

## ***THE SPIRIT CAN HANDLE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE GOSPEL***

### **THREE**

**There is no argument for soul-winning. The total action of God in history, the whole revelation of God in Christ -- this is the argument.**

**I live for souls and for eternity. I want to win some soul to Christ. If you want this and work for it, eternity alone can tell the result. --D.L. Moody**

We need to live in the Bible because it gives us important witnessing instructions that must exemplify the attitude of our heart when responding to people's objections. ***"And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth"***(2 Timothy 2:24, 25).

#### **Here are some brief responses to some commonly held objections to the Gospel.**

##### **1. "I'm just not ready."**

Remind the person that "now" is the time to get it right; ***"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"*** (2 Corinthians 6:2). Also remind them that no one has any promise of tomorrow and strongly urge them to commit their life to Jesus in the only time accepted – now.

##### **2. "It's too hard, I don't know how I can live the Christian life."**

Agree with them! Assure the person that it is not in their own strength that they need to live a life pleasing to God but in the Holy Spirit's. When Christ enters into a life, He empowers the believer with His own life. ***"For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure"***(Philippians 2:13).

##### **3. "I can't be saved, I've gone too far in sin."**

Encourage them that the very fact that God saw fit to have you there sharing Jesus with them is evidence that God still loves and wants them. Then you can assure the person from the words of Jesus Himself, ***"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out"***(John 6:37).

##### **4. "I'm as good as the next person – I never do anything to hurt anyone."**

That may or may not be true, but God's entrance requirements into heaven are not at all based on a comparison of people's moral behavior considering all have sinned. Jesus Christ was the only human that didn't need to be born again, because He was the only one born right the first time. God requires that all receive forgiveness of their sins through Jesus, even the most pious, moral or religious. ***"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'"***(John 3:3).

**5. "There are so many hypocrites in the church."**

Agree with them but urge the person to pursue this train of thought to a logic end. Surely hypocrites are not sufficient reason for them to miss out on eternal life! If your friend objects to sitting by hypocrites for a few hours in church each week, ask them what they think of the prospect of spending eternity with hypocrites. If anyone would let a hypocrite come between themselves and God, who is closer to God?

**6. "Nothin' but jive – Christianity is a hoax."**

Ask them to clarify their statement. What in particular is a hoax? The life of Christ? Almost all reputable historians believe in the historicity of Jesus. The resurrection? Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the great English historian, said, "The resurrection of Jesus Christ is as certain as historical evidence can make it," If the person is an honest inquirer, encourage them to read books such as *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis and *More Than A Carpenter* by Josh McDowell.

**7. "What will my friends think of me?"**

This is a legitimate question. Many times new Christians do in fact lose friends. However, remind the person that a true friend will rejoice that they have found forgiveness and purpose in life.

**8. "Man, I want to enjoy life."**

That is exactly what Jesus provides. He said, *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). Further, *"The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it"* (Proverbs 10:22).

**9. "I've always been a Christian, I grew up in church."**

Tell him you are glad for that. Then you might ask Dr. Kennedy's diagnostic questions, beginning with, "Have you come to the place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?"

**10. "What about those in third world countries who haven't heard the Gospel?"**

People stand condemned before God, not on the basis of whether or not they have heard the Gospel, but because of their sin. Jesus said, *"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* (John 3:18). That is why Christians are busily at work sending missionaries around the world. Beside all of this, when this person stands before God, the issue will not be, "What about those who haven't heard?". The issue will be "What has this person done with Jesus Christ?" They have heard.

**11. "I don't believe the Bible."**

Ask them what parts of the Bible they doesn't believe and why. Then, tell the person that you are sure they have arrived at his decision after careful examination of the contents of the

Bible. So, you may ask your friend, since they have made intelligent inquiry, what is the main theme of the Bible? If he answers anything other than the theme of redemption, you may reply that you are sorry but they have rejected the Bible without knowing its central theme. Encourage them to read it again, this time with the central theme in mind.

## 12. "Religion is a crutch for the weak."

Agree with them that religion can become a crutch. And Christianity is a whole hospital, but when people come to Jesus Christ, they then have the ability to stand tall and throw all their "crutches" away. Jesus came to deliver us from a sin-sick, fallen world! It was the arrogant Pharisees that were really sick. They expressed how irked they were about Christ's friendships when they asked His disciples, *"Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"* When Jesus heard that, He said to them, *"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick"* (Matthew 9:11, 12).

## 13. "I don't believe in hell."

Assure him that his belief or disbelief in hell will not make it go away – it doesn't change the facts. Hell is a real place. Jesus spoke more of hell than He did of heaven. Ask the person if they are really prepared to risk their eternal destiny on this misinformed preconception. *"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8).

## HOW TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN

Using the fingers of the hand, share these five points:

### 1. God loves me

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

### 2. I have sinned and hurt God

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23).

### 3. Christ died for me on the cross and rose again

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

### 4. I receive Him by faith

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who are born of His seed, and of His will, not of the will of man, but of God* (John 1:12-13).

### 5. I am saved

*So they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your Household'* (Acts 16:31).

## PRAYING-IN HOLY BOLDNESS FOR WITNESSING IS NECESSARY!

The dictionary says to be bold is to stand "fearless before danger." We all know that fear is the opposite of faith, but here's what it is dispelled by:

1. **Perfect love**  
*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love* [1 John 4:18].
2. **Believing when you pray**  
*Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness* [Acts 4:29-31].
3. **Intimate communion with Jesus**  
*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus* [Acts 4:13].
4. **Loving Christ more than life itself**  
*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death* [Revelation 12:11].

## WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO SHARE THE ENTIRE GOSPEL?

1. **Share your testimony enthusiastically!**  
"Man, may I share with you the most awesome thing that has ever happened to me?"  
  
Once again, your personal testimony is effective and may be divided into three parts:
  - 1.) Tell what your life was like before you met Christ (without glorifying sin by disclosing all the gory details).
  - 2.) Tell how you came to meet Jesus Christ.
  - 3.) Tell the tremendous difference that Christ has made in your life.
2. **Leave evangelistic literature.**  
"Do you know the Way Home to God?"  
"Bridge to Life"  
"Four Spiritual Laws"  
"Steps to Peace With God"
3. **Set up another appointment.**  
"I know you're pressed for time right now and need to leave. When would be a good time for us to get together and talk more about this? How about . . ."