

THE COMPASS

A TOOL FOR DISCIPLERS

Successful Witnessing

Conversation On the Journey

Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul is speaking of his ministry to the Corinthians in Greece. What do we know about the Greeks? They were known for philosophy, for being intellectuals, and seeking wisdom. What do we know about Paul? He was the greatest theologian and missionary of all history.

Observations about Paul's Ministry to the Corinthians:

1. He did not speak to them with superiority of speech or wisdom. He did not wow them with philosophy or theology.
2. Instead, he kept the messages simple—Jesus Christ and Him crucified. This doesn't mean Paul didn't use his sharp mind – he did – he was culturally very relevant at Mars Hill in Acts 17, and sought to persuade the Jews in the synagogue that Jesus is the Christ. Yet, he seemed to keep his message focused and simple – on Jesus.
3. He felt weak and fearful also, just as we do – real emotions we often experience when we proclaim Christ in a hostile world in which many do not want to obey God.
4. His message and preaching were dependent on the power of God, in demonstration not of his ability to persuade men, but of the Holy Spirit's power to work in hearts. The point: we cannot make people believe; the Holy Spirit must open their eyes. We simply present the message and trust the Holy Spirit to work.
5. Their faith in Christ rested in the power of God not on the wisdom of men (confer with 1 Cor. 3:6-7). God gives the results and causes the growth. Therefore, Paul proclaimed the Gospel and left the results to God.

A Definition of Success in Witnessing

A good definition that flows right out of the passage above and one we have used for many years within Cru is below:

Success in witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

This Week's Excursion

What is required to be a faithful, effective, and successful witness? How can I know that I have done my part in communicating the Gospel? The goal of this lesson is to help your disciple to understand proper Biblical perspective on God's part, and our part, in evangelism, therefore freeing them to enjoy being a witness and taking the pressure off to get results.

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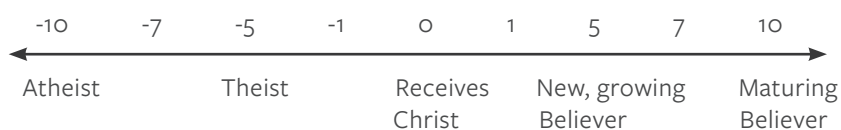
Successful Witnessing

I suggest you write this out for your disciple. Then discuss and interact over it, and ask your disciple to restate it in their own words. Look for these things to be emphasized:

- We take the initiative to go to people.
- We talk about Jesus, keeping the focus on Him while answering their questions, and using apologetics as needed to point them to the truth in Christ.
- The importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit – His work to help us listen well and be discerning, and His work of opening people’s eyes and bringing them to faith.
- Why leaving the results to God is so important. We don’t want to be prideful if someone receives Christ, nor discouraged or guilty if they do not. Also we don’t need to try to pressure someone to make a decision, but rather trust God to continue to work in their heart.

A Helpful Diagram

Spiritual Journey Chart



As we step into a non-believers life, they are somewhere between -10 and -1. God may use us to move them from -10 to -9 or -4 to -3. Or, someone may already be at -1 and are ready to receive Christ. Wherever a person is, we want to be available, as the Holy Spirit leads us, to share the Gospel, or our testimony, or whatever is appropriate to help move them along. But we leave the results to God as His Holy Spirit is working in their life. This frees us to love them and present the truth of the Gospel, but not be forceful. Realizing that coming to faith is both a process and an event, we can continue to reach out to a person in many different ways and forms of witness – e.g., our testimony, a book or tape, serving them in some way, hanging out, playing sports together, inviting them to be around other Christians at a Cru meeting or social event, or coming along to church. But since sharing the Gospel is also the event of them hearing the Gospel, there will need to be a time, or perhaps many times, when someone verbally shares the Gospel with that person. For some non-believers, we will be involved in both the process and the event, while for others we may only be in on the event, and others will be in on the longer process. Whatever our role is, we walk in the Spirit and let God use us in His overall plan in other people’s lives.

†End

Next Steps

Ask your disciple:

1. How does knowing this Biblical perspective affect his motivation to be a witness?
2. In what ways do you have more confidence to reach out as a result of this?
3. Who are some students who you have a heart to reach out to at this time?

*Take your disciple out sharing!

Side Trails

Transferable Concept: How You can be a Fruitful Witness. Bill Bright. New Life Publications.

The Master Plan of Evangelism. Robert Coleman. New Life Publications.

Witnessing Without Fear by Bill Bright, New Life Publications.

Order at campuscrusade.com



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