

The Compass

a tool for disciplers



Equipping Believers for Ministry

Successful Witnessing

Conversation On the Journey

Read 1Corinthians 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 message 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 is:

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 her to enjoy being a witness and taking the pressure off to get results.

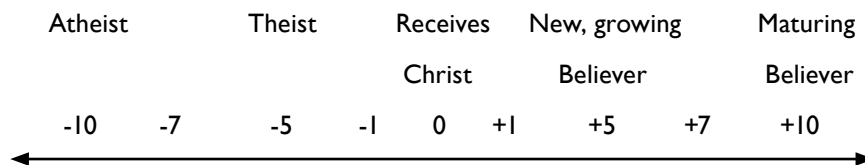


I suggest you write this out for your disciple. Then discuss and interact over it, and ask your disciple to restate it in her own words. Look for these things to be emphasized:

- 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 her along. But we leave the results to God as His Holy Spirit is working in her life. This frees us to love her 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 her in some way, hanging out, playing sports together, inviting her to be around other Christians at a church meeting or social event. But since sharing the Gospel is also the event of her 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 effect 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 people 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

The Compass is the discipleship curriculum for Campus Crusade for Christ's Campus Ministry. It was created by Centerfield Productions, the field based division of CruPress. We'd love to hear your feedback on this lesson. Please write us at centerfield@uscm.org

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