



I WANT TO TALK ABOUT **JESUS**!!!

Just before Jesus ascended to the Father, He challenged His church to “go and make disciples”. This work of leading others to Jesus is the highest priority for Christ’s followers. Yet, let’s be candid; it is one of the hardest things God asks us to do. Most of us would rather run a marathon than cross the street to witness to our neighbor. We are plagued with feelings of fear and inadequacy and with the realities of being too busy.

Let me preface this devotion on Christian Witnessing
with this statement:

Through prayer, Seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance!

Christ has given each of us a role to bring lost sheep into His fold.

Find YOUR Role

Just as every organ in the body has a unique design and specialized function, so it is with every member of the body of Christ. God distributes different spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ. He, likewise, dispenses various witnessing styles to reach people for Christ. This is illustrated in **1Corinthians 3:8-11** by the use of two metaphors: agriculture and construction. It reads

⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, *you are* God’s building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

In farming, different hired hands have different roles to reap the harvest - some plant and some water. Likewise, in building, some subcontractors pour the foundation, while others frame the walls. In both cases (farming and building), all workers are needed, each with his or her own specialized role, in order to complete the task.

Seven witnessing stages:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Prayer - | Interceding for the salvation of family, friends, associates, and sinners. |
| 2. Service - | Demonstrating God’s love by doing practical acts of service - no strings attached. |
| 3. Friendship - | Form relational bridges to communicate the gospel in a non-threatening way (and practice the skill of listening! |
| 4. Conversation - | Utilizing casual conversation to introduce people to Christ and His WORD. |
| 5. Testimony - | Relaying from one’s own personal experience the great things God has done. |
| 6. Invitation - | Inviting family, friends, and acquaintances to spiritual gatherings where Jesus and His gospel and truth are introduced – CHURCH! |
| 7. Proclamation - | Declaring the absolute truths of God’s Word through teaching, preaching, and living! |

Just like anything, the more you practice these stages the more confidence you will display in each stage. Some stages are easy – some are more difficult, especially when you realize every person you witness to will not fall into your nice, little **7 Step Program**.

You must constantly - ***Observe, Evaluate, Adjust*** throughout life!

On the job you have a *Scope of Authority*

– your responsibility – your assigned task – your assessed results.

In Christian Witnessing you have a *Scope of Inspiration*

– your responsibility – your assigned task – your assessed results.

Find and practice role in Christian Witnessing?

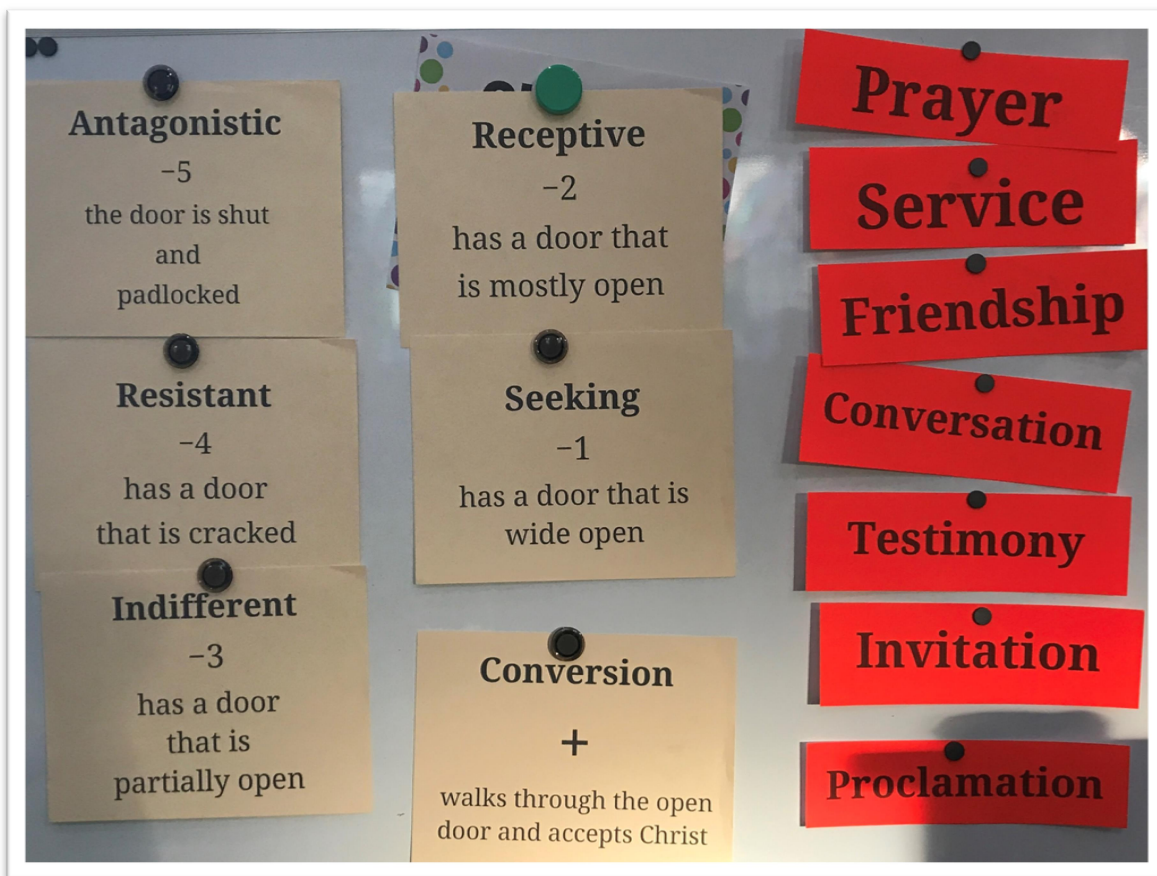
One of the common mistakes we make as Christian witnesses is to treat everyone alike and use the same witnessing approach on everyone. In Christ's parable of the sower in Mark 4:3-20, the four types of soil represent four types of "hearers" to the Word of God. This shows that not all lost people are at the same stage of their spiritual journeys or distance from God. People vary in their understanding, attitude, and need of God. Some are antagonistic; others are receptive. Some have never thought about Jesus, while others have a working knowledge of Scripture. One of our roles as Christian witnesses is to discern an individual's *faith stage*, and then witness accordingly.

These faith stages can be plotted on a linear graph known as an Engel Scale. Originator, James Engel, from the book, *What's Gone Wrong With the Harvest?*

The insight into evangelism that is generally drawn from the Engel scale is that all people go on a journey hopefully on their way to conversion and then on into discipleship.

There are multiple different phrases people have used to describe each stage or number in the process. In general, they follow this basic pattern:

This scale represents an individual's spiritual pathway starting from the far left with antagonistic (-5), resistant (-4), indifferent (-3), receptive (-2), seeking (-1), and finally, to conversion + (represented by the cross). One analogy that helps to explain the different faith stages is the open and shut doors. For the person who is antagonistic (-5), the door is shut and padlocked. The person who is resistant (-4) has a door that is cracked. The person who is indifferent (-3) has a door that is partially open. The receptive (-2) person has a door that is mostly open. A person who is seeking (-1) has a door that is wide open and is begging, "Please share Christ and His truth with me!"



Why witness and talk about Jesus??? As Christians, we are commanded to and we have a desire to share Christ's love with others! When we speak to people about Jesus and they receive Him as their Savior, they're turned from darkness to light and from the chains of Satan to the authority of God. They receive forgiveness of their sins and obtain a rich spiritual inheritance. In short, Satan's kingdom suffers loss!

Christian Witnesses . . .

Through prayer, **Seek** the Holy Spirit's guidance -

Through prayer, **Ask** God to build your faith and confidence -

Through prayer, **Expect** God to give you opportunities, *be ready* -

Through prayer, **Give Thanks** - God entrusted you with such a life-changing task.

– My responsibility – My assigned task – My assessed reward!

