

Preventing Discouragement

1. We are only commanded to preach the word.
2. We have no control over the result.
3. We are not to consider a lack of results abnormal or unusual.
4. We must believe that the word accomplishes God's purposes.
5. We must believe that there is a due season.
6. We labour for the glory of God. Thus, all work for Him brings pleasure to Him.
7. We should keep in mind that we are but one of many witnesses. Another may finish what we start.
8. We have clean hands.

Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Do I really believe that God wants to save sinners (1 Timothy 2:3-4)?
2. Do I believe that God can save men, instantly and completely, through human instrumentality (Acts 15:7; 8:35-37; 1 Peter 1:23-25)?
3. Do I believe that God can use me to accomplish this?
4. Do I believe that God will use me?
5. Am I willing to let God use me?

Practical Things We Should Do in Witnessing

1. Possess and express a genuine interest in the person. Jesus had compassion.
2. Be friendly (Proverbs 18:24).
3. Smile; let your joy be evident; **be of good cheer** (John 16:33). The unsaved cannot discern spiritual things but can perceive natural things. Let them behold what God has put in our hearts.
4. Be a good listener. Let them talk. If they are allowed to speak, they will not only feel less threatened, but you will be able to learn where and how to proceed.
5. Talk based on some interest of theirs: job, family, home, hobbies. Look around as you approach the house or observe the individual. Find a starting point that puts them at ease.
6. Be complementary. Praising their nice family portrait etc.. is a good balance for the negative preceptions they may have when hearing from the first points of the gospel.
7. Let them know their soul is important to God and to you.
8. Use their name often. Make a conversation personal.
9. Be understanding of their point of view. Agree with what you can so as to balance what you must say when they are wrong.
10. Get them to read the scripture themselves, or at least have them look at it while you read.
11. Stay in one scripture or in one point as long as possible.
12. Respond positively to correct answers. Encourage them when they agree with God.
13. Be clean and neat. You are representing the King. Look the part.
14. Afterward, discuss and meditate regarding this witness. What did you do right or wrong, and how could you have done better? Study those questions you were asked that you could not properly answer.
15. Pray for those of whom you spoke.

As Christians we should have every reason to be joyful. When proclaiming the gospel, that joy should be evident to others. Do we appear as though we represent one who came to condemn the world or one through whom the world might be saved? A research group asked a large amount of people "What is the first thing you notice about someone when you encounter them?" The overwhelming

majority of respondents said "Whether or not they were smiling." If anyone has reason to be smiling, it is a saved child of God engaged in doing the work of the Saviour.

Practical Things We Should Not Do in Witnessing

1. Do not argue. You get nowhere and create animosity between yourself and the sinner. Agree with him to set that point aside, or ignore his attempts to sidetrack the conversation. Stay on the gospel.
2. Do not promote yourself. You are sinner and not a saviour. Constantly point to Christ.
3. Do not talk over his head. Keep it very simple. Avoid broad topics and rabbit trails. Propitiation, reconciliation, abortion, sodomites, etc... are not part of the discussion. If the sinner becomes morally upright but is not born again, he still goes to hell.
4. Do not talk down to the sinner or pretend to be superior. Pharisees, the self-righteous, and proud persons are not wanted in evangelism.
5. Do not attack his religion; rather, show what the Bible says about it, without naming it, and let him see the truth for himself.
6. Do not go too fast. Remember what is well known to you is unknown to him.
7. Do not be rude. Do not insult or embarrass. Speak to him the way you would want someone to speak to your loved ones.
8. Do not overly dominate. Allow him to talk and express himself.
9. Do not embarrass him. This will only build resentment toward you and make him refuse whatever you represent.
10. Do not call names. It is childish and unprofitable.
11. Do not pretend that you know more about the person than you do. You are not a mind reader. Stick to the scriptures and let them reveal the thoughts and intents of the heart.
12. Do not salve his conscience. Do nothing to reinforce his idea that he is a good person. Meet all such suggestions with Bible statements that he is a sinner.
13. Do not touch or be too familiar. If you speak differently to a pretty girl than to a rough-looking man, you are in the flesh.
14. Do not pray long prayers.
15. Do not preach your church. Give the gospel. Only invite to church afterward.
16. Do not let him do the preaching. He may comment, discuss etc... but not reverse things and become the witness.
17. Do not take his excuses seriously. Politely refute their unbiblical notions.
18. Cross examine, but do not accuse. Advocate for Jesus Christ, and let the scriptures try him, but leave it to the Holy Spirit to convict him.
19. Do not have two or more witnesses throwing things at the sinner. Let one do the talking and one do the praying.
20. Do not try to promote your experience. What matters is how Jesus saves, not how you were saved. For example, Paul never suggested one had to see Jesus in the sky and be blinded.
21. Do not push. Let the Holy Spirit do the work. Do not force someone to act when they do not understand or do not believe. If someone does not believe or understand, it is not time to force the issue.
22. Do not rebuke blindness. It is tempting to ridicule the sinner for his lack of understanding, but this will not win him.
23. Do not enter into unnecessary controversies or theological debates. Dying babies, wars, sodomite rights etc... are matters that will not be settled until the sinner is saved.
24. Do not focus on certain sins. You may miss the one the Holy Spirit wants to use.
25. Do not add to the gospel. The sinner does not have to walk the aisle, quit smoking, cry, etc... to be saved.
26. Do not tell them to think it over. Impress upon them they have no guarantee of tomorrow.
27. Do not be a psycho. Avoid feeding preconceptions that Christians are crazy.
28. Do not indulge his anger toward Christians (even if he is right). To join him in criticizing preachers, hypocrites, etc... puts you on his side and helps him reject the gospel.

29. Do not lose your temper. You cannot get a lost man in the Spirit, but a lost man can get a saved man in the flesh. ***Keep yourself in the love of God*** (Juse 1:21).
30. Do not be in a hurry. You want him to understand and to believe. You are not trying to see how many men you can engage in the vain repetition of repeating a prayer they do not mean to a Jesus they do not trust.
31. Do not minimise what is involved. Make sure the sinner knows the gravity of trusting in Christ. A new life will begin.
32. Do not tell the person he is saved. Only God knows that.
33. Do not let poor grooming habits be a distraction.
34. Do not promise him anything with regard to the new life he can have in Christ other than salvation.