**Sharing Your Faith Panel No. 1: July 25, 2022**

**Comments by Panelist John Dribus jdribus@hotmail.com**

**Introductory thought**: If you believe the following in Christ:

* that He voluntarily died for you because He loves you,
* that He didn’t stay dead,
* that He was resurrected for your life,
* that He did all this all according to the Word of God.

then, you will desire to share that with others. Some call it “sharing your faith”, I call it “sharing the Gospel”! Everything that we share about Christ and about His Gospel must come from one place: the Word of God.

The panel questions for July 25, 2022:

1. **Why do I need to share my faith?** First, It’s a privilege!I love to receive gifts, and to share them, and this is the greatest gift I’ve ever received! Second: Sharing your “faith” is “**ACKNOWLEDGING GOD**”. That’s why you need to share your faith: **to acknowledge God**. The most important way to acknowledge God is by **sharing His gospel 1 Cor15:1-4**. **1**Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2By which also ye are saved**, if ye **keep in memory** what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3**For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that (1)**Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**; (2)**4And that he was buried, and (3) that he rose again the third day (4) according to the scriptures:**
2. **Preparing to share my faith and when am I ready?**

The better you know the Word of God, the more you are able to acknowledge God. (**2 Tim 3:16-17**).All **scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works.

I want to emphasize something very important here. I don’t think the Scriptures are asking us to share OUR faith, but to share HIS gospel. **MARK 1 COR 15: 1-4 IN YOUR BIBLE WITH A TAB OR MEMORIZE IT.**

If you share YOUR faith it’s yours. It’s human. Someone else may not be able to have had what you have had. They may look at you and think “He’s attractive, I’m not”, “He has grown up in a Christian home, I didn’t”, “She’s has good health, I don’t”. They may have had a father that abused them, or a mother that used drugs, or a sibling that sold themselves on the street. What can **your** faith offer to them ?

But **everything in the word of God** that you can have, they can have! All of it. Every promise, every mercy, every grace. They can have it. Don’t offer them YOUR faith, offer them HIS gospel, His promises, His love! Talk about Christ, His love for them, His compassion for them, His mercy for them, and show them what He did for them, not just for you, but for them. **MARK JOHN 3:16-17 IN YOUR BIBLE OR MEMORIZE IT. Make your Bible into a witnessing toolbox by adding tabs that lead you to key witnessing Scriptures.**

1. **Methods and tactics of faith-sharing**

Read the story of how Jesus shared His Gospel

to others: STUDY, STUDY, STUDY **Luke 24: 13-32** . There are seven steps to effective witnessing in this passage but the most important four are:

1. Walk with them: don’t just preach. Give them your time,
2. Listen first: find out where they are,

3. Use the Bible to show them the Gospel. Not your words,

4. Don’t ask for a decision, let them respond from their heart.

**What Scriptures should you share?** You decide which ones work for you. These are the ones that I use and have marked in my Bible:

* ***Romans 3:23:* ”***For* ***all have sinned****, and come short of the glory of God*;” We have all gone outside the guidelines.
* ***Romans 6:23****: “The* ***wages of sin is death****; but****the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”***
* **John 3: 16-17**: *“For* ***God so loved the world****, that he gave his only begotten Son, that****whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life****. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that* ***the world through him might be saved****”.*
* ***Romans 5:8****: “God commendeth his love toward us, in that,****while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us****”*
* **Ephesians 2:8-9**: **“***For* ***by grace are ye saved through faith***; and that not of yourselves: ***it is the gift of God****:* Not of works, lest any man should boast.
* ***Titus 3: 4-6:*** *“The kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but****according to his mercy he saved us****, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly* ***through Jesus Christ our Savior****”.*
* ***Romans 10: 8-9:* “***But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;**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*.”**

1. **Overcoming discouragement when rejected while faith-sharing:**
2. Remember don’t offer what YOU have, **offer what Christ has**

His yoke, **Mt 11:29**

to abide in Him and he is them, **1 John 2: 5-6**

His Word; **2 Tim 2:15**

His comforter **John 14:26**

His love: **John 3:16-17**

1. If there is any rejection on their part, they are not rejecting you in any way. They are **failing to acknowledge Christ**, they are rejecting Him. Immediately pray for them to open.
2. Don’t give your opinions, **READ them the Scriptures**.
3. The best way to **share your faith is to be faithful**. Trust and obey!

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