

If someone were to come and ask you, – as they asked Jesus, - [Mk. 10:17 what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?](#) How would you answer them?

If someone asked you, [Acts 16:30 what must I do to be saved?](#) ... as Paul was asked, how would you answer them? What would you say to them? How would you direct them? Here are four simple thoughts ...

BE SIMPLE

- * The Gospel of Sovereign and Saving Grace is foreign to the mind of man. He cannot understand it, and without the prompting and the leading of the Holy Spirit he never will.
- * There are many people who *crave* for the meaning to life. The richest film stars and celebrities *crave* to understand what life is all about.
- * They recognise that riches don't bring satisfaction, or marriage after marriage.
- * The real meaning of life seems to be so elusive; they *know* it lies in something outside of themselves ... so they turn to Buddhism, or New Age, or Kabbalah, or some other form of ancient philosophy.
- * Man is missing a 'piece' in his make-up that only knowledge of the holy God can fill and satisfy ... *do you believe that?*
- * If you want to lead someone to Christ *you must believe that* and be totally convinced of it.
- * You can't 'skirt around the edges'; you have got to go to the heart of the matter, - there is something in man's make-up that yearns and craves for fulfilment outside of himself.
- * And yes, man is aware of this craving, - he will admit it to you! He will chase in all directions after something he feels will meet that need. He will spend his own time and money and resources to pursue the craving ... and the deeper in he gets, the harder he has to swim ... but all the time he's getting nowhere fast!
- * What do you do when the Holy Spirit leads him to that point where you have the opportunity to present to him *Christ?*

- * The Bible says, [Prov. 15:23](#) A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! ... How precious a statement when you present to the sinner *Christ*.
- * People are looking into every religious ‘nook and cranny’ and under every superstitious and philosophical ‘stone’ to try and find the answer ... when all the time Jesus has said, [I am the Way, the Truth and the Life](#).
- * You don’t need to bring them into your library, ... simply bring them to the Word of God.
- * When they tell you what fantastic theories and speculations they believe in ... don’t follow them along that road.
- * Yes, be courteous ... but courteously bring them to the Word of God.
- * The Bible describes itself as a ‘map’ ... and a map gives direction; the ‘map’ of God’s Word leads along the path that brings the sinner to Calvary.
- * The Bible also describes itself as a sword ... and a sword is a tool of warfare, for when you start to present Christ to the sinner you are entering into enemy territory and you need to be suitably familiar with wielding the sword of God’s holy and infallible Word. When we share the Gospel with the sinner ... it is not our thoughts, or our ideas, or man’s philosophy ... it is God’s Word that pierces right into the very souls of men and women, boys and girls.
- * And the Bible is also described as food; it is food for the hungry and the starving. It is food that gives and sustains life.
- * Add anything to it and you will upset the balance; take anything away from it and you will leave it meaningless; *you simply tell it as it is*.
- * You don’t need to know what every intricate portion of it means to believe it. I say this with all respect: I hear people saying they can’t believe particular doctrines because they can’t understand it ... but think about it like this:
 - * The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, - none of you here could understand it if it had been left in those languages ... but translators came along and they translated the Hebrew and Greek into a language you can understand ... and you take their word for it that they have translated the Hebrew and Greek correctly.

- * Similarly, we have the confidence that the Holy Spirit has inspired every word of the Bible, - even those parts we don't completely understand, - and therefore we accept and believe every portion of it without question.
- * Far from being a 'blind faith', we have every confidence in the Author of this Book!
- * Here is what I'm trying to say: if we are trusting ordinary men to translate the Scriptures, how much more precious that we trust the Holy Spirit Who inspires the Book!
- * How much more we have confidence that this Book is God's Truth and that it has Him as its Author! Therefore, the verses and passages we cannot understand with our fallen and limited minds ... how all the more precious to be convinced by virtue of the fact that God has written it ... and all we must do is accept it!
- * ... And that is why you **keep it simple** when you are speaking to a soul that is searching. Say only what it says there! Don't stray into 'other meadows'. Keep a tight rein on your thoughts ... even if they want to go off in all different directions. Just ... **be simple!**

BE SCRIPTURAL

- * [Prov. 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! ... 28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer.](#)
- * You need to know where to start ... and there is only one place to start ... The Bible says we are born in sin ... so when you have the opportunity to speak to someone about their soul's eternity ... that is where you've got to start.
- * The Bible says "all have sinned"; show them where it says it: [Rom.3:23; Rom. 3:10 There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.](#)
- * Show them the great King David, [Ps. 51:3 I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: ... 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.](#)
- * Tell them about Paul on the Damascus road, - a sinner heading towards hell, and God confronted him.

- * Be familiar with these verses so you can turn to them without hesitation. There is no other way to begin addressing an enquirer than by starting with the subject of their sin.
- * And you don't do them any favours by leaving out the aspect of hell; you have got to tell them, [Rom. 6:23 the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.](#)
- * Jesus made no hesitation to preach the effectual eternal wrath of God, - it is Biblical, it is Scriptural ... and the inquiring sinner needs to know where sin will eventually lead him, that he will never die or be lapped up in the flames of hell ... because God's punishment is forever and ever.
- * When you do **be scriptural** you have got to start off where the sinner is at ... and that is in his sin and on his way to a lost eternity.
- * But, as Paul said, [I Cor. 15: 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable](#), ... there is an answer to the problem of sin.
- * There is only one answer, - it is not broken up into bits and pieces and you can choose which bits to believe and which bits to accept; the only answer to the destroying and destructive power of sin is the Sovereign *might* of the victorious Son of God Whose blood atones for all the sins of all His people when He died on Calvary.
- * That is the second part of the process: the sinner must admit he is a sinner and he must believe that Jesus Christ alone can save him from his sin.
- * It takes a certain type of person to believe; it is a person who has been *broken* by the power of the Holy Spirit. They see and recognise their sin in all its filth and immorality ... and it is the Holy Spirit alone that shows them it. ... They see all sin as abhorrent to God.
- * They are *convicted* of their sin and God makes them 'sick' almost because of it. Their sin is an absolute *horror*, - it keeps them awake at night, it labours in their minds, they can't escape it. Conviction is the evidence that the Holy Spirit of God is at work ... and those whom He convicts – with a holy power – He always converts.

- * Conviction is not a work simply of the mind, - when the words of a preacher grab hold of the mind alone; conviction is when the Holy Spirit *grabs* the heart and breathes into it new life.
- * When you are being Scriptural you confront the sinner with their sin, and you tell them about the Saviour Who alone saves from sin ... and then you tell them about the peace and inward contentment that belongs to the child of God for the evidence of a converted life is a changed life.
- * There has got to be a change! **he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.** Every person that has ever met Christ in saving power has always been changed for His glory.
- * The proof of repentance is regeneration, - **ye must be born again**, - it is talking about a brand new life!
- * It is a new set of principles and a different thought pattern; yes too, it often means a new set of friends. Your life changes from the inside out when you accept Christ as Saviour.
- * It is what the Bible says and when you show the sinner their need of salvation you are showing them the journey that can take them from the bondage of sin to freedom in Christ ... for Jesus said **Jn. 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**
- * It is all in the Bible. You don't need to tell them what some great Christian author says; ... you take them to the Bible and you lead them to Christ.
- * You take them to the place where they **ADMIT** their sin and repent of it; then you show them they must **BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved; and then they need to see how they must **CONFESS** the work He has done in their hearts, **Rom. 10:8 The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.**
- * Yes, when you present Christ to a seeking sinner ... **be simple, be Scriptural ...**

BE SINCERE

- * By virtue of the fact God has led that person to you you have an awesome responsibility. In the records of Heaven God has recorded the event, - *He* has led that person to you and *you* are responsible for the answer you give.
- * *That* is a tremendous burden, - you have been entrusted by God to present the Gospel to that single individual ... and God will call you to account as to how sincerely you were committed to the task.
- * Don't you remember the parable of the servants and the talents they were given? ... Every child of God has a responsibility before our Heavenly Father.
- * The person whom God has led to you is coming to seek a matter that has eternity's consequences hanging over it.
- * You need to be sincerely grounded in God's Word and carrying a burden for the salvation of lost souls.
- * It is not an empty, cold formula you are offering; it is not a matter of coming out with some 'holy words'; it is the responsibility of throwing out the 'lifeline' of Christ's salvation to a man who is 'drowning' and will 'sink under the waters' unless he reaches out for what you are offering him!
- * You've got to **be simple, be Scriptural, be sincere** and ...

BE SHINING

- * [Prov.16:1](#) The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.
- * Do you really believe what you are saying to the enquirer? Does it show?
- * When Stephen stood before the Sanhedrin to answer their accusations of blasphemy the Bible says, [Acts 6: 15](#) *And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.*
- * When you present Christ and when you keep it **simple** and **Scriptural** and **sincere** ... you **shine**! It's not your words in which you have the confidence, - it is God's Word!
- * He has done a work in your heart and you are simply setting out to persuade others that He can do that same work in their hearts too.

- * So precious is Saving Grace to you that you want them to have what you have. You want them to enjoy the confidence that is yours in Christ. You long for them to be saved.
- * You are not offering them anything that comes solely from you or from our church, - you are offering to them *Christ* as the only means of their salvation.
- * And when you talk about Him and what He did for you on the cross *you shine* as you tell the old, old story all over again.
- * You don't speak to them with sighs at the end of every sentence or with a look on your face that would sour milk or use words or terms that would trip an elephant.
- * Paul uses a beautiful phrase in [II Cor. 1:12 simplicity and godly sincerity](#) and in [II Cor. 11:3 the simplicity that is in Christ](#). In other words, stay in Christ, - don't move away and be complicated; treasure the simple things and don't become haughty ... and **shine** only for Christ.

CONCLUSION

- * It is a privilege and a pleasure to be granted the opportunity to witness for Christ. It means He trusts you with His Gospel.
- * He trusts you not to pollute it or change it; He trusts you not 'to water it down'. He trusts you to tell it as the Bible says it.
- * It is Christ and the eternal Godhead Who has done all the work, and He therefore calls upon us to **be simple, be Scriptural, be sincere and be shining**.