that God can forgive them. You may not know much about the lost person's sins. But you can be sure that most lost people have particular sins. They are thinking about these sins. It could be a sinful sex. It could be a heavy drinking of liquor. It could be a bitter heart. It could be a hate toward an enemy. It could be any one of many sins that becomes a heavy load on people. You just do your part to bring the person to read God's Word. You can be sure that God would pour out His power.

Suppose a person asks you if God will forgive those who murder others and who do worse sins. Let the Bible speak. Ask the person to read Romans 10:9-11 again. Trust the Holy Spirit to teach this person the truth that God forgives.

Ask the question, "Does this truth in Romans 10:9-11 include me?" Pray that the person will answer with a strong "yes." The Holy Spirit will be working in the person's heart. He will help him or her understand that God has full love for any worst sinner.

It is important to know what to do. It is not wise to argue or to defend when the lost person does not understand. Do what I call the "read-it-again" rule. Ask the person to read the verses again aloud (hearing person) or in the sign language (deaf person). This is how the "read-it-again" rule works. When a person does not understand a Bible verse, ask him in a loving way to read it again. Keep in mind that God has been defending His Word for many years. The Holy Spirit will guide the person to the truth. There is something wonderful. It shows how God really opens the heart to understanding. It happens when a person reads the Bible aloud or in the sign language. God Himself is the witness to the truth you are sharing.

Verse 6---2 Corinthians 5:15

Ask the person to read 2 Corinthians 5:15: "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again."

Ask the person, "What does it say to you?"

**** Write your own answer to the question.**

The lost person must understand a truth. God promises that He will save anyone from sin through Jesus' death. God's forgiving comes to all who give their lives to Him in faith. All of us are equal at the foot of the cross. Because we give ourselves to Christ as Savior, God changes us and gives us new life. We no longer are slaves to sin and selfish wishes. We have our hearts turned to Jesus. We look to Jesus for His example. His example tells us how to live. The Holy Spirit's power frees us. We no longer think of ourselves as the center of life. We think of Christ as the center of our lives. The Christ-centered life fills us with care for others.

Verse Seven---Revelation 3:20

Ask the person to read 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."

Ask him or her, "What does it say to you?"

**** Write your own answer to this question.**

You want the person to understand that it is his or her choice to open the heart to Jesus. Jesus really wants to come into his or her life. He never forces the person to open the door.

Let us take this verse to learn more about using the "read-it-again" rule. I have people to read Revelation 3:20. Then they tell me what it says to them. I find myself hearing them explain it to me in the wrong way. A common mistake is "It says that Jesus will open the door and come into a person's heart." But the verse does not say that Jesus will open the door. Each person must open the door. Then Jesus will come in. Jesus will not force His way into a person's heart. He will not come into a life that does not invite Him. The best answer is just to say, "Read it again." You are not correcting or helping him or her. You are just letting the Holy Spirit work.

This week comes to a close. It is important to know that God will work through you. Asking the lost person to decide for Jesus becomes a very personal thing. Asking the personal question makes many Christians not comfortable. Open your heart to God. God will help you do His work. You will have a success when you use 5 questions and 7 verses. God requires you to obey Him. He will take care of the rest. Once you open your heart, you will get a real love for the lost person. Once you love the lost person, you will accept the duty of sharing Jesus. Now you are ready to use what you have already learned up to now. It is time to get ready to share Jesus with others.

It is time to move to the last step in sharing Jesus without fear. Next week you will start to see how simple it is to lead a person to Jesus.

Meeting the Demand to Share Jesus

Someone once told me to prepare myself for any opportunity. The advice became real for me. I went to a place where people go for a meal. There a man stood up suddenly. He knocked a glass off the table. He held his arms up. He was trying to breathe. Food got stuck in his throat. His wife did not know what to do. I looked around the room. I had a hope that someone would quickly go to him. I wanted someone to help him get the food out of his throat. But everyone else was looking around for help just as I was. No one was going to him. The man had a hard time. He began to fall. I went to him. I put myself behind him. I put my arms around him and pulled them together. The food moved out of his throat. I could him breathe without any problem. I was glad I learned how to do it. My knowledge prepared me for it. I was able to save this man's life.

Several people saw what had happened. They came to my table. They thanked me for helping the man. One man said, "I am so thankful that you know what to do. It seems that none of the rest of us ever learned to do what you did. Could you tell me where I could learn to do that? I have been thinking about what could happen if no one is around to do it. I want to prepare myself if something like that happens. I may be the only one around when it happens."

The man's wife left a note for me with the cashier. It says, "Thank you. My husband wants to thank you. He was weak to say anything. We are so thankful that you were not afraid to help."

But no one could be more afraid than I was. My fear was there. It made no difference in one person going to help. I have a heart for helping people in need. I am sure that others in the room really wanted to help. But there was a difference. I already knew how to do it. The opportunity came for me to do it. I was afraid to fail. I was more afraid of not doing what I could. I knew that the man's life depended on my action. I have learned that I might be the only hope for someone. His or her life could be in the balance.

You will learn three steps of *Share Jesus Without Fear*. Using them, you can prepare yourself to save lives. The third step is the most important part of the witnessing experience. It is to lead a person to seek a lasting connection with Christ.

Remember this. Sharing your faith in Jesus does not mean that you will have no fear. It does mean that you are preparing yourself to help lost people. Lost people have no hope if you don't go to them.

This is the part in the process that many Christians fear most. But asking for a decision in favor of Christ should not be a time for fear. The Holy Spirit's power will be there to work in the person's life. You can expect His power to be there. It will come when the time comes for a lost person to decide.

Day 1

Close with Important Questions

Here is the way to lead a lost person to decide. Your witnessing does not depend on what you know. It depends on the Person (God) you know. That is an important truth to keep in mind. Knowing the truth will help you share Jesus without fear. You are working together with God who is all powerful. All of heaven's power will be there for the moment. It is the time for a lost person to think about trusting Jesus. It, also, is the time for him (or her) to give his (or her) life to Him. The gospel is simple. It is so simple that children can understand it. There is no reason for an adult not to understand and to share it.

Remember the five opening questions. The questions are there to help you. They help you discover the person's spiritual condition. They open the way to use the Bible. Many lost persons want to find a way to receive God's promises. They just need someone to use the Bible. They want to know how to be saved. Suppose a person shows that s/he is ready to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is best to go ahead with the questions. The questions will guide him or her to do it.

I have chosen five (5) questions. They will provide a way. You will find the card on the back cover of this workbook. The card will have the printed questions. Place this card in your Bible. Each of five questions has something to do with a verse. The lost person has already read the verse out loud or in the sign language. The Holy Spirit will use God's Word to prepare the person's heart. God's Spirit will prepare him or her for the questions.

1. *Are you a sinner?* People, who have read the verses and opened their hearts, will say "yes."

2. *Do you want God to forgive you for your sins?* The Holy Spirit will prepare the person's heart. The lost person will understand that s/he is free to choose to receive God's favor. S/he can ask God to forgive him or her.

3. *Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?* The person must understand that s/he must put his trust in Christ. In this way s/he can have a spiritual birth. A spiritual birth means to be born again.

4. *Are you willing to give your life to Christ?* S/he will be open to the truth. This is the only way to have a right standing or connection with God. This comes through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

5. *Are you ready to invite Jesus in your life and into your heart?* Suppose the person is ready. The Holy Spirit will use Revelation 3:20 to lead him or her open the door of his or her heart to Jesus

You can learn to ask these questions in a comfortable way. It will allow you to see what the Holy Spirit can do. God's love has already warmed the person's heart. The Holy Spirit will have an opportunity to touch his or her heart. Suppose you have not argued or forced the lost person to accept Jesus. It means that you have been kind and thoughtful to a lost person. It, also, means that you have listened to his or her thoughts about spiritual things. You will be surprised with how simple this is. You will be happy to see God work in that person's life. You will feel better to know that you have not failed.

Trust God to be at work when you ask the last question, "Are you ready to invite Jesus into your life and into your heart?"

You will find "Be silent" and "Pray" after the last question on the card. After you ask the last question, be quiet and pray. Give the person time to say whatever s/he wants to say. Pray silently as you listen. The Holy Spirit will be working in the person's heart. That is His promise. You can trust Him to keep His word.

You have asked the person the most important question in his or her life. You have shown that person that you have great love and care for him or her. You don't know if s/he will live long enough to have another opportunity. Take it seriously. All of heaven's power is at work. Don't get in the way. Continue to keep quiet and pray. Let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Waiting twenty (20) seconds makes you feel like ten (10) minutes. I have seen people sweat. Don't forget that this person is fighting with Satan. S/he is trying to decide who will control his or her life. Pray silently. This lost person will make a decision to follow Christ or Satan. Keep your mind busy with prayer. So you won't break the silence.

Suppose you ask, "Are you ready to invite Jesus into your life and into your heart?" There are two possible answers. The answers are "yes" or "no." Often a lost person will answer a simple "yes" or "I'm ready." Ask him or her, "What do you want to do?" Kindly guide him or her to say exactly that s/he wants to invite Jesus into his or her life.

Suppose that the person says that s/he wants to invite Jesus into his or her life. Offer to lead him or her in a prayer. The following prayer shows what you should include. This prayer answers to five (5) closing questions:

Heavenly Father, I have sinned against you. I want you to forgive me for all my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me and rose again. I give my life to you to do as You wish. I want Jesus Christ to come into my life and into my heart. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

You must not think that the lost person understands the things s/he needs to do. The things are (1) praying to be saved, (2) signing a card, (3) walking down to the front where a pastor invites lost people to be saved during a worship service, (4) etc. It is not the "sinner's prayer" that saves the lost person. S/he needs to know that s/he is saved when s/he trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

We don't want to see someone make a decision for Christ and then dropped. Here are some suggestions for follow-up. You might say something to him or her. Say, "Now that you are a believer. God wants you to be with other Christians. I would like to help you get started." Suppose s/he lives near your church. You may invite the person to go with you to your church. If not, you might say, "Do you think you will be more interested in a larger or smaller church?" After you get an answer, offer to help find someone who will call within a few days.

Day 2

Answer the "No" Reply with "Why?"

How do you deal with a "No" reply? You can expect a few replies such as "I am not ready." Only God knows the real reasons why a person may say that. The best answer from you is to ask, "Why?" Let the person's answer show you what is going on deep inside him or her. Don't guess it. Let him or her tell you.

There are many reasons for a person to say that s/he is not ready. The real reasons usually go deeper than what s/he says. Suppose a person gives you the reasons. Don't spend too much time, trying to clear them up. Give your attention to his need to make a decision for Christ at that moment.

It is important to ask "why" a person has decided not to accept Christ. You may not know anything. It could be something that s/he has studied a lot. It could be something he has heard. It could be something s/he learned as a child from his/her family. The simple question "why" provides an opportunity to deal with the issue. You may find that arguing may suddenly become not important. It happens when the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to work on it in love. It comes during a witnessing talk.

Suppose the person replies, "There are too many hypocrites (two-faced persons) in the church?" Do you see what has happened? The person suddenly changes the subject. First, s/he says s/he is not ready to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. Now s/he says something about church people. Let him or her see your interest. You answer, "You know. I have thought about that a lot. I am sad to tell you this. There are some people in churches that fail to satisfy God's wish for them. But I have a great comfort in the Bible. It teaches us that we are to follow Jesus, not people. I have never found a perfect church. I have come to realize a truth. Suppose I join a perfect church. Then it would no longer be perfect. You could help a church a lot. You have given a lot of thought to it. You see the harm done to the churches by Christians who do not follow Christ."

It is important for you to show a soft heart. You help the lost person see that Christians can be weak in following Christ. That person needs to know that faith in Christ is a number-one thing. It is not wise to argue or defend yourself at the moment. The battle is his or hers, not yours.

You might meet some persons who are proud of living in sin. They might talk about the details of their sinful life. They may tell you to your face that they are proud of what they are doing. They let you know that they enjoy it. I guide them to think about Jesus. I say, "Well, I understand that you are not ready to change your life yet. But I want to make sure that I have shared the gospel clearly with you. I have one more question. Let's think about this. You do not want to trust or accept Jesus. Suppose you take part in some of the fun things you already talked about. Suppose tonight you are driving to one of the fun places. And you are in an accident that takes your life. You already read the Bible verses. You died after deciding not to trust your life to Jesus. What will happen to you? The usual reply is "hell." My answer is, "Forever is a long time to spend in hell. But I hope you have a nice day." Suppose a person does not decide to trust Jesus to be saved. You will know that he may be going to drive more carefully for a while.

Some persons may say, "I am not good enough." They may have reasons for feeling "not good enough." It is important to remember to take them to God's Word. A wonderful help is Romans 10:13. It says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." I ask the person to read Romans 10:13 out loud (or in the sign language). Sometimes I give examples of bad sins such as murder, hate or divorce. I say, "Suppose a person murders someone, always lies, steals things or does something like that. Do you think that verse includes him?" Most people say, "Yes." I answer, "Then can God forgive you?"

You may know the person well enough. You may have some idea of the reasons that makes him or her feel that way. S/he may feel that s/he is not right with God. You could ask, "Do you think the verse (Romans 10:13) includes people who have the same experiences like yours?" Help him or her understand that the worse sin is not to have a close connection with Jesus as Lord and Savior. Tell him or her that not accepting God to forgive him or her is a sin, too. Ask the person to read out loud (or in the sign language) 1 John 1:7. It says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." Then ask a question, "How many sins does Jesus' blood wash away?" Every person I have asked has replied, "All sins." You can go back to your last closing question, "Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and into your life?"

Some people give another reason why they say "No." They say, "Well, there are many religions in the world. I don't know how a person can know the right one." I answer, "I have discovered that all of the religions in the world can be divided into two kinds. There are religions that I will group by naming them 'isms.' They are Judaism, Mormonism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and others, including Islam. All of these make two statements. One statement is that Jesus is not God or not the only God. He may be a great prophet, teacher or good man. He is not the Messiah (the expected savior of the Jewish people). The other statement is that you need to do some good works on your own efforts. If you do a lot of good while on earth, you can be saved.

"On the other side there is the Christian religion. It says that Jesus is God. God has come to us in Jesus. Jesus lived, died on the cross, and rose from the grave. We might receive eternal life through Him. This religion says, 'For by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast.'" (See Ephesians 2:8-9.)

Both of these teachings can't be true. Tell the lost person that all of us have to make a decision. We must decide to put our trust in one view of Jesus or the other. People think they have a big and hard thing to argue and to decide. It turns out to be something that has a simple answer. This takes a big arguing and makes it very small.

Suppose the person continues to say, "No." Always remember that success as a witnessing Christian is not about you. It is about God. It is about a person willing to trust God. S/he trusts that s/he "can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). We may read Paul's statement, "I can do everything." Then we make a list of our own strengths, talents, training, and happening. We find ourselves weak in some areas. We begin to leave out some things from "everything." We should remember to see the words "through him." Paul was sure that he depended on God's power working through him. That is the same power God provides to you and me. God is asking you to allow Him to work through you. Now the question is, "Will you give Him the special right to do it?" Paul said, "When I came to you, I was weak and afraid and trembling all over" (1 Corinthians 2:3, NIRV). Paul made a difference, because he obeyed God. God used him. God gave him the power through the Holy Spirit. God gives you the same gift of power as you share the good news.

Day 3

Face Your Fears with God's Power

There was one study of Christians. The number one reason for not sharing Jesus is fear. It is a fear that people will refuse to believe or accept. This fear is a part of the fault of the words. We use the words to get Christians to witness. We tell them to "be a soul winner." Or we say to them "to bring people to Christ." We use different words that show action steps. We mean these words in the right way. But many Christians take them to mean that we can really change a lost person's life. They need to understand that it is not so. To be sure, God never asks any person to save the soul of a lost person. You just share your faith. It has nothing to do with your bringing anyone to the Lord. Again, this is one part of your Christian life in which you cannot fail. Your voice may not sound right. Your hands shake. You do not speak well. You try hard to make your witness clear. You find that your timing was not right. God can still use you. He does not want you to keep silent. He wants you to share His message.

Suppose you have already witnessed to lost people. Suppose people do not give their lives to Jesus. This does not mean that people refuse to hear, believe or accept you. It means that they are really refusing to take or believe in Jesus Himself. They, too, refuse to believe what God says in His Word. It is never about you. Suppose that you witness to someone tomorrow. Suppose that someone becomes a famous evangelist. Can you get credit or praise for that? No. Suppose that you witness to someone the next day. Suppose that someone refuses to accept Christ. Is it your fault? No. This is one area or part of your life in which you can never take credit. You have nothing to do with a person being saved or not. It is God's work and a person's choice. It is one area of your Christian life in which you cannot fail. Keep in mind that success comes in these ways. It is living out your Christian life. It is sharing the gospel. It is trusting God for the results. Success is not bringing someone to Christ.

Another fear is the fear of not knowing enough. This is what keeps many Christians silent. This happens most often to people who have been Christians for several years. A study showed that most Christians lead lost persons to the Lord in the first year or two. It may be true when it comes to this. Suppose that a person is a Christian for several years. That person comes to see how little s/he knows about his faith. S/he realizes that there are many things that a Christian needs to learn. This causes him or her to forget how simple it is to be saved or born again. It does not take a lot of knowledge to share Jesus. God uses a believer who obeys Him. God guides a lost person to God's Word and new life in Jesus. He does it through a faithful Christian.

There is another excuse for not sharing Jesus. It is fear of hurting the feeling of a friend or family member. It, too, is the fear of making a friend or family member angry. We often say that we are willing to do anything for our friends and family. Yet we decide that sharing Jesus is too much to ask. It happens when it comes to helping them make a decision. It is the most important life and death decision of their lives. But we feel that it requires more from us than we care to.

A retired psychiatrist spoke to me recently. (He was a doctor who studies and treats mental diseases.) He witnessed to his daughter. She was his only child. She had children of her own. He wept as he told how he had required his family to attend church. His daughter was growing up until she went to college. While at college, she did not obey those in control. There was a problem between the father and his daughter for several years. They did not talk much to each other.

He said to me, "God began to show me how empty my life was. I worked for many years to help people. I helped people look at their problems. I helped them find the answers to their problems in their lives. I failed to help them discover God. He could provide the only real help. I paid too much attention to the problems. Now I realized that the problems really came from the real problem. I did not lead them to the real problem. I failed to guide people to trust Jesus Christ. I also realized that they needed a real connection with Him. I knew that I failed my family, too." He told me that he called his

daughter. He asked if he could come and talk with her. In her home this man asked his only daughter, "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?" He then asked her, "Tell me who Jesus is to you?" He watched as God opened her heart. Tears came down on the floor between the doctor and me. He explained to me that he and his daughter later got down on their knees. They were on their knees next to the kitchen table. The daughter confessed her sins. She gave her life to Jesus.

Sharing Jesus with your own family and friends is very important. Friends and family lead most people to trust Jesus Christ. Do you choose to say nothing? Do you love your friend into hell? Suppose you see a car coming to hit your friend. Are you going to shout, "Look out," or wave your hands? Would you let the car hit him? Is it because you are afraid to shout or wave your hands? Remember that there is a reason for shouting loud or waving your hands. It warns him about the danger. It is the same with hell. Hell is real. Are you going to warn them?

Some people have a fear that others will make fun of them. They may be afraid that others might hurt them. But Americans do not face harms and dangers in this country. It happens to Christians in other countries. One of the reasons is that Christians do not look or act enough like Jesus. Is it not worth the risk to tell a lost person about Jesus? To give in to any of these fears is to practice the sin of keeping silent.

Henry Maxwell spoke to his church members. He said, "Is it not true that the call has come to this age for a new exhibition of Christian discipleship? What is the test of Christian discipleship? Is it not the same as in Christ's own time? Have our surroundings modified or changed the test? What would be the result if in this city every church member should begin to do as Jesus would do?" He went on to say, "It is the personal element that Christian discipleship to emphasize. 'The gift without the giver is bare.' . . . There is not a different path to-day from that of Jesus' own times. It is the same path."

Maxwell would say in simple words, "The call has come to our time for a new show of what it means to be disciples? Is it not true? Have we let all around us changed the test? Suppose every church member in this city should begin to do as Jesus would do. What would really happen if it is true? We need to give attention to the personal side of being Jesus' disciples. There is a saying, 'The gift without the giver is empty.' There is the path of being disciples today. There was the path of being disciples during Jesus' own times. The path of today is no different from the path of the past. It is the same path."

You don't have to be afraid. Don't let it tempt you to think too much about your weak ways to share Jesus. Don't believe that you cannot change them. Just be honest. Let God know that you are afraid to witness for Him. Set your heart to get strength from God. Trust that God is with you. Depend on His promise to use His power.

You share Jesus with a lost person. Don't do it in your own strength. Your own strengths will not bring you the power. Depend on God's power to do it. Obeying God and depending on him make it a success. Willing to trust God is your greatest strength. This strength comes when you guide a lost brother, sister, parent, son, daughter, worker at work or stranger.

David faced many enemies and problems of life for many years. During all those years he experienced God's care. He sang a song of praise. He said, "God gives me strength for the battle. He makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He helps me stand on the highest places" (2 Samuel 22:33-34, NIRV). David had this feeling toward God from the time he was a young boy. As a boy he looked after the flock of sheep on the hills of Judea.

As a young shepherd, David saw Saul's soldiers running in fear. Saul's soldiers were very afraid of a very tall and big man named Goliath. Goliath lived in the land of Philistines. The Philistine soldiers came to fight the Hebrew soldiers. David went to Saul. He said, "Don't let anyone lose hope because of that Philistine. I'll go out and fight him" (1 Samuel 17:32, NIRV). Saul gave him the reasons why David should fear Goliath. Saul said, "You aren't able to go out there and fight that Philistine. You are too young. He's been a fighting man ever since he was a boy" (1 Samuel 17:33, NIRV). David told Saul about the dangers he had. David faced the lions and bears that attacked his father's sheep. He said to Saul, "The Lord saved me from the paw of the lion. He saved me from the paw of the bear. And he'll save me from the powerful hand of this Philistine too" (1 Samuel 17:37, NIRV).

David recognized that his success depended on God's power. He met Goliath with all that God had provided for him. He let the world know what he had said. "David said to Goliath, 'You are coming to fight against me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin. But I'm coming against you in the name of the Lord who rules over all. He is the God of the armies of Israel. He's the one you have dared to fight against'" (1 Samuel 17:45, NIRV).

Today you share Jesus without fear. You will be going in the power of the same, strong name -- the Lord who is all powerful.

Day 4

Listen to What Your Heart Tells You

Rob always felt good about the way he had lived. What he was doing satisfied him. One day a friend asked him a simple question. The question was this: "Do you ever feel uncertain about what you are depending on spiritually for hope in your life?" The question could be divided into two thoughts. "Do you sometimes feel not sure about what you are depending on in a spiritual sense? Are you sure you have hope in your life?" His friend's question opened a heart. Rob never allowed anyone else know what was in his heart. He never talked about how he really felt about these spiritual things. He kept them to himself. But his friend asked him a question. Rob got help from his friend. Rob gave his heart to Christ a short time later. Today he believes that someone, who cares enough to share, can guide any life to be made free through Jesus.

Helping a lost person turn that heart to Jesus will bring a healing. Deal with the real issues of the lost person's heart. Don't use the questions that have nothing to do with these issues. Too many answers to too many questions will cause him or her to be mixed-up. Stay with Jesus' love and death on the cross. This will keep the lost person on the right way to faith in Jesus. A lost heart won't mind several things. Your voice may sound fear. You may use wrong or poor words. You don't seem sure of yourself in sharing Jesus. S/he will know the Holy Spirit's power. S/he will know that God's love is there when you speak from your heart.

The Roman soldiers put Jesus on the cross between two men who did crimes. One of these two men recognized that Jesus was the Savior. He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42, NIRV). He did not fully understand his own sin. He did not figure out a smart view of God. He did not have the time or experience to understand what God is like. That was not what his heart told him. He just knew that Jesus was God. The Holy Spirit was at work. The man knew that he had no hope. He saw that he needed Jesus. He begged Jesus to "remember me."

This Bible story of a lost man tells us something. It shows that a person does not need to know other than that Jesus loves him personally. The lost man on the cross faced Jesus in person. The Holy Spirit worked in that man's heart. The lost man answered in faith. As you share Jesus, you know how God works in that lost person's heart. You can be sure that the Holy Spirit will be at His work. You can't fail if you obey God and witness to him or her. The lost person is free to decide if s/he wants to invite Jesus into his or her heart.

Many lost persons have wrong ideas about what Christians believe. As you witness to someone, don't spend much time on these issues. Just let the person's heart guide you. Be patient. Be able to listen to what his heart says. When you do, you will be able to set or guide the proper talk. Here are the things you may hear:

* "Being a Christian means keeping the Ten Commandments. I am trying my best to obey them."

A young woman often came to a pastor in the town where she lived. She asked him for his prayers. She wanted to become a Christian. The pastor tried to guide her in accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. She would always say, "Please keep on praying for me that I would become a Christian. I'm trying." After her many requests for prayer, the pastor made a kind statement. He said to her, "You need to stop trying." He surprised her. She said, "Surely you don't mean that." He replied, "Yes. I have always told you that I would pray for you. You continued trying to be a Christian. That was a mistake. Stop trying. Start trusting."

We live in a society that places too much on doing, earning, and succeeding. But Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-10, NIRV: "God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it. God made us. He created us to belong to Christ Jesus. Now we can do good things. Long ago God prepared them for us to do." What true Christians believe is not a religion to teach people right and wrong. It is a personal connection with Jesus Christ.

A lost person needs help. S/he needs to understand a truth. Religious act is based on a personal connection with God that is already there. It is a saved person's way of answering God. A saved person does not do it to get that personal connection. S/he already has that connection when s/he accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. Living a Christian life is a daily connection with the living Lord. Lost persons often have wrong ideas about being Christians. They get an idea like this. A person has to know certain facts and to do certain acts to become a Christian. This idea is wrong. They must understand that the Christian life begins as a decision in faith. A Christian is growing as s/he becomes more like Jesus. This Christian growth comes through a daily personal connection with Him.

* "Becoming a Christian means giving up everything I enjoy." This is a half truth. Some Christians will need help. They will need to leave some friends. They will need to stop going to places with bad influences. They need to give up habits that develop and influence sinful actions. Read John 16:20-24. There is a real joy. That joy comes through a personal connection with Jesus. This connection comes through faith. Real joy is God's gift. It lasts always.

This joy is much better than anything in our lives. Suppose we give up what we know is wrong. Then what? We have joy that no one can take away. Nothing on earth can give or take away the real joy.

* "God helps those who help themselves." Many people make the mistake. They think this statement comes from the Bible. 56% of American adults hold this view in a 1990 study. A lost person looks at it without a hope or with a pride (being very proud). Studies show that most societies around the world believe that everyone will receive heaven and hell. What s/he does in this life will decide heaven or hell for that person.. This tells how s/he has helped himself. Most lost people have this idea. It gives some lost people a feeling of being without hope. They know that they could not live above their sins. Other lost people have a false hope of being safe. These people are very proud of themselves. They believe that they can work their way into heaven by what they do on earth.

A reading of the Ten Commandments helps us see a fact. We can never keep all the Law's demands. The gospel of God's love and grace tells us that we don't have to. Paul writes, "All who depend on obeying the law are under a curse. It is written, 'May everyone who doesn't continue to do everything that is written in the book of the Law be under God's curse' (*Deuteronomy 27:26*). We know that no one is made right with God by keeping the law. Scripture says, 'Those who are right with God will live by faith' (*Habukkuk 2:4*). The law is not based on faith. In fact, it is just the opposite. It teaches that 'the one who does those things will live by them.' (*Leviticus 18:5*). Christ set us free from the curse of the law. He did it by becoming a curse for us. It is written, 'Everyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse' (*Deuteronomy 21:23*). Christ Jesus set us free so that the blessing given to Abraham would come to non-Jews through Christ. He did it so that we might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by believing in Christ" (*Galatians 3:10-14, NIRV*).

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you" (*Ephesians 2:4-5, NIRV*).

There is no limit to God's love. God's wonderful love accepts us as we are. God uses His love to help us become what we should be. We must share God's true love with lost people. Sharing Jesus does not mean that we should pay no attention to the fact that sin is real. The lost person must recognize, confess, and turn away from his or her sins. But our first attention is on what Jesus has done in love for all our sins.

Day 5

Share Your Heart

Sharing Jesus is a way of opening your heart. It, too, points out the truths of the Bible. God's Word is not just an opinion. You share your beliefs through Bible verses. The Bible verses provide the answers that will never change. They are the answers to the questions you ask.

Sharing your faith means developing a trust with a lost person. This trust means that a lost person will not mind opening his heart about spiritual questions. The answers that you provide are from the Bible. These verses are what help you to discover peace, hope, etc. They help you face a hard and mixed-up life on earth.

Many Christians say that they had a deep wish. They wished to talk with someone about their spiritual needs. This happened while they were lost without Christ. They talk about their fear. They were afraid to let someone know they had their doubts. They did not want others to find out that they had no knowledge about spiritual things. Many people want to understand more about the Bible. They are not clear about what it says about Christ. They, also, are not clear what the Bible says about what it means to be saved. You will find that God puts in every person's heart the need to know the truth about Him.

There was a French philosopher named Alexis de Tocquerville. He wrote about what made America successful. He said the morals of the Americans were what caused America to be a success. He wrote about these beliefs that tell the difference between right and wrong. These beliefs decide how we treat one another as "habits of the heart." These heart-felt beliefs shape one's actions and ways of living. There are basic teachings which the Americans accept. They provide a strong knowledge that God forgives sins. They provide the hope of a life that lasts forever. They give the feeling of comfort that God is with us and cares about us. They help us face life. So the verses we share with a lost person are very clear. We don't use the verses to take advantage of people. They are the rock on which we stand.

Many people are mixed up about spiritual things. Some persons may say people do not believe what the Bible says about Jesus. They use that reason to tell why a lost person's refuses to talk about being saved. Often it is not the case. Some lost persons are more likely not open to the gospel. They expect the Christians to judge them or press them to believe when they are not ready. So it is wise to ask caring questions. Give a personal interest in a lost person. This action lets him or her know that you care. Be willing to listen to what s/he says. Your action shows that you respect his or her thinking and feeling. It may open up the person to listen to what you say about Jesus.

The apostle Paul wrote a letter to young Timothy. He says, "Don't have anything to do with godless stories and silly tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly" (1 Timothy 4:7, NIRV). Be in the same spirit. It is wise to train yourself for the purpose of sharing Jesus. Train yourself to listen with feeling. Listen to understand what a lost person is saying. It is better than to have an opportunity to speak. Why? You gain the trust of the person. When you listen with a deep care, you show that you want to understand him or her. You, too, show that you try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. It means you try to understand him or her.

A lost person answering your questions will try to share feelings more than real facts. Listening helps you picture in your mind how s/he feels about spiritual things. S/he must know that you understand his or her views and feelings. S/he must know that you are thankful for his or her views and feelings.

Suppose lost persons have a chance. Most people are open to opportunities to talk about their spiritual needs. A man said to me, "Sometimes I think it is no use to work and try to get ahead. I just seem to be getting nowhere." I replied, "You know. I h've felt the same way before. It is a feeling of having no hope. What do you do when you feel this way? Do you have any kind of spiritual belief that gets you through?" He answered, "I don't guess I depend on anything but myself." There was a time of silence. He then said, "I guess that shocks you, doesn't it?" I waited for a few seconds and said, "No, I can understand how you feel." I chose to leave it at that. I asked question number two, "To you, who is Jesus?" I did not try to explain why I could understand his feelings. But I sensed an immediate comfort in our talk from that moment on. At last he prayed for Christ to forgive him and to come into his life.

God will open your eyes to wonderful opportunities. It is necessary for you to develop a heart for sharing Jesus. This develops through the process you have been studying.

Develop a deep love for lost people.

Learn to depend on God's promises through prayer.

Take steps to work together with God.

Trust the Holy Spirit's power.

Prepare yourself to share Jesus.

Suppose you do not give yourself to obey God and to do what you have learned. You will find yourself with two results. First, you may become afraid and do nothing. Second, you may develop pride in your heart for having learned how to share.

It is important to understand Jesus' heart for lost people. Read John 4:4-42. It was in the middle of the day. It was time to eat. Jesus put off eating. He wanted to talk to a woman. The woman came to the well for water. He guided the talk to the deepest need of her heart. He asked her a simple question, "Will you give me a drink?" Her reply opened the door for Jesus. She let Him know that her heart was empty. Even today the Holy Spirit's power continues to open hearts. He opened the hearts to Jesus' saving love. A simple question, "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?" often gets people to open up. God gives us a promise. The power and work of the Holy Spirit will be there as we obey. The disciples came back. They wanted Jesus to eat. John 4:31, NIRV, says, "His disciples were saying to him, Rabbi, eat something!" But He answered them, "I have food that you know nothing about" (John 4:32, NIRV).

Jesus told his disciples, "But I tell you, open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest right now" (John 4:35, NIRV). They spoke to Him about being hungry. Jesus knew that his disciples did not see their opportunity. They missed the opportunity of leading people to have eternal life.

Eating to satisfy the immediate hunger became less important to Jesus. He was very happy to talk with a lost person at the well. The person happened to be a woman. The woman came to trust Him to save her from her sins. Jesus saw the joy that came into the woman's heart. Keep your heart filled with the dream of joy and hope. Joy and hope come into the hearts of lost people. They give themselves in faith to Jesus.

Remember that success comes in different ways. It is living out your Christian life. It is sharing the gospel. It is trusting God for results. Success is not bringing someone to the Lord. We may be stupid when we share Jesus. We may have poor or bad timing. But God can use them. The one thing that He cannot use is our silence. He wants you to obey Him in sharing Jesus with lost people.

God's Word and the Holy Spirit give power to all work of preaching the gospel. This is God's job. We get the special favor of being a part of the process. This is the Heavenly Father's work from beginning to end. We must look for where God is working. We must be ready for the opportunities He gives us. We need to go through our daily lives, expecting ----- "Lord, is it her? Is it him? God, are you working here?"

God will bless you as you join Him. He invites you in His exciting work of sharing Jesus without fear. You will experience joy. You will see our Lord bringing men, women, boys, and girls to Himself. You will see Him changing their lives.

PERSONAL PROMISE WITH GOD TO SHARE JESUS

* I will no longer be a silent Christian.

* I will continue to look for those in whom you (God) are working. I will always keep myself open to how I can share Jesus with them.

* I understand that the risen Christ's power lives in me. I, also, understand I have all of heaven's power to keep Your Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). I will obey that command to go and make disciples.

* I will make Philemon 6 become real in my life. I will allow you to make your (God's) promises come true in my life.

"I pray that you will be active in sharing what you believe. Then you will completely understand every good thing we have in Christ" (Philemon 6, NIRV).

Signed _____ Date _____

Follow Up Helps for New Christians

A new Christian will need a lot of help. S/he is on a new journey of faith. You may wish to suggest some helps.

* *Welcome to God's Family*. This pocket-sized tract uses Bible verses. It has drawings and short statements. This tract guides and gives support to a new believer. It will also help him or her build new habits as a disciple. It will help him or her see the need of becoming a member of a church family. This tract will give a new Christian the immediate help s/he needs after s/he believes in Jesus.

* *Beginning Steps: A Seven-Day Growth Guide for New Believers*. This simple, little book can guide a new Christian. Have him or her use it during the first week after s/he becomes a believer. You can order it in three ways. You can phone your order by dialing 1-800-233-1123. You can e-mail it to baptistbookstore.com. You can write to the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0108. Or you can visit a Lifeway Christian Store, if there is one near you.

* *Taking the Next Step: A Guide for New Church Members*. This easy-to-use material will help new members. It will help them find their place in God's work through your church. It gives them an idea of what it means to become one with the church family. It guides them to have a meaningful church life and ministry.

* *Survival Kit for Christians*. There is one in Basic English. It is a six-week study. It will help new Christian adults to develop a regular habit. New Christians learn to have quiet time, prayer, Bible study, and Bible verses to learn by memory.

* *Survival Kit for New Christians, Children's Edition*. It is a six-week study, too. It will help older children who are new Christians. The children can use it at home five days each week. It has Bible verse cards to help children learn by memory.

* *Now That I'm a Christian, Revised Edition*. It is an easy-to-understand guide. It will help children understand what it means to be a Christian. Children use it with the help of a parent or other adult.

* *Heaven: Your Real Home*. It is all about heaven. A new Christian will want to learn all he can about heaven. It will be a home where s/he will spend forever. This study gives attention to how a person's life on earth leads to his experience in heaven. It helps answer questions: Why don't I fit here on earth? What is my real self? and Why do Christians suffer?

You can order all the above materials, except *Beginning Steps: A Seven-Day Growth Guide for New Believers*. You can order each of them in three ways. You PHONE by dialing 1-800-458-2772. You can E-MAIL your order CompuServe ID 70423.2526@compuserve.com. You can WRITE to the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0113. Or VISIT Lifeway Christian Store near you, if there is one.

Your Next Steps toward Growth as a Christian Disciple

There are printed materials that are suggested as possible next steps. They may help you as you continue to grow in Christ. You can study each of these materials by yourself. Or you may wish to ask your pastor or a church staff to set up a small-group study soon. He can set up the time and day of each week for this study, too.

* *In God's Presence: Your Daily Guide to a Meaningful Prayer Life.* Develop a prayer life with this simple book. This prayer life can mean much to you. The book guides adults to be with God in prayer. It helps them to become like Him. It also helps them to work with Him in prayer. Readers will learn about six types of prayer. They will practice them. They will find that God will give them more power when they unite in prayer.

* *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God.* This popular book helps Christians discover God's will. It helps Christians to obey and follow it. Daily learning and actions help Christians have a close personal connection with God. So they can hear when God is speaking. It also leads them to plan their beliefs, character, and behavior (behave) around God's will.

* *Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader.* Many persons want to be the head leaders in the churches today. Few are willing to be servants (slaves) for Jesus. The book will guide the reader to stop following the world's example and to follow Jesus' teachings. This book gives a true picture of what it means to be a servant.

* *MasterLife: A Biblical process for Growing Disciples.* The book is planned in mind for the 21st century. This material provides a small-group process for those wishing to be Jesus' disciples. It guides believers to develop a long, lasting connection with Jesus Christ. Believers will learn to practice six bible training rules. This practice helps them in several ways. They become more like Christ. They develop spiritual values. They become active in His mission in the home, the church, and the world.

* *Serving God: Discovering and Using Your Spiritual Gifts.* Discovering your spiritual gifts can help you grow as Christian disciples. This book will provide wisdom and understanding in dealing with spiritual gifts in your life.

* *Meeting Needs: Sharing Christ: Ministry Evangelism in Today's New Testament Church.* This book leads church members to understand what ministry evangelism is. It also leads them to have the power of seeing what ministry evangelism can do. It will help readers see the church's purpose for ministry evangelism. It helps readers find ministry needs in the place they live, work, and play. It guides them to find ways to meet such needs.

* *Life in the Spirit.* Christians will discover a special quality of life. They will find this life through a deep, loving, and personal connection with God. This life will result in personal Christian living. It will result in a ministry that will make the world take notice.

* *A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David.* This book studies the life of King David. It gives attention to his years as God's chosen king of Israel. This study shows how God loved and used David even when David did not obey God. It offers many lessons for those seeking to have a heart like God's.

* *Decision Time: Commitment Counseling.* This book can train persons in a decision-making process. It trains persons to guide those deciding for Christ during a public invitation. There are special decisions. They include those for salvation (to be saved). They include those needing to know for sure they are really saved. They include those coming for baptism. They include those joining the church as members. They include those who want to live closer to Christ.

SHARE JESUS WITHOUT FEAR VIEWER'S GUIDE

You will have the *Share Jesus* videotape periods. These periods provide the strong rules of action and the influence of the Bible truths in this study. Use the following viewing guide. Note these life-changing ideas. Write down your answers to these ideas.

Period 1

1. In your own words, "what is the "Sin of Silence"?"
2. Processing 2 Kings 4: 8-37:
A rich woman lived in the town of Shunem. She asked Elijah to _____.
Elijah's first answer was to send _____.
Elijah's servant, Gehazi, reported that the boy was _____.
3. List some fears that keep people from sharing their faith:

4. There is success in witnessing. It is living the Christian life. it is sharing the gospel. It is trusting God for the results. Success is not bringing someone to Christ.

Period 2

1. There are three simple ways to share Jesus without fear.
 - a. Five _____ to decide where God is working.
 - b. Seven _____ to let the Bible speak
 - c. Five _____ to lead to the point of decision
2. Five useful questions for deciding where God is working
 - a. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
 - b. To you, who is Jesus?
 - c. Do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
 - d. If you die right now, where would you go?
 - e. If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?
3. Seven verses given to let the Bible speak:
 - a. Romans 3:23
 - b. Romans 6:23
 - c. John 3:3
 - d. John 14:6
 - e. Romans 10:9-11
 - f. 2 Corinthians 5:15
 - g. Revelation 3:20

Period 3

1. Five questions that lead to a point of decision.
 - a. Are you a sinner?
 - b. Do you want forgiveness for your sins?
 - c. Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?
 - d. Are you willing to give your life to Christ?
 - e. Are you ready to invite Jesus into your life and into your heart?
2. What are two most important behaviors (act of behaving) for a witness? These two must come after you ask the fifth question.

3. List some of the excuses people may offer for not making a decision for Christ.

4. What is the best one-word reply to excuses for not praying to receive Christ?

Period 4

1. Make two lists. Make one list of special sins William Fay remembered as part of his life. This happened before he received Christ as Savior. Make a second list of believers God brought into William's life as Christian witnesses.

Sins

Witnesses

2. God has used an unlikely person like William Fay. God used William to help thousands of people discover their need for Christ in their lives. Begin today to make your own list of "unlikely" persons. You will begin to pray for these persons.

Suppose there are persons leading small groups. For them there is the *Share Jesus without Fear Kit* (Item #0-7672-3057-0). The kit includes a few things: (1) one copy of this book. (2) the leader's guide, (3) a videotape with close captioning [CC], and (4) an audio (voice) tape that you can copy. There is a Spanish kit, too. It is *Testifique de Cristo sin temor*, Item #0-7673-9091-1. You can order it in four ways. The first is FAX to 615-251-5933. The second is E-MAIL to customerservice@lifeway.com. The third is PHONE 1-800-458-2772. The fourth is WRITE to the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0113. You can VISIT a Lifeway Christian Store near you, if there is one.

The Christian Growth Study Plan

There are many printed materials in the Christian Growth Study Plan. This book, *Share Jesus without Fear*, is the material for course CG-0406. The course is in the Evangelism subject area of the Christian Growth plan. It is also a material for seven courses in the Leadership and Skill Development plan. This plan is for Discipleship Training leaders. It also is for Sunday School leaders. These include:

LS-0005	Discipleship Training
LS-0016	Preschool Discipleship Training
LS-0024	Children's Discipleship Training
LS-0028	Youth Discipleship Training and Sunday School
LS-0037	Adult Discipleship Training and Sunday School
LS-0050	Discipleship Training and Sunday School General Officers
LS-0054	Sunday School

There are a few things you can do to receive a credit in a group study. You have to spend 2.5 hours or more. You attend the classes. You read the book. If you wish to do it on your own, you can do it. You read the book. You give a brief report on the chapters. You show your work to your pastor, a staff member or other church leader.

Send the form on page 59 to the Christian Growth Study Plan. The address is 127 ninth Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0117. Or FAX it to 615-251-5067. You can make a copy of that page.

You can get information about the Christian Growth Study Plan. Look at *Christian Growth Study Plan Catalog*. Your church office may have a copy. If not, ask for a free copy from the Christian Growth Study Plan by calling 615-251-2525.

Share Jesus Without Fear

Please check the right box. You may check more than one.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO HELP YOU SHARE JESUS

We hope you have enjoyed this study. It is our hope that it will open new opportunities for you to share your faith. In turn, we hope it will open doors for those who are not saved.

We offer other materials on the same subject to help you. We feel that each one will help you learn how to use William Fay's special method. His method will guide you to share Jesus without fear.

Share Jesus Without Fear Kit

Get everything you need in one cover that holds them. A videotape helps teach you how to share Jesus. It tells about others who have used this process. There is a tape that is great for those who are hearing. The tape helps members to study and remember the lessons. It includes a member's workbook and a leader's guide 0-7673-3057-0

Leader's Guide

You can get it by itself or in a kit. This book offers clear, simple ways of planning and using this study. The four-period study is based on the videotape. Ideas for posters and overhead use make planning simple for leaders. 0-7673-3058-7

Share Jesus Without Fear: Students Reaching Students

This five-period study book is written for youth. 0-7673-3820-0

Testifique de Cristo sin temor - Spanish book of the popular *Share Jesus Without Fear* workbook. 0-7673-9091-1

Share Jesus Without Fear New Testament

It is a pocket-size New Testament with brass corners. It has William Fay's process of witnessing. It shows how to mark your Bible. KJV 1-5581-9793-1
NIV 1-5581-9794-X

You can get more information or place your order. Call 1-800-458-2772. Or you can visit Lifeway Christian Store near you, if there is one. You can fax your order to 615-251-5933. You can e-mail customerservice@lifeway.com. You can use www.lifeway.com.

FIND GOD'S POWER TO MAKE YOUR WITNESS WORK

There is a way for any believer to share Jesus. S/he can guide someone to find the simple way to be saved. It can be done without fear of failing. We have God's call to witness. We have God's promise to make it work.

Share Jesus Without Fear gives a natural, comfortable way to share the gospel. It takes away the need to press a lost person to accept Christ. It helps keep a person from arguing. It takes away the fear of failing to share Jesus. *Share Jesus Without Fear* teaches that witnessing is not winning another person to the Lord. That is the Holy Spirit's job. Your job is only to share your Christian faith. It, also, is to live the real Christian life. You succeed by being there to obey God and to share Jesus. *Share Jesus Without Fear* teaches you how to guide lost people to God's Word during a daily talk. This book has one thing in mind. It is to help you share your faith. The Holy Spirit will do His work through His Word.

Experience the true joy of sharing your faith without failing. This new material can help you to share Jesus without fear!