

3. The “Good News” Made Simple:

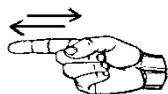


1. God really loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

God “Cares”!

John 10:10 (PME) - “(Jesus said) I came that you might have a full life, and that you might have it more abundantly.”

John 3:16 (NASB95) -¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (Greek - Lit. “The life of the age”)



2. All people (including you and I) have sinned and missed God’s Plan.

All have “sinned”!

Romans 3:23 (TLB) -²³ Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious [plan]...

1 John 1:8 (TLB) -⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.



3. God paid the price for our sins by giving His life on the cross—just for you!

Christ “died” for us!

Romans 5:8 (NASB95) -⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Corinthians 15:5 (NASB95) -³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures ...

NOTE: There were two other men crucified with Jesus. One rejected him (index finger) and the other accepted Him as Lord (commitments finger).



4. We can discover God’s great plan for our lives by committing our lives to Christ.

We must make a “commitment” (total surrender) to Jesus.

Romans 10:9 (PME) – If you openly admit with your own lips that Jesus is the Lord, and if you believe in your own heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Acts 4:12 (NASB95) -¹² “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name [but Jesus] under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”



5. We cannot save ourselves by “doing good things”—it’s not possible to get to heaven except through Jesus Christ.

We are “weak” without Christ!

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NCV) - ⁸... you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. ⁹ It was not the result of your own efforts ...

John 14:6 (NASB95) -⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”



6. If a person makes Jesus their Lord, they win—but, if they reject Christ, they lose.

Find Jesus and you “win”!

Romans 10:13 (NASB95) -¹³ for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 (TLB) -⁵ ... God is on one side and all the people on the other side, and Christ Jesus, himself man, is between them to bring them together ...

4. Other considerations about sharing your faith.

A. There are two components of an effective witness:

• Your Walk

Matthew 5:16, NIV - *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.”*

• Your Words

B. Sometimes, you can test the waters with a neutral statement:

“Oh really, I know a lady at our church that does that.”

C. Ask for permission (casually) to share about your life.

• *“Jack, can I share with you something very important about me and life?”* Or, *“Can I shoot straight with you about something?”* Or, *“Jill, I want you to know something, okay?”*

❶ Share about your life BEFORE Christ....

❷ Share how you met Christ – *“I made the most important decision a person makes....”*

❸ Your life now with Christ.

Tell your life story like a story, end your “story” by saying, “I prayed and surrendered my life to Christ.”

❹ Ask for a response by asking two questions:

• *“Jack, have you ever had a moment like that, where you prayed and surrendered your life to Christ?”*

• *“Jill, what would keep you from making Christ the Lord of your life, right now?”*

D. With confidence, lead them in this prayer:

Lord Jesus....thank you for loving me....forgive the sin in my life...thank you for dying of the cross...to pay for all my sin....Lord, I surrender my life to You...I welcome you into my life and heart....I know I can only be saved through You...I choose you...as my Lord and Savior...forevermore!

- Amen!



If we could but see a family member, a dear friend, a loved-one, an acquaintance, or a business partner just one minute after their death, we would surly lament if we had not told them of Jesus.

- Dr. D. James Kennedy

TOUGH QUESTIONS

and
Straight Answers by Pastor Joe K. Taylor

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Here's the **TOUGH QUESTION:**

How Do You Share Your Faith With a Friend

in a Way that Doesn't Embarrass Them or You?

Here's the **STRAIGHT ANSWER:**

1. The Short Answer:

Pray, Prepare and Wait for that 'Divine Appointment' God has set.

2. Introduction to the issue:

1. Stats: If you could knock on 1,000 doors, you might lead as many as 3 to Christ (cold turkey). If you mailed 1,000 handbills (ie., advertisement), you might get 30 people to read it, 9 people would “visit” (“seekers”). But, if you invited just 10 friends to church, 7 out of 10 would say ‘yes’ and 4 would follow through.
2. It is the only way people will come to know Christ as Lord.
3. We want to see the benefits of a life with Christ passed on to others.
4. By sharing our faith, we grow and mature in the Lord.
5. God commands it. (cf., 1 Peter. 3:15; 2 Cor. 5:20, Matt. 29:19-20, Rom. 1:16; 9:37-38; 10:7-14)
6. Nothing else really matters!