

SHARING THE GOSPEL - STEP 1: SHARING – PRESENTATION
CHAPTER 4 – BE COURAGEOUS



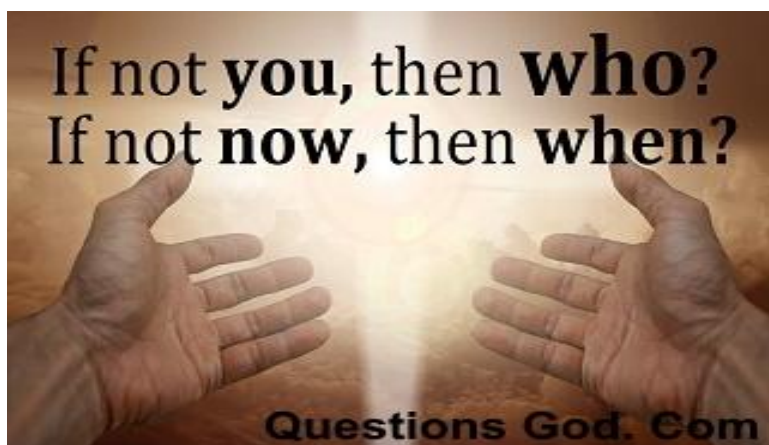
BUILDING COURAGE IN SHARING THE GOSPEL
OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF REJECTION

Before we start sharing, we need to learn how to build courage. Zeal without knowledge can be dangerous. Let us discover why we want to win souls by looking at scriptural motives for telling others about Jesus.

STEPS IN DEVELOPING COURAGE - COURAGEOUS FAITH - FOCUSING ON JESUS

It takes courage and determination to share the Gospel. Most will feel uncomfortable, and many will view sharing the Gospel as a troublesome and painful experience. Fearless faith is the result of always looking at Christ and following in His ways. We need to think about the heavenly treasures that await us. These rewards will exceed anything that makes us happy in this world. Remembering and focusing on the Gospel that saved you from death and allows you to have an eternal life with Christ is key to building up the desire and courage to overcome the fear of sharing the *Good News*.

Courage and determination are vital for spreading and safeguarding the truth of Christ. Jesus guaranteed that we would encounter opposition and resistance when sharing the Gospel. *Jesus said in Matthew 24:9, "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."*



FOR THAT REASON,

"Introducing others to Christ" will involve fearlessness and courage.

Running away from resistance, conflict, and controversy in evangelism dishonors Christ. We are not meant to be cowards. We have no trouble discussing everything else but struggle to share the Gospel message.

Things of this world and the devil will

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1. We are forgiven and made righteous. Have no doubts. *"The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion."* (Proverbs 28:1).

3. We are filled with the Holy Spirit. "... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:31).
4. God is with us. *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:9).
5. Realize God is significantly greater than the enemy. *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged ... but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battle.s"* (2 Chronicles 32:7-8).
6. Always be in prayer. *"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."* (Ephesians 6:19-20).
7. Develop a desire to be an example for others. *"And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear."* (Philippians 1:14).



STEP ONE

For those new to sharing:

When just starting out to share the Gospel, I recommend handing out Gospel Tracts. Always carry them with you when circumstances arise for you to hand them out in public. You could also include them when writing letters to acquaintances.

Check out excellent Christian tracts at [Moments With The Book](#) or [Christian Book Com.](#)

What someone does with the tract should not be a concern for you. All that matters are that you have planted the seed and carried out what you were supposed to do. Someone may toss it in the garbage; perhaps a janitor will fish it out and take it home with him. From there, a next-door neighbor may also come over and read through it. By the way, this is something that actually happened. Other examples of finding Bible tracts:

- A custodian cleaning a bathroom saw a tract and read it. He later obeyed the Gospel and now is a preacher of the Gospel.
- A mother was visiting her daughter and found a tract on the dining table and read it. Her daughter, the initial recipient of the tract, unfortunately, had no curiosity or interest in it, but her mother sure did! She got in touch with the individual who sent it and ultimately accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior.

I am sure we all have different views on using Gospel tracts. At the very least, it is a starting point for anyone that has never shared the "Good News." Using Bible tracts is a way to build up the courage to share your own testimony. You can read the Gospel message right from the tract if you get the opportunity. Doing this is better than doing nothing at all. (*Pause and Reflect!*)

You will find folks who may have good intentions but will sometimes be critical of anything you do because of a bad personal experience. They have a criticizing personality or a negative opinion on something they have never tried. To deflect objectors, ask, "*What method do you use?*"

The story goes of a woman criticizing a well-known evangelist and how he shared the Gospel.

He said to the woman, "*I agree; what method do you use?*" She said, "*none.*"

The evangelist said, "*I like my approach as it is better than doing nothing at all.*"

We will look at Gospel tracts in more detail in a later study guide, but please remember it is better to start somewhere than not start at all! Do not get discouraged if someone criticizes the way you share the Gospel. In most cases, they don't use any method. Again, to deflect objectors, ask, "*What method do you use?*"



STEP TWO

Let your light shine naturally when around non-Christians ([Matthew 5:16](#)).

This doesn't mean making a spectacle of yourself but gently showing that you are a Christian through your actions and regular speech.

There is a distinction between doing things just to be seen (condemned by Jesus) and doing things that are seen **by** people (commanded by Jesus.)

Always reflect on whether you are a good or lousy representative for Jesus by your words and actions and how you live your life. Non-believers are always watching what we say and how we react to situations. Our behavior and words have consequences, and when we fail, Christianity takes a hit, giving a non-Christian a reason and an excuse to deny God.

Last Sunday, we got a new Lead Pastor. He said in his sermon, "[I am letting you know I will disappoint you at some point.](#)" We all fail in some way or another. But Jesus knows our hearts, and as we are God-conscious, the Holy Spirit will show and teach us His ways as we read God's Word, the Bible. Each day, I believe we have to start in prayer, asking the Lord to help us to be sensitive to how we can best represent Christ in our daily lives. Let God lead you daily!

EXAMPLES OF LETTING YOUR LIGHT SHINE:

1. Whenever you eat in public places, give thanks to God for your meal. Many occasions have happened when a non-believer will ask a Christian to give a blessing before eating. This can easily be done verbally or silently with a bowed head. When you have family or friends over for dinner or at a restaurant, ask, "[are you okay if we can bless this food?](#)" They always answer, "[yes.](#)" When folks know you are a Christian, you will be astonished at how often they ask you to bless the food.
2. Always keep a Bible with you, and do not be self-conscious when you are seen reading it. Try to keep a Bible or a New Testament Bible in your purse, pocket, or jacket, and read it as often as you can in public. This can open up doors for some excellent conversations about what you believe. Have a New Testament Bible with you to give away if folks show an interest. Most people will be glad to take it.

3. In our daily conversations, we can comfortably identify ourselves with Christ. When the opportunity presents itself, casually mention things that reveal your faith in God. If a friend or acquaintance has confided in you with a problem, tell them in all sincerity, *"I will keep you in my prayers."* Or better yet, have the courage to ask, *"can I say a short prayer for what you are going through?"*

Just a heads up—every time I do that, negative thoughts of doubting and fear comes first, but the end result is the person needing prayer is very thankful that someone showed they cared about them. Next time you see them ask about their situation and show a genuine interest in how they are doing. It is one of the most important, straightforward, down-to-earth ways to share your faith.

4. In everyday conversation, you might touch on some relevant points made by your pastor or Bible teacher and on what you learned from your own personal Bible study. Ask them if they would like to come to a Sunday service if you feel it is appropriate. Follow up with them over a cup of coffee or lunch. In making plans with folks, use the expression *"Lord willing."* Give credit to the Lord when the time calls for it.

All of the above are ways in which you can share your faith and build confidence in what God can do. When done sincerely, spontaneous expressions and actions like these can help you build courage in sharing and can help you ask people about their faith. Remember starting in small ways is better than not sharing at all. *(Pause and Reflect!)*

True Story

A man invited me out for coffee in my late teens and shared the Gospel with me. On leaving, he gave me a paperback Bible, which I kept for over 20 years. It meant that much to me. For the last 14 years, my wife and I have sent thousands of Bibles worldwide for free, partly because of that man who cared to share Christ with others.

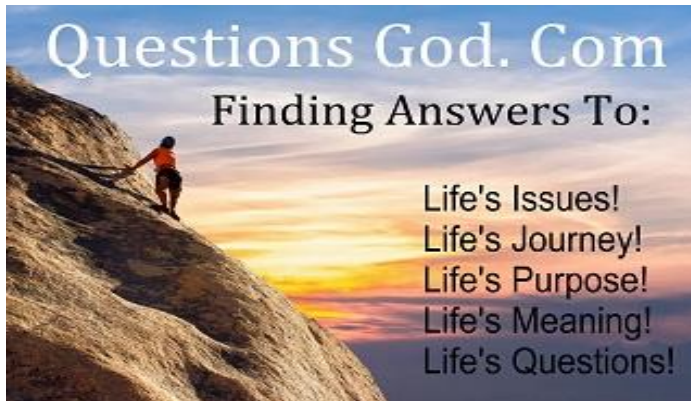
I never met that person again, and he has no idea what part he played in God's work in our lives. You might never know what has been done for God's Kingdom when you share the Gospel. **But God Knows!** *(Pause, Consider, and Reflect!)*

A Simple Method For New Christians who have never shared the Gospel:

A lot of people at first have a hard time sharing. Take time to write what you would like to say in your presentation about Jesus on paper. We will discuss this further in later chapters.

Always take an interest in the person you are speaking with first. Ask them questions about themselves and what is going on in their life. Then ask, *"Did I ever tell you..."* One simple method I would recommend is by saying, *"You might be interested in this website called www.questionsgod.com that talks about God and issues in life."* Hand them one of our [front](#), [back](#), or [two-sided](#) cards to look up online. (As below.)

PRINTABLE HANDOUT CARDS



We have Printable QuestionsGod.com [handout cards](#) that make eight individual cards to give out. When the non-believer has to leave, encourage them to visit [Questions God. Com](#) and give them one QuestionsGod.com business card. Choose from 8 front-side [handout cards](#), 8 backside [handout cards](#), or 8 front and backside two-sided [handout cards](#). Double-side printing instructions [here](#).

Use your printer or any printing shop business like Staples. If possible, we recommend printing on glossy heavy-weight paper, ideally a 67 lb. weight, and then taking the PDF handout card on a flash drive to any local print shop. More details in a later chapter.



STEP THREE

Introduce yourself to someone and hand them a Gospel Tract.

You are not directly sharing yet (only using "*indirect*" sharing methods), but you are beginning to face people. This will help build up courage for you to eventually be able to teach someone the Gospel message and tell your own personal testimony.

Some examples:

1. Give a tract to an acquaintance and say, *"This is a short explanation of the Gospel of Christ. We have known each other for some time now, and I would like you to read this and tell me what you think."*
2. Ask folks if they would like to study the Bible on their own time at their own pace in their home or through a study guide with you. If you do not feel confident right now leading a study guide, your pastor or a mature Christian will gladly help. You can also suggest doing a study guide on the internet. The ones we recommend are sent daily by email at www.questionsgod.com/studyguides.htm:

- [God's Simple Plan of Salvation](#) – are you searching for Answers – 21 days.
 - [New Christian Study Guide](#) – are you new to Christianity – 21 days.
 - [Steps to Spiritual Maturity](#) – for developing Christians - 21 days.
 - [Gospel of John](#) – knowing God better - 21 days.
 - [How to Share the Gospel](#) – Ultimate Guide from A to Z - 23 days.
3. Offer to give them a Sermon CD or DVD and ask them if they would be curious to hear what the Bible says about . . .
 4. Many Christian websites have apps to download to your mobile device. Show people some apps to download onto their phones.
 5. If you have shared the Gospel, send them a link to a Christian website that explains the Gospel message, like [Questions God. Com](#).

At this time, you are actively engaged in sharing the Gospel with others, even though you may only be using indirect techniques. From here, you may choose to try to set up home studies. Consult with your pastor for any life groups, alpha courses, next steps programs, etc. If your church does not have an alpha course, search on the internet in your city for the program. Ask your friend to attend with you, which is an excellent way for you to present Christ. *In either situation, you are doing a lot for the Lord!*



COURAGE IN SOUL-WINNING

If you feel that you cannot share *"the main reason for the hope that is in you,"* you are like a disabled person without a cane or *an artist without a brush.*

"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."

(Romans 1:16).

Let me help motivate and encourage you to share your faith:

- **Building Courage In Soul Winning:**
"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7).
- **Primary Reason For Not Sharing the Gospel:** Not having the courage to share is the number one reason for not introducing others to Christ. The fear and anxiety of being rejected turned down, laughed at, and looked on by others as *"religious fanatics"* is a common perception. Who should we be trying to please? *"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). We need to learn to just focus on pleasing Him. What do we need then?

- **Building Courage In Sharing:** What we need is "*fearless evangelism.*" "*For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.*" (2 Timothy 1:7).



SUMMARIZING

1. Pray For Boldness. Philippians 4:13: "*I can do all things through him who gives me strength.*"

2. Share Christ In Ways That Are Not Face To Face:

Leave cards or tracts on tables when you eat in restaurants or insert them in letters to friends and neighbors.

3. Let Your Light Shine Naturally

([Matthew 6:1-18](#)):

- Offer thanks in public places though not to be seen by men.
- Keep your Bible with you, unashamed to hold or read in public.
- Express faith when talking. (example, "*I will pray for you.*")

4. Personally Hand Out Tracts. Present a tract to a friend and say, "*Here is a short explanation of the Gospel of Christ. I would like you to check this out and let me know what you think.*" Ask if they would be interested in hearing what the Bible says about . . . , and give them a tract on the subject. Take someone along with you if needed.

5. What Happens If Folks Say "No?" Keep In Mind:

- These people are not rejecting you but are denying He who sent you. ([Luke 10:16](#)).
- They judge themselves unworthy of eternal life. ([Acts 13:46](#)).
- Look for someone else with whom to share the Word. ([Acts 13:46](#)).
- You succeed every time you sow the seed by sharing *the Word*.
- Take satisfaction in knowing you are serving the Lord Jesus!

We Must Have Gospel-Fueled Courage!

What motivated the early church to press on under the threat of rejection, persecution, and death? It is the same thing we need to overcome our fear of sharing the Gospel with our neighbors—Gospel Courage.

BECAUSE OF JESUS

I will not be Silent, and I will not be Ashamed. I can be Courageous and Confident as I Share my Faith because:

I AM ACCEPTED: *I am God's child.* John 1:12 | *I am Christ's friend.* John 15:15 | *I have been justified.* Romans 5:1 | *I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit.* 1 Corinthians 6:17 | *I have been bought with a price.... I belong to God.* 1 Corinthians 6:20 | *I am a member of Christ's body.* 1 Corinthians 12:27 | *I am a new creation.* 2 Corinthians 5:17 | *I am a saint.* Ephesians 1:1 | *I have been adopted as God's child.* Ephesians 1:5 | *I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.* Ephesians 2:18 | *I have been redeemed and forgiven of all of my sins.* Colossians 1:14 | *I am complete in Christ.* Colossians 2:1.

I AM SECURE: *I am free from condemnation.* Romans 8:1,2 | *I am assured that all things work together for good.* Romans 8:28 | *I am free from any condemning charges against me.* Romans 8:31-34 | *I cannot be separated from the love of God.* Romans 8:35-39 | *I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God.* 2 Corinthians 1:21,2 | *I am hidden with Christ in God.* Colossians 3:3 | *I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected.* Philippians 1:6 | *I am a citizen of Heaven.* Philippians 3:20 | *I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.* 2 Timothy 1:7 | *I can find grace and mercy in time of need.* Hebrews 4:16 | *I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.* 1 John 5:18.

I AM SIGNIFICANT: *I am the salt and light of the earth.* Matthew 5:13 | *I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.* John 15:1,5 | *I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.* John 15:16 | *I am a personal witness of Christ's.* Acts 1:8 | *I am God's temple.* 1 Corinthians 3:16 | *I am a minister of reconciliation.* 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 | *I am God's coworker.* 2 Corinthians 6:1 | *I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.* Ephesians 2:6 | *I am God's workmanship.* Ephesians 2:10 | *I may approach God with freedom and confidence.* Ephesians 3:12 | *I am one of God's living stones and am being built up (in Christ) as a spiritual house.* 1 Peter 2:5 | *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* Philippians 4:13.

Download BECAUSE OF JESUS POSTER [here](#).

Because of Jesus

I will not be silent and I will not be ashamed. I can be courageous and confident as I share my faith because:

I AM ACCEPTED:

I am God's child.
John 1:12

I am Christ's friend.
John 15:15

I have been justified.
Romans 5:1

I am united with the Lord and one with Him in spirit.
1 Corinthians 6:17

I have been bought with a price....
I belong to God. **1 Corinthians 6:20**

I am a member of Christ's body.
1 Corinthians 12:27

1 am a new creation.
2 Corinthians 5:17

I am a saint.
Ephesians 1:1

I have been adopted as God's child. **Ephesians 1:5**

I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 2:18**

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all of my sins. **Colossians 1:14**

I am complete in Christ. **Colossians 2:10**

I AM SECURE:

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Romans 8:1,2

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I am one of God's living stones and am being built up (in Christ) as a spiritual house.
1 Peter 2:5

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **Philippians 4:13**

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Next Study Guide - Chapter 5 - PRAYER IS THE CATALYST IN SOUL WINNING

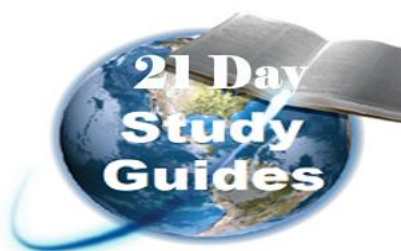
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