

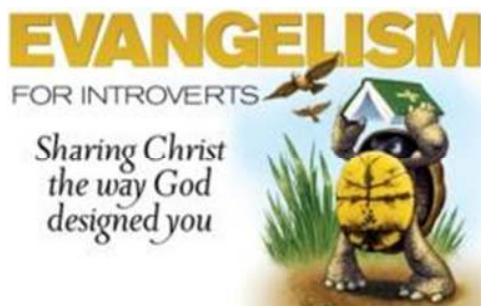
# Evangelism – Styles, styles and more styles.

The thought of doing Evangelism strikes terror into many hearts and I believe that there is a way for each one of us to do it, enjoy it, love it and . . . be successful at doing it.

No, no, no! Please do not shut the door to your heart and your ears before you have heard what I have to say. *You see the fact that Jesus told us to “Go” means that He has also equipped every one of us with the means to do it.*



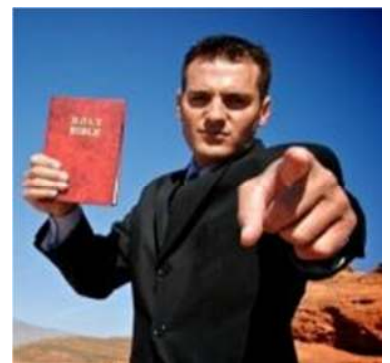
I believe that every one of us have been born with the ability to reach the lost. The problem is that the guys who have the “heads-on” approach, have given us the idea that their way is the only way. (You know them. They are the guys standing on street corners preaching and who knock on doors) And the rest of us (who are terrified of doing it their way) have decided the best way is **to behave like a tortoise**. . . pull in your head and pretend you are not home.



What I want to share here is NOT original, but was inspired by a book, “Becoming a Contagious Christian” by Bill Hybels and Mark Mittelberg.

I want to put some of the blame for the dilemma that you might have experienced when it comes to Evangelism, at the door of the local church. It would seem that most churches have only seen the one way of doing Evangelism and this has created a **‘run-while-you-still-can’** feeling among many of the members of local congregations.

The *slanted* image of the “in-your-face-Evangelist” has become a tool in the hand of Satan to stop you (and me) from advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. We have not all been made the same. We cannot all have the ‘confrontational’ approach that Simon Peter had. It is time to put a STOP to the way Satan is stealing your opportunities to bring souls to the Lord Jesus. How can the church do this? By understanding the great news that is both freeing and empowering: God knew what He was doing when He made you. Yes He did! He custom-designed you with your unique combination of personality, temperament, talents, and background, and He wants to harness and use these in His mission to reach the messed-up world. You see, Jesus said “Go into all the world” but He also prepared you to be able to do just that.



Please join me as we go on a type of **treasure hunt**. I am going to show you a number of different styles of evangelism found in the New Testament. The treasure that you have to look for is the style that is yours. The one that fits your personality and gifting. If you find it, you also find a way of winning souls and there is nothing more precious for your Lord than the souls He died for. Remember, there are people out there who can **only** be reached by your style, your heart, your personality.

- **Peter's Confrontational Approach. (Turn of Burn)**

Peter was the wild one in the bunch. He did not hesitate. He jumped into every situation 'mouth first' and was a 'ready – aim – fire' type of guy. Peter just needed to know that he was right and then nothing would stop him. When he wanted to get close to Jesus he was even prepared to walk on water and when they came to arrest Jesus, he was ready to cut off some heads.

All Peter needed was to be convinced that he was right, and there was almost no stopping him. He was direct, he was bold and he was to the point. Is it then any wonder that he was the one chosen by God as His spokesman on the Day of Pentecost?

Although this direct approach is what frightens many of us, we should realize that many people will never come to Christ if they are not confronted in such a direct way.



- **Paul's Intellectual Approach (Come let us reason together)**

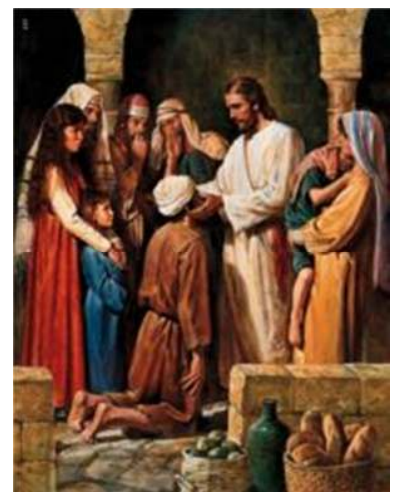


Paul was a highly educated man. He studied under the best tutor and he is not shy of stating what he knows. His approach of sharing is facts, facts and more facts. He has a way of categorizing information in such a way that he gave a sound explanation of the central truths about God's nature, our sin and Christ's solution. Can you think of a better style for those who work on university campuses? Many students only respond to intellectual reasoning. Some Christians have been able to master the area of apologetics and enjoy crossing swords with intellectuals.

- **The Blind Man's Testimonial Approach (Hear my story)**

See [John 9](#). We do not know much about this man, but one thing is certain, he was blind and now he sees! Nothing in his life seems important enough to record in the Bible apart from the fact that he was a poor beggar who sat in the streets begging, but his life suddenly changed when he met Jesus and now he is thrust in front of crowds to tell them what had happened to him. In verse 25 they try to get him into a theological debate (Paul would have loved it) but he sticks to his testimony, "All I know is that I was blind and now I can see!"

It is pretty difficult to escape the implications of someone's testimony. - Even that of a person who has just met the Lord Jesus Christ. Notice in verse 3 that Jesus said that he had been **born** blind "so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." This man was custom-tailored for a particular approach. . . and so have you! If you have been born again, you have a testimony of the saving grace of God and that testimony has power if shared.



- **Mathew's (Levi) Interpersonal Approach (I want to be your friend)**



(See Luke 5:27 -) The Tax-Collector. Here we see this man become a follower of Jesus. And what does he do? He invites all his friends to his house to share his food and company with them. He did not confront them, he did not challenge them intellectually, and we also do not see any proof that he shared his testimony with them. He just invited the people to his home and served them with food. He spent time with them and ate with them. He offered his friendship.

People with this type of approach build relationships. They tend to be warm, people-centered individuals who enjoy deep levels of communication and trust with those they are reaching out to. Many people will never be reached until someone is prepared to spend time with them and build a relationship with them.

- **The Samaritan Woman's Invitational Approach (Come with me. You have to hear this!)**

(John 4:5 -) This woman had so much that was against her. She was a Samaritan, she was a woman and she was in an adulterous relationship. Each one of these facts was enough to disqualify her in the culture she was living in. She was very quick to realize that Jesus was not just an ordinary man. She knew this was a man who was different. And what did she do? She ran back to town and invited the people to come with her. They came and heard for themselves and because of what she did, Jesus stayed there for another two days and 'many more believed.'



Many people would go the church if someone would just invite them. This is so non-threatening for the one who gives the invitation. If your church has different types of meeting you should consider the person's needs and likes and invite him or her to the most suitable meeting. Some people just have the knack of getting people to join them in going to places with them. They always seem to have people in their car.

- **Dorca's Service Approach (How can I help you?)**



(Act 9:36) In Joppa there was a woman named Tabitha, who was a believer. (Her name in Greek is Dorcas) She spent all her time doing good and helping the poor. It would have been very hard for people to know her and not to have seen the love of God emanating from what she did. It is interesting to note that her work was so important that when she died (what seemed to be a premature death) God sent Peter to raise her from the dead and put her back into service. Praise the Lord!

People who use this approach find it natural to serve others. They see needs and find it fulfilling to meet those needs. They are often the more quiet people who do not need a lot of recognition for what they do. They express compassion through tangible forms of action. This approach often takes longer to show spiritual results, but it will reach people that no other approach would be successful with. What is there that you can do? Are you a wiz at cooking, repairing things, helping kids with homework? I hope you can see how those things and many others like them can be done in a way that will point people to Jesus.

- **Luke's Writing Approach (Allow me into you Cyber Space)**

In our modern society, this style has become such a wonderful tool. Luke was a Doctor, but he had some time on his hands and sat down and wrote everything that he had heard and shared it with others. Today we have the powerful 'media' tools of emails, Facebook, Twitter, SMS, BBM, WhatsApp and more. There are so many ways to make use of modern media. You can write message or testimonies and post them. You can minister to people in need and with hurts via email or your cellphone. You can print things on your computer and hand them out.



- **Philip's Bible-Study Approach (Let us look at this together)**

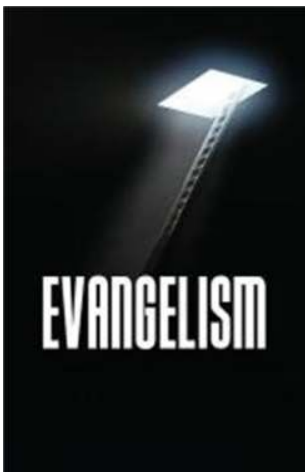
(Act 8:26 -) This is a little gem that often goes unnoticed for what it was. Philip is taken into the dessert to meet a man who is riding on some sort of chariot. This man – the Eunuch from Ethiopia – is reading from the Scriptures and from the book of Isaiah, but he does not understand what he is reading. In verse 8 we read his cry for help, "How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?"

Philip's knowledge of the Word allows him to bring this man to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and we see-in verse 39 that "The official did not see him again, but continued on his way, full of joy." There are many people who have questions about the Bible and Jesus. Many of them would grab the opportunity to join a Bible study at your home or be open to you coming to their home to share with the family.

- **The Helping-Hand Approach (Lord have Mercy on me)**

Do you recall the circumstances when God first called you into relationship with Him? Were you in need of something? Were you in a crisis situation? Every day God calls someone into relationship with Him through different circumstances. More often than not, the circumstances relate to a need in their life that only God can meet.

Each workday we rub shoulders with someone who has not met this Jesus we know personally. God uses needs to draw us to Himself. What need has He placed in a co-worker that only Christ can meet? Perhaps you are the instrument He wants to use to introduce that person to Himself. It requires availability and a willingness to look for people with needs, and then point them to Christ to meet their needs. Pray for divine appointments today.



- **In conclusion: -**

**If you** have found your way of 'doing things' in these examples, then **Go out and Live it out.** Remember that it is not your task to bring every person you meet to a place of making a total commitment, but you have been called to be a sower of seed. This is not something that you 'do', but rather something that you 'are.' People are locked in places of darkness. Show them the way to the light by living for Jesus and by doing what He has prepared you for. Use your personality and gifting **to point them from darkness to the light.**