

# Personal Evangelism Is 'Personal'

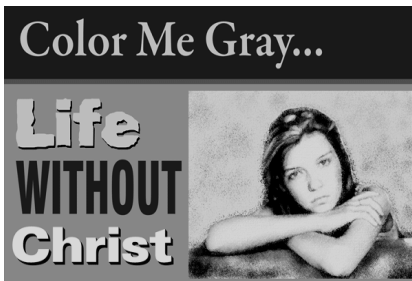
Here, let me show you the 'Roman Road'...

Whenever you read a book or attend a seminar on 'personal evangelism' you are often given a collection of clever questions to ask or a set of what I call rapid-fire proof-text scriptures. And they do sometimes work. But sharing one's faith should be from the heart, abounding in generous sincerity - it is, after all, the most important conversation you will ever have with someone! They are now where we once were...and we know the "way out"! More than that, we know the One who is the "Way"! That is why we should be confident to step out and speak up!

When you die and stand at heaven's gate and Peter asks, 'Why should I let you in?'...



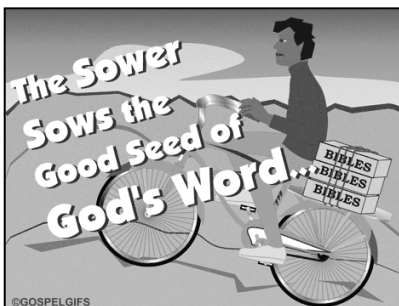
## But isn't someone's "soul" too personal to talk about?



It is a personal matter...but that's why your attitude and your approach must reflect a genuine respect and God-given love for them. Helping to restore others is a fulfillment of the "Law Of Christ" (see Gal 6:1,2) James wrote in his book that when one converts a sinner he "*shall save a soul from death*"(5:19,20) Now, that's very personal! Honestly, if I was drowning at sea and someone offered to rescue me I most certainly would be thankful that they got 'personally' involved and 'personally' helped me out!!

Some believers shy away from sharing their faith because they fear they will be considered 'judgmental' [a misunderstanding of Mat 7:1] or they fret about their own 'imperfections' [but Paul said we are not the message, Jesus is - see 2 Cor 4:5] So what...you're not perfect... Christ is!! Don't try to hide or disguise your faults [the best policy is honesty]. People still need to hear what you have to say! Remember what Isaiah wrote, "*...the Lord God hath given me the tongue...to speak a word in season to him that is weary.*"(50:4) Your testimony about what Jesus did for you is the solution to most people's struggles! Share it!!

**Just Do Your Job!** When we go forth to "sow" the Gospel "seed" it is important to remember that we are only called upon to do our part; that for which we are prepared to do and that which the Lord has positioned us to do. Do your job - not the other guy's!



1Cor 3:4-9 says "...God gave the increase...we are laborers together with God" Jesus declared, "*Without me you can do nothing*" (Jn 15:5). The opposite of that is - 'with me you can do everything!' (see Phil 4:13) It is with His Spirit, through His Spirit, that we become His "witnesses". What we say and how we say it should be entirely decided by Him. ["...it is not you...but the Spirit...which speaketh..." (Mat 10:19,20) and "*(the Comforter) shall bring to remembrance whatsoever I have said to you.*" (John 14:26) Depend upon the Holy Spirit - He will give you the words to say!!

In summary, there is no one set formula for sharing your faith. Everyone is different and so are their needs. Trying to use a 'rigid' evangelism plan (one designed to follow a certain 'path' using certain scriptures) assumes that they will be willing to follow you to where you want to go, rather than where they need to go. Sometimes you've got to go their way, to where they are first! A good counselor is a good listener. As a witness you need to know something about the person you are trying to reach - what they know, what they understand - so you can steer the journey from that point forward. Knowing many scriptures, and many approaches to personal evangelism, enables you to 'custom fit' what you share with them. Most of all, being sensitive to them and fully yielded to the Holy Spirit is the only way to ensure their heart will be touched, their eyes opened, and (Lord willing) their life changed!