

Finding Freedom Sharing Jesus

'Your love is better than life...'

Psalm 63:3

Peter Walker, 2018

This booklet is dedicated to you, the believer in Jesus. If you have picked up this booklet, you care about sharing Jesus with others - and that *'care to share'* means you're already there!

Thank you for your faith, your fight, your partnership in the gospel!
(1 Cor 3:9; 1 Tim 6:12)

Introduction

This booklet is more of a 'workout' than a treatise. It is messy. I am trying in and through this booklet to actually take you somewhere in spirit, not just deposit ideas in your head.

I think of Jesus healing the blind man in Mark 8:22-26. It was messy! Spit in the dirt, mud in the eyes, and then only partial seeing at first. Processes are real, and spiritual seeing is a process!

Jesus constantly challenged us to walk upstream (Mk 8:34-38), to press against the perceptions and even the teachings of the day (Lk 12:1), and to calibrate our eyes – not just what we see, but '*how*' we see. (Mt 6:22-23)

So if the going gets tough in this read, you're probably actually getting somewhere. ***Grip tighter, press on!*** After all, what's 'freedom' worth? Finding spiritual freedom in actually knowing and sharing Jesus is worth fighting to find, and then fighting to keep. (Matthew 13:44)

At the end of this booklet there is an appendix – 20 Questions & Answers. I was asked these 20 questions by my oldest son, Isaac. These give a little more insight to my own personal journey, and what I have been learning.

The Heart of the Matter

If you never share the gospel of Jesus Christ with another person, that is OK! You are not a bad person. You are not a coward. You will not lose your salvation.

Jesus did not come find you with the primary purpose of you sharing him with others. He came and found you – that is, revealed himself as ‘true’ to your heart and mind – with the primary purpose of... finding *you!* He came to you, to save *you*. He searched you out, to heal *you*. He is with you now and forevermore, and you are safe! Enjoy and receive the ‘quietness’, the ‘rest’, that he offers you! (Isaiah 30:15)

It is so important to understand this. It is the truth of God and the gospel. It honors Jesus that you accept, and fully enjoy his eternal peace, quietness and confidence, in your salvation. (Isaiah 32:17)

Maybe today – this very day – Jesus wants you to go no further, and just rest in him?

Now let me drill down a little deeper into this 'place of rest'...

You see, to rest in Christ fully, and in your salvation, is not a starting point, or a 'fuel stop', to tank up and launch out. No! In fact, if anything, to come to full rest in Jesus Christ is the goal of life itself.

We share Jesus with others, *in order to* know Jesus better, not *because* we know Jesus 'better'. We share Jesus because his Spirit is flowing in that river called '*Sharing*', and so we flow in his waters when, by his Spirit, we share. We share in the Sharing, so to speak.

Check out this very unique verse, from a very short book in the bible:

'I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.' (Philemon 1:6)

We see Jesus, when we share Jesus. I have some of my deepest experiences and visions of the Lord, when sharing the gospel with someone who does not know

the Lord. They ask things that suddenly open my eyes. They share things that make the gospel jump and spark in power, and come alive in the moment. They suddenly see things about God, that reflect in their eyes, and so I see it, too. I come to a full understanding, through sharing, as the Spirit leads.¹

When we are sharing Jesus by the power and lead of the Holy Spirit, we are sharing in his Sharing. We are flowing in his waters. We are seeing more of him – consuming vision, not imparting vision, so to speak.

This, my friends, is a Spirit place. This is a sphere, a realm, of being where Jesus is (*'hidden with God'* – Col 3:3; Eph 2:6), and *from* that safe and eternal place we reach into the world and share winds from heaven: *'Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven...'* (Matthew 6:9-13)

¹ Not all 'sharing' is Spirit-led and Spirit-filled. (Mt 7:21-23) Please read and ponder: John 5:19; Matthew 16:15-20; John 5:1-14

Works Without Faith Is Dead

Yes, I'm 'inverting' a verse here, to get clarity on something very, very important. The original verse is James 2:14, which reads, 'Faith without works is dead.' And the lesson in that passage is about putting faith in action. Very important.

But faith cannot be put in action, if faith doesn't exist! Many people are busy at work, even good work, but they deny faith in Jesus Christ. Does their work 'count' for goodness, and does it honor God? Yes! But the message of Jesus Christ was not a message about good works. It was a message about the identity of God, his holiness, and his forgiveness for our sins and his gift of eternal life. This is a completely separate issue to good works. Jesus made a very clear and intentional 'break' from confusing the gospel with 'good works'. Look at this powerful exchange from John 6:28-29:

The people asked Jesus, ***'What must we do, to do the works that God requires?'*** Jesus answered, ***'The work of God is this, to believe in the one he has sent.'***

Jesus came as God in the flesh, to be *'with us'*. (John 1:14; Matthew 1:23) Jesus came to connect with our souls, to embrace us. (Matthew 23:37) Jesus states again and again that the Father's *'will'* is faith in Christ², and then we are told:

'Without faith it is impossible to please God.' (Hebrews 11:6)

My friends, ***more important than you actually sharing the gospel, is that you believe the gospel must be shared.***

You may need to stop and ponder this last sentence. Let it soak in. I will expand a little now on this, but it is important to let this concept settle in your mind and heart. I say it again this way, it is important for you to believe that the gospel of salvation of Jesus Christ must be shared with the world, whether *you personally* are sharing it or not.

What do I mean by this, and why is this subtle concept so important?

² Matthew 7:21-23; John 6:40

Belief Over Action

Or should this chapter be titled, '*Belief Under Action*'? You decide after reading through the next couple of pages.

When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, he responded (by quoting Deuteronomy 6:5), ***'To love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...'*** (Matthew 22:37)

That is a lot of love right there! That is a lot of our 'focus', our thinking, our feeling. Jesus locks us in here, claiming '*all*' of our heart, mind and soul. This is all-consuming, and it is not about what we 'know', it is primarily about love. This call of Christ sweeps us away in his Spirit and actually has no boundaries or limitations. It is a free-fall, a space, a Spirit.

This love relationship is what Jesus came for, what God calls for, and is the very essence of why we were created³, and what the gospel of Jesus Christ is.

³ Acts 17:25-27

This space – love relationship with Christ - is exactly where we as Christians are called to dwell. We are to be worshippers *'in spirit and truth'* (John 4:24) not experts in rules and good Christian living. We are called to be lovers of Jesus Christ, and not judges of people. We are called to know him and be with him, even as he came to be *'God with us'*. (Matthew 1:23)

There will be people who can preach Jesus and even do powerful things in his name – but not love him or know him. (see Matthew 7:21-23) And without this 'love' – or 'faith' – it is impossible to please God. (Heb 11:6)

There are demons who have good theology – i.e. they believe in one, true God – but they do not love him or have faith in him. (James 2:19)

There are whole churches that are rock solid in their theology, in testing 'false apostles' and getting rid of them, of standing up under persecution and being faithful, and yet Jesus has this issue with them: They have lost their love. And

without the love relationship burning, the whole purpose of their church is lost, and Jesus warns that their very church will be removed from its place, will no longer be a 'lampstand' in this dark world. **(please stop and take 3 minutes to read: Revelation 2:1-5, and 1 Corinthians 13)**

As soon as evangelism, or sharing Jesus with others, becomes more about 'action' and strategy than about knowing and loving Jesus Christ in our own lives, we have lost our way.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is about God connecting with a person *personally*, to forgive, love, heal and save for all eternity. When we see this, say this out loud⁴, we engage in a mission that involves the whole church on earth. You might not find yourself immediately on the front lines of the battle, but you will now be in the battle! You will 'back' the cause, and do what you can to advance this gospel. You might not personally share the gospel with this or that person today, but you will believe with

⁴ Romans 10:9

all your heart that this or that person desperately needs to hear this gospel from someone – by man, an angel, or the Holy Spirit. One way or another, the gospel of Jesus Christ needs to reach all people!

So, as noted earlier, it is more important that you believe the gospel needs to be shared, than whether or not you personally are sharing it. Because by believing this it means you are clearly seeing and understanding what the gospel truly is, and you are part of the great church mission to reach the whole world with this message and Spirit of God. You are now in the fight, a soldier, and ready to do whatever God leads you to do: pray, serve, give, go... whatever! Now you just need to receive your guidance from Jesus, as to what your part is.

Without this deep 'seeing' and conviction about the gospel of Jesus Christ, you would not be willing, focused or equipped to be part of the 'action'. ***Belief over action. Belief under action. Belief before action.***

Do you understand the gospel? Do you

believe Jesus when he says, *'This gospel must be preached in all nations'*, and that we must be part of it? (Matthew 24:14; John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8)

You don't have to have all the answers as to how this will or should happen, and you don't have to have an idea of your part in this. But to engage the gospel in truth and in Spirit, you must say with your mouth and believe with your heart: ***'Yes! The gospel of Jesus Christ must be made known to all people! This is the will of God, and the hope of world!'***

Sharing Jesus Is About Personal Identity

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching him for the first time he said, ***'Here is a true man, in whom there is nothing false!'*** (John 1:47)

Being 'true' to ourselves is a common phrase, and an issue of the soul. ***When were you ever not true to yourself? What did that feel like?***

When I think about being true to myself, I think about following a conviction that I have, usually in a situation where I don't really want to follow it. The winds blow against it. If it was easy to be true to ourselves, we would not have to encourage one another to do so! It is not easy! What this shows us is that there is a truthfulness in our souls, that often we walk away from, neglect, even deny. But then we start to feel false, like we are not being who we were made to be, who we truly are.

Jesus admonished us to ***'acknowledge him before men.'*** (Luke 12:8-9) Why would

we need to be told to do this? If we see and know Jesus Christ, if we love him and truly believe he is alive and real, would we not acknowledge him naturally, easily, all the time, whenever possible? No, absolutely not!

The course of the Spirit of Jesus in our lives, wars against our flesh. In knowing and seeing Jesus, we are taking hold of something that we are completely convinced of, and yet completely 'against' in our natural being – and the world is against it, too.⁵ We feel the profound joy of having found truth in a universe of falsehood, but nonetheless, we do exist in a universe of falsehood! Although mankind cries out for everything that Jesus is – *needs it, wants it, can't live without it* – mankind also rejects this 'salvation' with every fiber in his being, to the point of rallying to crucify Jesus. ***Here we have the struggle! And this is why we fear to testify.*** Will my sharing Jesus be an aroma of life to this person, or will it be the stench of death? (cf 2 Cor 2:16)

⁵ Galatians 5:16-17; Romans 7:14-25

So the struggle is real, the response of people unpredictable and somewhat extreme – *aroma of life, stench of death?* This is a battleground, and quite frankly feels 'unsafe' as a zone.

Who wants to 'dwell' in battle? Who wants to live with 'unpredictable' relationships and reactions? Not me! So what I decided for many years – having seen active evangelism up close and personal, all over the world – was that I wanted to be a believer, but avoid sharing Jesus at all costs. I just wanted to be saved deep within my soul, and live a good life as a Christian (kindness, mercy, generosity), but not actually share with people *vocally* about Jesus as the one, true God, the only way to God, the only hope for forgiveness and salvation. My good life would tell the story, and I could just busy myself with a 'good life' – salt and light in my actions, relationships, endeavors. If people actually 'asked', I would share; if they admired the life and example, and enquired about my faith, I would testify. But all my effort and focus would go into building a 'good life' as a testimony...

But here's what happened:

Jesus saw me approaching – like Nathanael – and said, *'You are a true man in whom there is nothing false!'* This broke me in two! Why? Because everything about my life aim was 'false'. I was in hiding.

I knew there was a battle out there, bringing the gospel to the lost, but I was avoiding it. I knew there was a battle and that soldiers were in the trenches... but that I was not. I knew the gospel of Jesus Christ was one of a 'fight', cost him his life, and still costs many their lives, and that the war was real. I knew this. I believed the gospel had to be this way, because the darkness of mankind is so rooted, so violent, so 'opposite', that the gospel – built on blood – had to advance with intention, with conviction, with courage. I knew all this, I was in hiding, and yet Jesus called me, *'true'*, someone in whom there was *'nothing false.'*

So was I going to walk in the identity that Jesus gives me? Or was I going to deny this inheritance, this equipping, this

destiny and treasure, and hide from the battle – the battle I know rages with or without me, the one in which many fight, and must fight, whether I join or not?

My heart responded, and I wept. I could not be false anymore. I simply could not go on denying the true gospel of Jesus, the way of the cross. I had to be true to myself – the ‘self’ that the Lord ordained in me.

I see Jesus. I know he is true. I know the gospel of Jesus is the very *‘power of God for salvation’*. (Romans 1:16) I believe this! Now I needed to step into the person God made me – actively, vocally ‘believing’ this, so that my actions would follow.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh (John 1:14), and the only hope for forgiveness of sins and the healing of hearts and lands?

If you can answer ‘yes’ to this question, and do so with intentional conviction, you embark on a new path. Your very life is now one of embracing and engaging the battle and the mission of the gospel.

Everything you do in your relationships will have a deeper purpose of 'preparing' people for the gospel. You will be praying their hearts soften and open and are ready to hear the gospel. You will be giving and caring as a way to till the ground of their hearts and testify through your actions. And then – here is the real test of the integrity of your purposes and your partnership in this mission – you will 'delight' when you hear the gospel has been shared with them (whether they responded well or not), and you will support (defend and acknowledge) the message that reached them.

You will care more about the Lord having brought the message of Jesus to their ears, then you will care about the harmony of your community or your relationship with them. You will believe – and have invested in – their eternal destinies, far more than you will believe and have invested in their mortal and temporary existence. You will be fulfilled – and not put out – by the investment of your friendship having come to a head with someone sharing Jesus with them, because you have been praying for this

and living for this as your primary mission here on earth for all people. The gospel is central to your purpose, and beneath, above, 'over' all your action and relationships.

When a friend tells you that they heard someone talking about Jesus – whether they liked it or not – are you happy to hear this? Do you defend the message and the name of Jesus, or do you deny it? Do you let them talk badly about those who spoke to them? Do you support people's reactions, or do you support God's teaching that all people must hear and respond to this message?

If you are living (practically, spiritually) to see people come to a knowledge of Jesus, you will be happy to even have your friend table the topic – good or bad experience – so that you can defend, expand, further the work! And remember, even if your friend is reporting a bad experience or emotion, this does not mean it was not a God-ordained presentation of the gospel to them. Someone else might be reporting *your* testimony as offensive... wouldn't it

be nice to know that if you and your 'sharing' was being slandered somewhere, that a believer might stand up and gently steer that conversation back to the person of Jesus, and actually defend your faith and action to that person, explaining that we are called to share the message of life with others?

If you believe what Jesus taught, and all the bible supports, that everyone must hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ; if you are believing this and making it a reality in your prayers for people, and your purposes in relationships with people, you will have a completely different experience when you hear of friends and family encountering a presentation of the gospel.

Dare To See!

Dare to look at the gospel of Jesus Christ! If you cannot look clearly and squarely at the life and message of Jesus Christ, you are *'taking offense on account of him.'* (Matthew 11:6) In other words, you are 'offended' by his message, by the fact that there is 'one name' and no other. You don't like that he holds the keys to all truth⁶, and you would rather just go to church and enjoy people, harmony, goodness and manners.

To look at Christ is to put your life on the line. Because what you will see is God himself, moving to and through you, and claiming all authority on all the souls of mankind.⁷ This is a lot to see, and a lot to let pour over your life. It will change your life. It will cost you.

Are you ready? Here are 7 powerful verses that need to go on index cards up on your fridge, and to become part of what

⁶ Colossians 2:3; Revelation 1:18

⁷ Ezekiel 18:4; Psalm 24:1; Acts 17:25-27

you believe, and what you say you believe. This will soak into you by faith, and by the Spirit of God, and will begin to move you to action – a specific course of action that God gives only you. It may not even be a definable action, but rather a *‘spirit change’* that affects many actions in your life:

Acts 4:12 – ‘There is no other name [Jesus] under heaven given unto men by which we must be saved.’

John 14:6 – ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

John 10:9 – ‘I am the door; whoever enters through me will be saved.’

Mark 1:15 – ‘Jesus said, ‘Repent and believe.’

Acts 16:31 – ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.’

Romans 10:14,17 – ‘How will people hear the gospel, unless someone preaches to them?... Faith comes through hearing the message, and hearing the message through the Word of Christ.’

3 Points On 'Getting Practical'

So as we soak in the gospel of Jesus, and 'dare to see' who he is, and what his message is, our hearts are stirred. You may not suddenly see a way to 'evangelize' people around you, but you will start to believe and 'feel' that they do need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. You will begin to 'care' that the message reaches them. You will begin to feel – as did Christ in Matthew 9:36-38 – 'compassion' for people around you, and that they are *'helpless and harassed, like sheep without a shepherd.'* If Jesus felt this way, spoke this way, we can – and should – also. So don't shake off or quench the stirring of your soul, as you gaze on the gospel of Jesus Christ!

What can you do? Well, ***first***, pray for those you know. Yes, make a cup of coffee, sit quietly with the Lord, and spend a few minutes praying for the people in your family, life and community, that do not profess faith in Jesus. Pray that the Lord will move in their hearts to seek Jesus. Pray that the Lord will open doors for the message of Jesus to reach them.

Pray, and rest!

Secondly, who do you know in your church family that is engaged in active evangelism? Are there people that the Lord has raised up in this area? I'm not talking about other ministries, all of which are good and are 'outreach', but actual evangelism – i.e. talking to people about the gospel of Jesus Christ, for repentance and salvation. If you can identify these people, maybe reach out to see how you can support what they do, and possibly join them for some outreach.

Thirdly, ask the Lord to help you 'open your mouth' and actually speak to people about Jesus Christ. Now don't panic!:) Remember, I am encouraging you to ask Jesus for help, not to sit and figure out how to do it yourself. You cannot do it yourself. And the witnessing we do ourselves – without the help and leading of the Spirit of God – is really not filled with power, but with guilt, fear, pride. So just relax. Ask God to help you with this. Ask him to lead you to some scriptures you need to know. I would suggest, maybe, looking up and writing out *all* the scriptures

in this booklet, referenced in text and in the footnotes. Store up these scriptures in your heart and mind. Then continue to just ask the Lord to bring you opportunities to share with people about his message.

You may not be used by the Lord initially to share with *your* immediate circles. Others may do that! I often think when I am engaged in street evangelism, that I am sharing Jesus with someone, that someone else is probably praying for. Your prayers for your friends, may open the door for others to share with your friends. Other people's prayers, well, you might be the answer to those! The Lord may give you opportunities to share with people, that others have not been able to. We are '*co-workers in God's field...*' (1 Cor 3:9)

Your Truest Self

As we discussed earlier, to be true to yourself is a powerful truth, and a gift from God. To be the person that God made you, 'in whom there is nothing false', is a deep, even eternal experience.

When God called me to my 'true self' in him, I had some 're-defining' to do with people around me. I had gone too long allowing many close to me, to not really know how important Jesus was to me. Now that God was calling me to 'be true' to my identity in Christ, I had to start implementing a '*new me*' in my *old* circles. This was hard, but so deeply refreshing. How did I do this? Well, here's how:

1. 10-minute daily quiet time. (*1 chapter of the bible a day, 5 days a week. Sitting for a few minutes in the presence of Jesus*)
2. When asked what I had planned for the weekend, I would always share that I'd be going to church on Sunday. (This simple, true answer to their question, often gave rise to interest, '*What church do you go*

- to? etc.)
3. As the Lord leads, if people tabled something 'deep', like a real struggle at home or in work, I would say, 'You know, one verse I really love in scripture about 'worry' (or whatever), is...' *(In other words, I began, by the Spirit's leading, to introduce words of the Lord into my conversations, and into people's lives.)*
 4. I began looking for 'pro-active' ways to share Jesus, not just reactive ways. So, for example, is there an 'outreach' in my church where I can 'hit the streets' and actually engage in proactively taking the message of Jesus to people...

These 4 points above, pretty much in that order over time, started to give my family and my community a clearer idea of my 'truest self'. People now know me as a Christian, and someone who loves to share about Jesus. This is honestly what I wanted to be known for, but for a long time was not known for. I want people to agree on one thing when my life ends – that whatever about who I was in life, or what I achieved, I was someone who loved

Jesus.

Being a radical follower of Jesus is not about intensity, or 'action', or loudness. It is about a deep, sincere courage to look at Jesus for who he said he is, and to say, *'Yes, Jesus, I believe you!'*

When we 'dare to see' him, and stay in that place with him, he will flow through us as streams of living water. (John 7:37-38) Just being with Christ, holding to him, you are being as radical as you need to be! All the power and Spirit of sharing Christ flows from this place, your 'First Love.' (Rev 2:1-5)

Appendix: 20 Questions & Answers:

My son, Isaac, sent me a document with these 20 questions. I wanted to include it here as they challenged me, blessed me, but also give a little more personal insight to what the Lord has been teaching me.

- 1. Who is one of your role models when it comes to sharing Jesus with people?**

My own father, Mickey Walker.

- 2. Do you ever get nervous talking to random people?**

Yes!

- 3. Where do you get your confidence (is it just natural or do you talk yourself into it)?**

Just natural really, and then over time I have had positive/reinforcing experiences that have served to 'establish' my confidence in my area of ministry/serving.

- 4. What are your favorite ways to start a conversation with someone in order to talk about Jesus (*do you just dive right in or do you casually bring it up after talking about the weather*)?**

I usually look for an opportunity, or opening, rather than 'bring it up'. If an opportunity does not present itself, then we just keep chatting about the weather!

- 5. Do you try to make people feel as 'comfortable' as possible when talking to them? Or do you welcome a bit of tension?**

I try to make people feel comfortable. I try to be really friendly and kind. We are called to be intentional about that - '*Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*' (2 Timothy 2:25, and see 2 Cor 8:21)

6. What is one thing that helps you be a good communicator?

‘Relating.’ In other words, listening and expressing sincere ‘empathy’ - e.g. *‘That’s difficult work you do! I’d say it’s also tricky, sometimes, trying to keep spirits up in work?’*

7. What is something every Christian should do in order to be more confident when it comes to sharing the gospel?

Christians should not be ashamed that they feel some fear or lack confidence in sharing the gospel. After only a short while of being a Christian, we come to realize that the message of Christ flows in a different direction to the natural ‘flow’ of this life, of people’s hearts and desires. I think Christians should not feel bad or even ‘try’ to be more confident. What I *do* think we as Christians need to do is ask God for more confidence *in the gospel*. In other words, we need to humbly - together as family - be reminded of

this beautiful message - forgiveness, fresh start, eternal purpose, *'life that is truly life'* (1 Tim 6:19) - and continue to believe that the world needs this gospel. If we are all pointing in the same direction - conviction that people do need to 'hear', believe and receive (Rm 10:14-15,17) - then we will move together in testimony, sharing. We might not all be the 'mouth' on the street, because that is only one part of the whole body (1 Cor 12:7-12) - but we would all pray for the advance of the gospel, and help in ways that we can, in ways we are gifted to do so, with our eyes on advancing this gospel to the lost. (Luke 15:1-7)

8. Do you ever practice what you might say to someone? Or do you wing it every time?

I don't 'practice', but I do find myself sometimes having imaginary conversations! I'm sure, for example, you find yourself practicing some riff on a guitar, just because you came

across it and feel drawn to the challenge of it? Now, will that practice in your ministry ever be called into play? Probably at some point, and you will be ready for it because you practiced - not for a specific event, but just generally. So the 'skill' you developed is drawn on at some point.

Paul told Timothy to '*be ready*' both '*in season and out of season*'. He also told Timothy to '*do the work of an evangelist*'. (2 Tim 4:2-5) Timothy - like Paul and Barnabas - was '*set apart*' for this evangelistic work. (see Acts 16:2) Not everyone in the church is '*set apart*' to concertedly do the work of an evangelist - otherwise we would have no other giftings and service in the body. But the same way an evangelist must believe in the work and ministry of worshippers, of servers, of those who disciple, of prophecy, etc., so, too, must these other parts of the body understand the need and try to support the work of evangelism.

9. What is always a ‘warning sign’ for you to know when not to bring up God or hand someone a tract?

I continue to learn in this, and to listen in this. And when I do, I grow and experience more freedom. I have particularly learned of late to have more boundaries in my work. In the past I have made the mistake of using my employment role to witness as openly as my free time. This has led to some problems, even losing my job. I think there was more wisdom available to me, even freedom and peace available to me. It was more of a misunderstanding on my part, than anything else. Here is what I have learnt in this area, and would advise:

Use your work to ‘be’ a good witness through actions, spirit, integrity. (Gal 5:22-23) Honor the roles and job descriptions of your employer. (Eph 6:5) Pray for people in secret, binding/loosing spirits of truth in the realm of the Spirit. (Mt 6:4,6,18; Mt 16:19) Use your free time and

'areas' to witness. This could include your lunch time or work party to share about Jesus with colleagues from work, if the Spirit leads. But separate work (your employer's time and clients) from your free time and relationships. Share Jesus on your time.

10. Which do you enjoy more- writing about Jesus or speaking about him?

Writing about Jesus is a treat for me. But it is more like 'training for battle' than 'being in battle'. So honestly, I probably like writing more! The resources I write are useless unless shared. I more admire the person who shares what I write! But I enjoy the writing, because it is also a gift from God to me - to enjoy! (James 1:17)

11. Did you grow up seeing a lot of evangelism? Was it different to the way that you do it?

Yes, I grew up watching my father as a street preacher and a tract-giver! I learned how to share my 'verse cards' from watching my dad give tracts. He was so natural in it, and would always say with a smile, *'Here! You'll enjoy this!'*

And yes, I work differently, and this has been a learning curve for me. For a long time I felt the only 'real' type of evangelism was on the street, preaching and sharing. But that is not the case. And that's not really my personal lane! I can enjoy street outreach on campaign and with a group of people working together, as I have many happy memories of the fruit and reach of street evangelism. But I've learned more personal and integrated ways to share Jesus in my day-to-day life and my community - 'verse cards', social media, chatting/praying with people as conversations arise.

- 12. How much does memorizing verses help when it comes to sharing Jesus with people? (Do**

you generally just keep it very simple when explaining the gospel? Or are there special cases where you need to pull out a few references when talking to mormons, for example?)

Knowing the Bible generally is more important than knowing verses by memory. Like, knowing that God is loving, Jesus forgives, Jesus calls us to repentance... Knowing these truths is far more important than knowing chapter/verse. However, for me - like Timothy - I feel I need to be 'prepared' in season (when people are for you) and out of season (when they are not). (2 Tim 4:2) And I feel that part of my gifting is not just knowing Scripture, but being able to equip others. (1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:12) I personally, therefore, feel more 'prepared' in having specific knowledge of chapter/verse in many cases. And when actually dealing face-to-face with false teaching, it is important.

Paul, at times, had to 'debate' such people, as did Apollos. And look what is noted about Apollos: '*... he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.*' (Acts 18:27-28)

13. Do you find it easier to share Jesus with people you've never met or with people you've known for a while?

These are different types of sharing, and can't really be compared. However, what I would say is this: It is very important to live your life in a way that when God does open a door to share Jesus with a friend or neighbor - someone you have known a while - that your testimony/witness is no surprise to them. Hopefully they have already 'seen' it or felt it in the '*fruits of the Spirit*' in your life, or in the words they have heard you share with others, either in conversation or on

social media.

14. How often do you get hostile responses?

Here I'm thinking of when I share my 'verse card' with people. Very rarely do I get a hostile response! I fear it a lot, but get it very rarely. Sometimes a little cold response, like no smile and a quick moving on; but very rarely a rejection, like, *'No thank you!'*

15. What is one thing that you stopped doing in your communication style and why?

I try not to be argumentative. I try not to say, *'But but...'* I don't have to prove a point, or even win an argument. I have to 'share' the revelation of Jesus, by the Spirit, by his leading (John 5:19), and allow the Spirit to do the convicting. (John 16:8) I don't have to do the convicting, and I don't have to see fruit. I have to be faithful to do my part, *'fulfil the ministry given to me.'*

(2 Tim 4:5)

16. What is the best way to get through to people when you want to share the gospel?

We don't really have to strive to 'get through'. It is a spiritual battle. There will be times we are called/led to share a word of truth - not just about Jesus, but about his Kingdom, e.g. *'I don't feel that is right to do.'* If God leads us to stand on truth, either in his way of life, or Word of Life, we will only answer for doing just that. We don't need to worry about 'getting through', if you know what I mean. We are called, however, to be loving in our 'stand'. Without love, we are told, even our 'true' speaking is like a clanging symbol - empty! (1 Cor 13)

17. Are more people actually open to listening or are they not?

Yes, more people are actually open. People have been made by God to hear this message. That is clear in

Scripture. (Acts 17:25-27) Now, will they actually *respond* to the message when I share it? Not often in the moment. Most of my 'sharing' is sowing, not reaping. That's OK! That's part of the process! (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

18. What is your favorite way to approach people about Jesus?

My main avenue to 'deposit' the message with people, are my 'verse cards'. They are a gift to me, and allow me in so many normal spaces of life to deposit a word about Christ. Just last week while checking out at a grocery store, I offered the cashier a verse card after she gave me my receipt - *'Here! These are a couple verses I love to share!'* - she looked at it, and tears welled up in her eyes. She said, *'Thank you! There was a reason you came here this morning!'*

19. Do you ever follow up with those you have talked to?

Yes, sometimes. If the conversation ran deep and there is opportunity/interest to talk more.

20. What is your best tip for communicating the gospel in a genuine way?

Humility. See yourself as a 'servant' to the listener, as 'less' than them - even in faith. (Phil 2:3; 2 Cor 4:5; James 2:5)

For more on sharing Jesus, and for general resources on building and walking in your faith, see:

www.sharingyourfaith.weebly.com

www.1peter1three.weebly.com