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In the secular world, the question was asked what your number one fear is. The answer is public speaking. Christians were asked the same question: What is the number one reason you do not share the Gospel? The answer is "*FEAR*." I do not know anyone who does not have fears when sharing God's truth with others. This topic, in my mind, takes top priority in discussing how to conquer our fears of telling others about Christ.

Fear of what people will think.
Fear you will not know what to say.
Fear of losing a friend.
Fear they will ask a question.
Fear of ... Fear of ... Fear of...

I pray this study guide will inspire you to want to share the wonderful news of the Great Commission by overcoming your fears of sharing. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).



1. FEAR OF OFFENDING PEOPLE AND THE FEAR OF BEING INSULTED.

Most Christians have a deep fear of offending people. They worry that if their Gospel presentation comes across as wrong, they could drive people away or fear that they will come across as crazy. Some atheists call Christians "*delusional*" and even "*stupid*." Nobody likes to be called names or be made fun of; thus, this is a common crippling fear Christians have that keeps them from wanting to share the Gospel with people.

Take time to **get to know someone before presenting the Gospel message**. Show that you genuinely are interested in them, and they will recognize that you care. Getting to know someone first helps you **eliminate the fear** of offending someone and helps you transition from general to spiritual conversations.

When talking with an unbeliever, always:

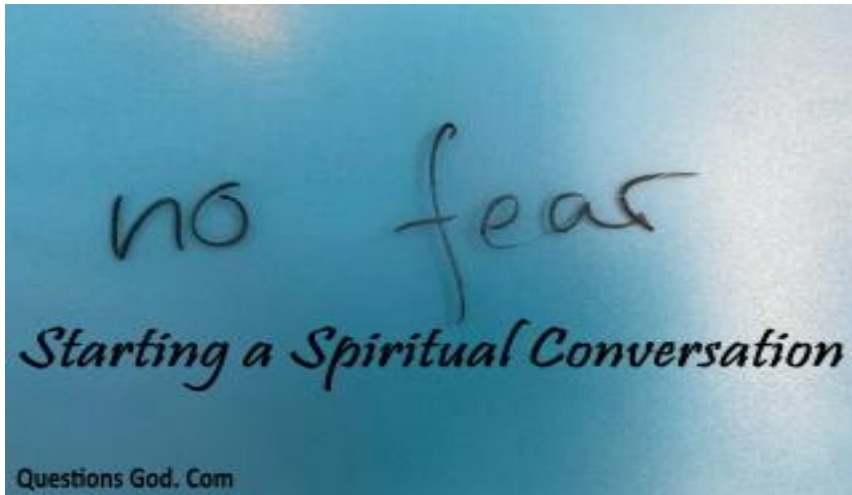
- Be friendly. ([Proverbs 18:24](#)).
- Smile, be a good listener, and let them speak freely.
- Talk about their interests (job, family, home, hobbies, etc.)
- Be complimentary. Show sincere appreciation.
- Use their name often and pronounce it correctly.
- Try to see things from their point of view.
- Remember that your focus should be on pleasing God, not people. The apostle Paul wrote, "*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.*" (Galatians 1:10).

Be more concerned about what *God thinks* of you and less concerned about what *people may think* of you. This affects us all, and we must look to the Lord for help.

If you want to make headway with the person you are speaking to, there are some things you should **not do**:

- Don't argue.
- Don't embarrass the person by dealing with them in front of others.
- Don't put them on the defense by condemning their religion or opinion.
- Don't be self-righteous or pharisaical by "*talking down*" to the person and giving the impression that you are better than them.
- Don't be rude or try to cross-examine them.

- Don't be a "*spiritual psycho*" (*religious nut*). Don't be hollering, jerking, shouting, etc. Exhibit a sane, sensible, pleasing disposition.
- Don't wear out your welcome; they may not want to talk to you again.
- Don't rush them; lead gently.

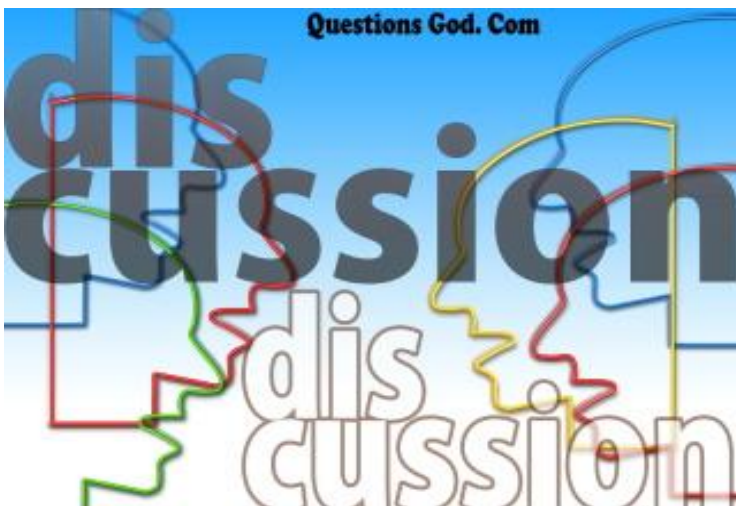


2. FEAR OF INITIATING SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.

How do we transition from a warm and friendly discussion about the weather or world events to speaking about spiritual matters? Talking to people about general things or everyday affairs is easy, but Christians freeze up when thinking about shifting the conversation to spiritual matters. Does this happen to you? It does

to me. Many Christians find it difficult to ask anyone if they have a relationship with Christ and to bring up the topic of Salvation. We will learn some approach questions and ways to combat this fear below and in the rest of the study guides.

You will be more comfortable transitioning from general, worldly conversations to deeper, more spiritual discussions once you get to know the person. When you develop trust with the other person, they will feel more relaxed and most likely want to hear what you say. Always ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.



Here is a list of questions you can use that can help start a spiritual conversation:

- Is spirituality important to you?
If so, in what ways?
- Do you believe God exists?
If not, why?
- Have you ever been mad at God?
If so, why?
- How important is spiritual growth?
If so, in what areas?
- What gives you meaning in life?
- What are your driving forces for living each day?
- When you have trouble or experience a crisis in your life, how do you cope with it?
- Do you feel something in your life is separating you from God?

- Do you believe God has a plan for your life?
- If you were to die today, do you think you would go to Heaven?
- In your opinion, what must a person say or do to know God personally?
- Or, in your opinion, what must a person say or do to inherit eternal life?

If the person you are speaking with says or is already a Christian.

Here are some questions you can ask:

- How is God working in your life now?
What are some things He has done for you?
- Do you understand God's forgiveness and what that means?
- Do you read the bible?
If yes, how has reading the bible helped you in everyday living?
- Are you a member of a church?
If so, how has your church helped you grow spiritually?
- Did you attend church as a child or teen?
- Do you feel close to God?
Do you have a real relationship with Him?
- Is there anything in your life that is separating you from God?



3. FEAR OF NOT PRESENTING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE PROPERLY.

Some Christians may fear they do not know enough about the Bible to properly show non-believers how to be saved. Some Christians may not know specific Bible verses to turn to when presenting the Gospel, and he or she may be unfamiliar with everything a sinner should realize to be saved.

Although Christians realize that non-Christians must turn to and believe in Jesus, they don't know or understand how to lead them into a relationship with Christ.

There are some crucial things a sinner must realize if he or she is to make a total commitment to Christ. To skim over these factors can keep a person from accepting Christ.

The two biggest fears are not knowing how to start a spiritual conversation and then how to present the Gospel message to a non-Christian. The remaining study guides will give clear and straightforward methods to overcome these immense fears we get when we share Christ.

Here are some questions you could ask:

- "Would you like to have faith in something?"
- "Can you admit that there may be a God?"
- "What would a purposeful life look like to you?"
- "Do you consider spiritual things and God?"
- "What do you believe is a person's most significant spiritual need?"

IMPORTANT:

This list is not as much about what to say, but more about demonstrating different ways to talk about spiritual matters as every person and situation is different. Mix up the questions to fit the individual's personality and circumstances. Be flexible in which approach you should use and silently ask for the Holy Spirits' guidance.

Not only must one know what the message for the sinner is, but also one should develop a simple presentation of it. We should know the appropriate scriptures to use. It will be discussed thoroughly in the next few study guides.



4. FEAR THAT THE NON-BELIEVER WILL NOT ACCEPT CHRIST.

Christians may be afraid that after presenting the Gospel to someone, that person will be reluctant to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior immediately. The soul-winner may take this as a form of rejection or that they have failed.

It is the Holy Spirit's job to change that person's heart. We must remember that Christians only need to plant and possibly water seeds.

Here are some questions you could ask:

- "How do you think a man or woman begins a personal relationship with our Lord?"
- "What things or changes brought you nearer to God?"
- "What would reawaken that awareness of closeness to God?"
- "Where do you see yourself in relation to God?"

- "Where do you desire to be?"
- "How do you see yourself progressing deeper to God?"
- "How can I encourage you to get where you would like to be?"



5. FEAR OF REJECTION.

When I see an opening to share with someone I know, the first thought comes to my mind: **fear of rejection.**

Perhaps the fear of rejection is the greatest obstacle and roadblock for Christians to proclaim the Gospel. Scared and worried about being turned down, laughed at, or looked upon by other people as "*religious fanatics*" has impaired many Christians in their attempts to tell many others about Christ.

The fear of rejection stops many good-intentioned Christians from sharing the Gospel with another soul. I know I have. So, we say nothing as it is safe to remain silent. If we are honest with ourselves, we hate rejection.

(Pause and Reflect!)

However, Jesus said we will encounter rejection when sharing the Gospel.

([John 15:19-20](#).)

Even though we know this, we go out of our way to avoid it for these reasons.

1. **We want to steer clear of the pain of rejection.** We all want to be liked.
2. **We battle with pride.** Even us that are reserved can be prideful. The fear of looking foolish and out of place in society's culture keeps us from sharing.
3. **We fear people more than we fear God.** Have you ever backed down from sharing, worried about what the person might think?
I know I have.

HOW TO CONFRONT AND ELIMINATE THESE TYPES OF FEARS

These roadblocks can be terrifying, but they also can be overcome. If you are like me and struggle with the fear of rejection in sharing, here are some scenarios to help.



LEARN HOW TO LET GO OF FEAR

- 1. Daily start in God's Word to read, study, and meditate.**
It reminds us how big God is and how small everything else is.
- 2. Pray for boldness, fearlessness, courage, and determination.**
We need supernatural help. ([Acts 4:29](#)).
- 3. Remember, our heavenly Father loves us.**
We are His ambassadors. Remember WHO you are and WHOSE you are.
- 4. Expect the best, not the worst.**
Had the opportunity to share with a successful businessman with a large mansion in our city. Honestly, I was scared and thought this would be disastrous. The conversation went on and on. I was shocked at how it went. It was one of the best sharing moments in my life. The lesson learned is don't sacrifice the blessings of God working in someone's life because of our fears of what we might think would happen.
- 5. Have the right attitude.** Sometimes our mindset can hurt our sharing. We will look at different approaches in later study guides to build confidence in sharing.
- 6. Do not take it personally.** When a person rejects the message, they are rejecting Jesus Himself. We assume they are rejecting us. ([Luke 10:16](#)).
- 7. Present the Gospel.** Not our opinions, politics, and denominations.
- 8. If rejected by one person,** don't let it keep you from sharing. Keep planting God's seed and leave the results with God. You will be amazed over time.
- 9. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you.** Do not try to be perfect.

The fear of rejection can lead to unfeelingness and numbness. It can be overcome. Each day ask God to help you with your struggles with fear and anxiety and see what God can do in your life for His glory.

Start the Spiritual Conversation

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Listen Carefully To Their Thoughts.

Starting The Spiritual Conversation

Always ask questions that are related to recent discussions. Listen carefully and be sensitive to the person's responses. Keep going as long as the person shows interest. Highlight any truth or insight offered by the person, and interjecting the right question can make a difference.

Having only one talk about the Gospel may not be enough; it will be more of a process than a one-time event. It is such an incredible blessing to watch someone come to Christ and develop as a new Christian over time.

The solution for **neutralizing the fear of not presenting the Gospel message properly** is:

1. To put effort into locating and memorizing appropriate Bible verses.
2. Learning the Gospel message.
3. To develop an effective presentation. This will help you grow and expand your confidence in sharing with others. Each will be discussed in the following study guides.

KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS

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**Focus on God
and Not the World
Our Father,
Who is in heaven,**

**Jeremiah 23:29
"Is not my word like fire,"
declares the Lord,
and like a hammer that
breaks a rock in pieces?"**

We must always keep our eyes on Jesus because sharing the Gospel can get lost in the busyness of life. We must be careful not to get so self-focused that we let our light dim and our love for Jesus and others wane. When our focus becomes less on God and what is happening around us, our spiritual lives become stagnant, and we are less likely to tell others about Christ; in fact, we suppress the work of the Holy Spirit. I have observed this happening in my own life.



IMPORTANT TO HAVE A FEAR OF THE LORD.

1. Fearing the Lord will give you wisdom. ([Psalm 111:10](#)).

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise."

2. Fearing the Lord will keep you from sin. ([Exodus 20:20](#)).

Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

3. Fearing the Lord will motivate you in sharing the Gospel message. ([2 Corinthians 5:11](#)).

"Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others..."

DO NOT FEAR, FOR I AM WITH YOU ([Isaiah 41:10](#))

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



ENCOURAGING SCRIPTURES IN OVERCOMING FEAR.

GOD IS WITH YOU ALL THE TIME!

Remember *God's Presence*. ([Matthew 28:20](#)).

" . . . And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD IN PROGRESS TO SAVE PEOPLE!

Remember *God's Power*. ([Romans 1:16](#)).

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

GOD ALWAYS PROTECTS YOU!

Remember *God's Protection*. ([Hebrews 1:13-14](#)).

"To which of the angels did God every say, 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.' Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

GOD IS PLEASED IF YOU SHARE!

Remember *God's Pleasure*. ([Hebrews 10:38](#)).

And, "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back."

GOD WILL GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO SAY AND DO!

Remember *God's Provision*. ([Mark 13:11](#)).

"Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit."

GOD WANTS ALL TO BE SAVED!

Remember *God's Purpose*. ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Biblically speaking, fear can contribute to obeying or disobeying God's plan for us.

OUR PRAYER is for you to always have your eyes and ears focused on Jesus. We are excited about how the Holy Spirit will use you to build up God's kingdom. We pray that you follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and fearlessly show your love for God and others by sharing the Gospel message.

Are you struggling with fear, anxiety, and uncertainty?

If you want to talk to a Christian about the hope you can find in your situation, please connect with our free 24-hour worldwide [Christian chat line](#). For those struggling with fear and anxiety, please check out a professional in your area.

Review List of all Questions [PDF Download Here](#). Recommend Printing PDF and keeping a copy in your bible.

Recommend that each study guide be saved in a folder on your device to go back to for further reference.

Next Study Guide - **CHAPTER 19**
SHARING THE GOSPEL USING 9 ROMANS ROAD METHODS

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LEADING
PEOPLE TO CHRIST



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