

## HOW TO USE YOUR TESTIMONY

Don Krow

Today I want to talk to you about using your personal testimony. Acts 5:42 says, “And every day in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (NASB). Notice that the disciples of the early church met in the temple every day and from house to house they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Many people feel a house to house or door to door type of approach is unnatural or uncomfortable. I want to share a few things we’ve learned in actually going out, having doors open for discipleship training, and seeing people converted, turning to Jesus Christ.

It’s not nearly as hard as you’ve been told, and one of the things I noticed in the Scriptures is that the Apostle Paul used his personal testimony three times when talking to an unconverted person. In Acts 9, 22, and 26, he gave his testimony, his experience, and what happened to him as he talked to unbelievers. One of the best approaches we have found in bringing the message of Jesus Christ to other people is what we call “prayer-walking.” We go to a door, knock, and tell them, “We’re just in the area praying for people. We believe God hears and answers prayer, and we wondered if you’re having any problems in your family—health or other problems—and would like for us to pray for you.” Sometimes they say, “Well, yes, I have a problem,” and want us to pray; other times they feel a little uncomfortable or embarrassed and say, “No, we don’t have any prayer requests at this time.” Then we just begin to tell them our personal testimony.

I say, “I notice you have children. I have three of my own—two sixteen year old daughters and a boy who is 20 years old. I’ve been married 22 years, and on December 14, 1981, my second child was stillborn.” They reply, “Oh, I’m so sorry to hear about that.” Then I say, “Don’t be sorry, let me tell you what happened.” I begin to tell the story about how our first child was born perfectly normal in every way. My wife wanted to have a home birth, and we had a midwife who had worked at a high risk maternity center in El Paso, Texas. My wife became pregnant with twins, and when our second child, the second baby of the twins, was born, she was a breech birth. She was born feet first, but was stillborn, or dead. She was as dark as my jeans and blue from lack of oxygen, which had been cut off some time during the birth process.

The midwife picked her up, slapped her (hitting her as hard as she could), suctioned her lungs in case fluid had filled them, did everything she could, and finally gave up. I was like any other father. I just lost my daughter—what am I going to do? At this point I say to the people at the door, “I would like to ask you, have you ever read much of the Bible?” They say, “Well, I’ve read a little bit,” or sometimes, “No, not really.” I explain, “The reason I’m asking is because the Bible says in Acts 10:38 that Jesus went about doing good, healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him. I’m just going to tell you the story. You can take it or leave it for whatever it means to you, but my baby was dead, and I was thinking that in a few days we would bury her.”

Back to the story, I thought, “I just want to hold her.” As I went to pick her up, there was an evil presence over her, which the Bible calls a demonic spirit. It physically attacked me and paralyzed me momentarily. Immediately when that happened, I said, “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you,

unclean spirit, to get off this baby, and I command life into this child in Jesus' name." That little baby, who had never breathed, gasped, took one breath, and then ceased to breathe. I said again, "In the name of Jesus Christ, you unclean spirit, I command you off of this child right now." This time she gasped several times, breathed, and continued to breathe.

I call the person I am talking to by name and say, "You know, after a period of about three minutes, a person without oxygen to the brain has brain damage. My daughter is perfectly normal in every way. We named her Vita, which in Latin means "life," because we wanted to tell the story of what God did for her. He brought life back into her. From that time on I've studied the Bible a lot, and this is what I've discovered. Like the unclean spirit over my child, there is a kingdom of darkness, a dominion of Satan and his rule, and there is a kingdom of God's dear Son.

"When Jesus came to the earth, He began to call people out of the kingdom of darkness into His own kingdom through repentance—receiving the forgiveness of sins and turning to follow Him. I don't know what you believe, but I'm just telling you what happened in my family and in my life. I want to tell you the real reason we're at your door. Jesus told us to go make disciples. I realize a lot of people are busy and can't go to church or don't want to. If you have a question there, you can't raise your hand and say, 'Pastor (or priest), what does what you just said mean?' So this is why we're coming to your door. In ten minutes we have a concentrated teaching from God's Word on a cassette tape or video, and we'd like to play it for you. We'll supply an outline, and then we'd like to go to the Scriptures and ask you some questions to make sure you understand. It's really a dialog that goes back and forth. We're not preaching at you or telling you what the Bible says but trying to help you discover what it says by asking you a few questions and letting you listen to this ten minute cassette or video.

"Would that interest you? We'll set up a time at your convenience, come here to your home, and just talk to you and give you the lesson. If you don't get something out of the very first lesson, if it doesn't help, encourage, and build you up, you'll never see our faces again. We're not here to bug you, to get you to join a church or organization, or anything like that. We're only here to tell you what Jesus Christ did for you personally and help you come to understand the Word of God for yourself. There are a lot of things in the Bible we don't know or understand completely, but we're here to offer you a study, ask a few questions, for just ten minutes on a cassette at your convenience. Would you be interested in that?" A lot of people have said, "Yes, I would be interested," so we set up a time to go into their home and begin these discipleship lessons. We're not there to do what I call "microwave evangelism," twist their arm, and get them to say a prayer when they don't even understand what they're doing. We follow the discipleship lessons to help them understand Christ and Him crucified.

I told a pastor about our discipleship lessons, and he said, "Don, what happens after the first lesson?" After the first lesson, a person understands what they need to do to respond to Jesus Christ and to receive the mercy and pardon He offers. We're not high-pressure salesmen. That's not our approach, but through the first lesson they'll come to a realization of what they need to do from their heart. He then asked, "Well, what happens after lesson 15?" I said, "After lesson 15, if a person has stayed with us, they will have repented of their sins and been water-baptized and baptized with the Holy Spirit. We're seeing that kind of thing happen, not after lesson 15, but even after lesson 6."

In Matthew 28 Jesus said to go into the nations and make disciples and, in the process, baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the midst of discipling, we bring understanding of

Jesus Christ and Him Crucified to the unbeliever. In bringing that understanding week after week, we build a relationship with them, a friendship. They come to love and trust us. We're bringing God's Word to them, not coming to preach at them. We're reading the Scriptures, getting them to read them, and asking questions in a way that they see the answers from God's Word for themselves. Week after week, we see people come to a place where they're willing to openly confess Christ because they know what it means to accept Him, to follow Him, and to be committed to Him. It's much different than many of the evangelism approaches today.

The way we go out to reach the lost is first of all by personal testimony, and each of us has a personal testimony. Many times we write our own tracts. I wrote one called "The Death of My Daughter," which I leave it at the door many times. Other people on our Discipleship Evangelism team have written tracts, like "A Slave Set Free" by Joe Rose who was bound by alcohol and drugs. "The Death of a Dope Fiend" by Rocky Forry who was bound by drugs since he was fifteen years old, and Jesus set him free. We tell these testimonies at people's doors.

Some people say, "But I don't have a dynamic testimony. I didn't see my baby raised from the dead after eight minutes." I realize a lot of people don't have those kinds of testimonies. You might have a testimony like Andrew Wommack who had the power of God sustain his life which, throughout his childhood, kept him out of the sin, filth, and ungodliness most people deal with. Each one of us has a testimony, and if you don't think yours is dynamic enough, use mine. When we first began our Discipleship Evangelism teams and started reaching out to people, Joe Rose used my testimony. After a while, he gave it better than I did, so I'd just say, "Hey, Joe, go ahead and tell them what happened to me."

If the Apostle Paul used his personal testimony three times in the New Testament in reaching the lost, you can do it too. We have computers today with all kinds of programs: Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, or whatever. It's very easy to set up a tract of your own personal testimony. It's much more effective to say, "This is not something I bought at a Bible book store. It's what happened to me that I'm sharing with you."

For the first part of our discipleship training, that is what I would like you to do. For the rest of the sessions, please have a pad of paper, and a pencil or a pen, and begin to take notes. We will supply notes, but it's better to take your own and add them to ours. I'd like for you to sit down and begin to write your personal testimony—what happened to you—how you came to Jesus Christ. Then give your testimony to your trainer as if you were presenting it at someone's door. Your trainer will give you tips on how to approach people. If you can't be with your trainer after you have written it, give it to another person as if you were presenting it to the trainer.

We have supplied additional information, "Tips on Sharing Your Faith." Before you go to the next session, write your personal testimony, practice presenting it, and study "Tips on Sharing Your Faith." It is very important that you study it—not just read it—as you go out and evangelize the nations, one person at a time. God bless you.

## HOW TO USE YOUR TESTIMONY

### THE DEATH OF MY DAUGHTER

by Don Krow

I have the same basic needs that you have—the need for love, acceptance, communication, a solid faith in God, and a purpose in life.

I had a most unusual experience happen to me on December 14, 1981, that I would like to share with you. On that day, my wife gave birth (it happened to be a home birth) to identical twins. The firstborn was perfectly normal in every way. The second was, what is known to the medical profession as stillborn. Of course you probably know that stillborn means dead. At this point I HESITATE TO TELL YOU THE REST OF THE STORY, BECAUSE IT IS SO UNUSUAL AND ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE.

Regardless of what our natural minds tell us, there is a spiritual realm that is involved in this world. Before God, what I am telling you is the truth.

A midwife who had worked at a high-risk maternity center in El Paso, Texas, tried to revive my second child with every known medical procedure, and she eventually gave up. At this point, I accepted my daughter's death, but wanted to hold her. As I reached to pick her up, I WAS SUDDENLY KNOCKED BACK AND PARALYZED momentarily by an evil force. The Bible calls these evil forces demons. I KNOW IT SOUNDS BIZARRE, but I took authority over this demon in Jesus' name and commanded it to leave. I then began to command life to come into the child. At this point the child took a breath and then ceased to breathe. Again I said, "I command you to leave and life to come into this child in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." AT THAT MOMENT THE CHILD BREATHED AND THIS TIME CONTINUED TO BREATHE. SHE WILL BE 18 YEARS OLD on December 14, 1999. Because I had a tape recorder going during this birth, I was able to time the events that took place. MY DAUGHTER WAS NOT BREATHING ON HER OWN FOR OVER EIGHT MINUTES. You know and I know that even though she is alive today, SHE SHOULD HAVE HAD BRAIN DAMAGE. I want you to know that she is perfectly normal in every way and excels in her school work.

Since the time of the twins' birth I've studied the Bible a lot. I have discovered that there is a conflict between two kings and two kingdoms (Colossians 1:13-14). What do you think a person needs to do to enter God's kingdom? Keep God's law? Live the best he can? If that is your answer, then tell me, why did Christ die? The Simple English New Testament states, "If the law could have made us right with God, then Christ died for nothing!" (Galatians 2:21). According to this verse, do you see any other way to heaven except through Jesus Christ? Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Would you consider turning to Him today for the forgiveness of your sins and the newness of life that He offers? (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I would like to talk to you about this because I care about you.

You may contact me at my website:

[www.krowtracts.com](http://www.krowtracts.com) or [www.delessons.org](http://www.delessons.org)

or call 719-577-7775

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### A SLAVE IS SET FREE

A True Story by Joe Rose

When I was fourteen I stole a bottle of Taylor's port wine from my grandmother's bar, drank it in my bedroom, and then passed out on the floor. My drinking soon progressed to smoking marijuana, and when I was fifteen, I tried hash, acid, and many other drugs. Getting drunk and high was my way of gaining acceptance. I knew I could always find somebody to be with and party with, if I was getting stoned or wasted. Besides, I liked the way it felt getting buzzed.

I'd get up on the weekends and have to ask one of my friends where we were the night before, because I blacked out much of the evening. I continued this lifestyle through my twenties, and in 1986, after 16 years of "just a couple more beers," a failed marriage, and job burnout, I was tired of life and considered suicide.

IS YOUR LIFE A MESS TOO?  
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?  
ARE YOU SAYING, "THIS IS STUPID, WHY AM I EVEN READING THIS?"  
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JUST TAKE A PILL  
AND WAKE UP ON THE OTHER SIDE?  
IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO THESE QUESTIONS,  
DON'T READ ANY FURTHER—  
IF YOU ANSWERED "YES" TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE CONTINUE READING.

I met a man named Brooks who told me how God had helped him many years ago, to overcome personal failures in his life. He asked me if I was saved. I asked "saved from what?" He then asked me if I believed in heaven. I answered, "Yes." He asked, "Are you going there and why?" I answered, "Yes, because I am basically a good person and never killed anyone."

He explained to me that the problems I was facing in my life were only symptoms of a greater problem. This greater problem was that I was a sinner and not in touch with God. I was spiritually dead and as a result I kept making mistake after mistake in my life. Brooks explained that Jesus says I need to be born again to escape future judgment for my sins and come into friendship with Him. Accepting Jesus as my Savior and repenting for my sins is the only way I will get to heaven (John 3:3, 14:6).

I thought that he was a fanatic, and I would leave in a couple of days (I was staying with him for a few days while looking for a place of my own). But the more he talked, the more I realized that the things I saw as my problems were really only symptoms of a greater problem: THAT I NEEDED JESUS IN MY LIFE. I needed to be born again. I decided to call on Jesus and accept Him as my Lord and Savior; then I was born again.

Once I called on Jesus as my Savior, a funny thing happened. God removed the desire for alcohol and drugs from my life. I felt like I had been a slave to drugs and alcohol for seventeen years and now, because of Jesus I was free from this bondage. I have lived in this freedom for eleven years.

FRIEND,  
IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS IN YOUR LIFE  
THAT ARE STOPPING  
YOU FROM MOVING FORWARD,  
IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING SUICIDE,  
IF YOU ARE BURNED OUT IN YOUR JOB,  
MARRIAGE, OR LIFE IN  
GENERAL,

PLEASE CONSIDER CALLING ON JESUS  
AND ASKING HIM  
TO BE YOUR LORD AND SAVIOUR.  
HE DESIRES FOR YOU TO ESCAPE THE WRATH TO COME  
AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIM.  
ALL WHO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.  
(Romans 10:9-10,13).

## HOW TO USE YOUR TESTIMONY

### THE DEATH OF A DOPE FIEND

by Rocky Forry

At the age of fifteen, I smoked my first joint. I was intrigued by the way pot made me feel. As time went by, I kept a bag of dope on me wherever I went. First thing in the morning everyday, I needed that RUSH to start the day. Throughout the day, I took hits to keep me BUZZED. This kept up for fourteen years. I told people “I CAN QUIT WHENEVER I WANT TO—I JUST DON’T WANT TO!” When my baggie was low, I became nervous, anxious—finding a high was all I could think about. I couldn’t relax until I could replenish my supply. If other drugs were available (coke, hash, mescaline) I COULD NOT RESIST THEM. I WAS IN BONDAGE! Webster’s dictionary defines bondage as “SERVITUDE TO A CONTROLLING PERSON OR FORCE.”

The Bible says in Romans 6:16 “that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey.” I WAS A SLAVE! I was controlled by an EVIL FORCE. I was a slave to an ADDICTIVE SPIRIT. I willed to be loosed from it but could not break free. Is something holding you in slavery? (DRUGS, ALCOHOL, PORNOGRAPHY, GLUTTONY—the list goes on). Are these spirits destroying your life, marriage, health?

John 10:10 says “the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

In John 8:36 Jesus says “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” Jesus helps everyone who comes to Him. Are you ready to come to Him? His delivering power is available to take away the fiendish desires and control the devil has over your life. How bad do you want to be free? Jesus wants to start your life over, fresh with Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). He loves you; He died for you. CRY OUT TO HIM. Acts 2:21 says, “Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” I did. I’ve been free the last fifteen years. Nothing evil controls me anymore.

Jesus Christ and the Word of God will not only set you free, but will keep you free!

Are you ready?

Jesus is!

For prayer call (719) 577-7775





“GO!”  
(Discipleship Questions)

Read Matthew 12:34-35

1. What compels the mouth to speak?
2. Where do good things come forth from?

Read Luke 6:43-45

3. Can a good tree bear bad fruit?
4. Can a bad tree bear good fruit?
5. How is a tree known?
6. What kind of a tree are you?

Read John 15:7-8

7. What are you commanded to do in this verse?
8. If we are abiding, what does Christ promise us?
9. How is the Father glorified?
10. What are you if you are abiding in Christ and bearing much fruit?
11. Do you see yourself as one of His disciples?

Now that you have Jesus on the inside of you and have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, what are you going to do about it?

Suggestions:

1. Ask the Lord to place someone (or many) in your life that you would be able to disciple.
2. Write to us so that we can send them (or you) information on our discipleship materials.
3. Encourage, love, teach the person (s) in seeking out the things of God.
4. Spend time with them studying, reading, and discussing the Scriptures.
5. Support them and encourage them that you will be with them every step of the way.

6. Use the gifts the Lord has placed on the inside of you to minister to them.
7. When they have completed all three levels of the Discipleship Evangelism program, send them out to disciple others.
8. Remember that Christ is with you and will never forsake you!
9. Remember that the Holy Spirit will lead and guide you in all understanding, and will even give you the words to say.
10. Remember that the Lord will provide a way for His children, and aren't you glad He chose you?!

If you need any help or encouragement in any way, please feel free to contact us.

Now, in the name of Jesus Christ, go to the nations, preach the Gospel to every creature by the power of the Holy Spirit so that His Kingdom comes and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Blessings to you in the name above all names, Jesus Christ.

GO!  
(Discipleship Answer Key)

1. The abundance of the heart
2. The good treasures of his heart
3. No
4. No
5. By its own fruit
6. A good tree
7. Abide in Christ
8. Receive the desires of our heart
9. That we bear much fruit
10. Being His disciple
11. Yes

# HOW TO USE YOUR TESTIMONY

## TIPS ON SHARING YOUR FAITH

by Don Krow

(Additional Information)

### EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD WITNESS

One of the first things that Jesus said to His would-be followers was “Follow Me, and I WILL MAKE YOU BECOME fishers of men” (Mark 1:17, NASB).

This command was expanded upon as we see that evangelism and discipleship was the real mission of Jesus Christ when He was on this earth: “Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: FOR THEREFORE CAME I FORTH” (Mark 1:38).

Christ not only began His earthly ministry with evangelism and discipleship in mind, but He also ended it with the command of the Great Commission. <sup>15</sup>“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel TO EVERY CREATURE. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. <sup>17</sup>And these signs shall follow them that believe” (Mark 16:15-17). Verse 20 tells us that the disciples obeyed that command as “they went forth, and PREACHED EVERYWHERE, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”

### WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

The phrases “preach the Gospel” and “bring glad tidings” refer to the Greek word “euaggelizo,” which means “to evangelize.” Success in evangelism is not seeing how many people we can win, but rather it is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and trusting God for the results. Jesus said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44).

### WHO REACHED THE LOST?

Ephesians 4:11-12 states, “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to prepare God’s people for works of service” (NIV).

This must mean that the true purpose of God in giving the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher is to prepare God’s people to do the work of the ministry.

In Acts 8:4 it states, “The believers who had fled Jerusalem went everywhere preaching the good news about Jesus” (LB). In comparing this with Acts 8:1, it is clear that everyone, including the apostles, went everywhere and evangelized. Such was the result that within 300 years the whole Roman Empire was exposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? Because everyone was preaching the good news!

## WHERE DID EVANGELISM TAKE PLACE?

Where did the believers evangelize? In the temple area, common to the Jews (Acts 2:1-46); in the synagogue (Acts 14:1); throughout entire cities (Acts 8:5); in the desert (Acts 8:26); on the bank of a riverside (Acts 16:13-15); in jail and prison (Acts 16:23); according to Acts 20:20, publicly and from house to house. A paraphrase of Acts 1:8 would state that evangelism begins in your own home town, then surrounding cities, your state, country, and then the world. Evangelism and discipleship begin where you live—anywhere there are people.

## WHAT WAS THE METHOD AND APPROACH TO DISCIPLESHIP EVANGELISM?

By studying Jesus' methods of discipleship evangelism, we can conclude that true evangelism and discipleship use all the scriptures and the whole counsel of God in reaching people. The reason one set of scriptures or one approach does not work with everyone is that men's hearts are in different spiritual conditions (see Matthew 13:18-23; Mark 4:14-20; Luke 8:9-15). Jesus' approach to the woman caught in adultery was pure grace (John 8:3-11). Jesus' approach to the woman at the well required a word of knowledge (John 4:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:8). For Zaccheus it took a dinner invitation (Luke 19:1-10). To the rich young ruler, Jesus ministered the law (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-27). It took the law to show this man the need for a Saviour (see Galatians 3:24).

## SALVATION IS FROM THE HEART

The idea that reaching the lost is a method, such as a salesman's approach, is false. Jesus allowed the rich young ruler to walk away (Mark 10:21-22). We are not after quick decisions, but want converts who will go on to become true disciples. Bill Fay, in his excellent booklet on witnessing, states, "We need to get away from a 'win them' mentality. People do not put their faith in Christ because we cleverly force them to believe. We must realize that if we 'win' someone to Christ, he's probably not saved. D.L. Moody, the evangelist, was riding on a train when a drunk came up to him and said, 'Mr. Moody, I'm one of your converts.' Moody replied, 'I'm afraid you are, because you're obviously not a convert of the Lord's'" (How Can I Share My Faith Without an Argument? by Bill Fay, p.6).

R.A. Torrey said, "One of the great faults of Christian work today is haste. We are too anxious for immediate results and therefore do superficial work. Many of those who followed Christ came to Him slowly. Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, Peter, and even Paul—although the final step in Paul's case seems very sudden—are cases in point. Three days after Jesus appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus, Paul came out into the light and openly confessed Christ (see Acts 22:16). One man, with whom a slow but thorough work has been done, and who at last has committed his life to Christ, is better than a dozen who are rushed through a sinner's prayer and think they have accepted Christ when in reality they have not. It is often wise to plant a truth in a man's heart and leave it to work. The seed on rocky ground springs up quickly, but it withers just as quickly" (How to Bring Men to Christ, by R.A. Torrey, pgs. 87-88).

Scripture reveals a vast difference between trying to twist someone's arm to get him to say a sinner's prayer and one crying from the heart (without manipulation) for mercy from God and forgiveness of sins.

Notice the following scriptures reveal that salvation results from the freewill heart response of people (resulting in conversion) and not by well meaning people pressuring others to make premature decisions.

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. <sup>37</sup>When the people heard this, THEY WERE CUT TO THE HEART and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘BROTHERS, WHAT SHALL WE DO?’” (Acts 2:36-37, NIV). Notice who asked what to do? It was the people under conviction.

“And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he PREACHED JESUS to him. <sup>36</sup>And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ <sup>37</sup>And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’” (Acts 8:35-37, NASB). Notice that when Jesus was preached, the eunuch asked how he may respond. His heart was open and wanted Jesus.

“And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. <sup>14</sup>And a certain woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshipper of God, was listening; and THE LORD OPENED HER HEART TO RESPOND to the things spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:13-14, NASB). Notice that the Lord opened Lydia’s heart to respond and she did!

A jailer said to the Apostle Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:29-31). Again, a man under conviction who had just witnessed an earthquake realized his need for salvation. It was the unbeliever who asked how to be saved. Again this is evidence of an open heart that wanted Jesus. No manipulation was involved.

A rich man asked Jesus, “Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17). This man asked the right question to the right person.

A thief knew he was a sinner and under just condemnation. Out of his heart’s need he cried to Jesus for salvation. “Lord, remember me when you enter into your Kingdom.” And Jesus said, “Today (at your death) you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:42-43, LB).

A tax collector humbled himself before God, beat his breast, and cried, “God be merciful to me a sinner!” God accepted him, forgave his sins and declared him in right relationship with God (Luke 18:9-14). This man’s heart was open and prepared to receive God’s grace, because he knew his need for a savior.

Anyone who has done a lot of evangelism is aware of the problem I am addressing. Reaching the lost takes discernment and skill, using God’s Word. It also should not stop short of an invitation to receive Christ as both Lord and Savior. But it should never be manipulative (see the informative booklet, Prayer, Repentance & Salvation at: [www.krowtracts.com](http://www.krowtracts.com)).

## SOME HELPFUL METHODS OF APPROACH

If we ever needed discernment and the power of the Holy Spirit, it is in evangelism and discipleship (Acts 1:8). I hesitate to give a method lest it is turned into a formula, but I also believe that through prayer and reliance upon God, that these methods may be very helpful in beginning a life of fulfillment by obeying the Great Commission.

### APPROACH NUMBER 1:

Approach Number 1 is what I call “prayer-walking.” Prayer-walking is when you knock on doors and ask people if they have any prayer requests. It is non-threatening because you are not presenting some form of dogma, but rather showing that you care about them and want to pray for them and their families. We have had great success with prayer-walking. One example happened around Christmas, when I was knocking on doors and asking people if they had any prayer requests. A lady named Debra answered the door and said that she had just lost her job, her car had been stolen, she had no money to give presents to her children, and she was living with her sister. I told her that it was no coincidence that we met. I prayed with her, told her that Jesus was calling her to Himself, offered her some literature, which she took, and then I left.

A few days later I returned and gave her some money. She was overwhelmed that anyone cared.

After Christmas, I returned to find that she was in the hospital. When I visited her in the hospital, she immediately recognized me and thanked me for helping her and her children. I told her of God’s love and the Gospel. She immediately wanted to be saved. I told her, “Why don’t you tell Jesus what you have just told me!” She called out to Christ from her heart for the salvation that He offers. And I was the one to witness this. The key to true soul-winning is to get people to go directly to God for themselves through Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and not to mimic someone else’s prayer.

Lately we have seen some good results through prayer-walking as a local church, and I have gone out on Saturday mornings. Several people have turned to Christ.

### APPROACH NUMBER 2:

Approach Number 2 is using a tract. The real purpose of a tract is to open a conversation with a stranger so that you may talk. The most effective tract that I use for this purpose is the testimony tract about the death of my daughter. Some people have said, “Well I don’t have a testimony as powerful and dynamic as that.” I say, “You don’t have to—use mine!” Joe Rose, one of my friends and companions on our Discipleship Evangelism ministry team, tells my testimony better than I do, and with great results! You can do it too!

This is the way I usually start: “Hi! My name is Don Krow, and we are in your neighborhood today praying for people’s needs. By the way, are there any needs that you have that you would like us to pray about or a prayer request that you have that we could take back to our homes and pray for?”



“No, not at this time,” they may answer.

“I would like to leave you this pamphlet about my daughter. I have two daughters, twins actually, and they will be 18 years old in December. One of them was stillborn, you may know what that is? Well, she is alive today and perfectly normal in every way. She was dead for around eight minutes. This pamphlet tells you how this miracle took place. Would you like to have it? In fact, if you have a few moments, I’ll tell you the story.” (See the tract “The Death of my Daughter” for the full story [www.krowtracts.com](http://www.krowtracts.com))

I then proceed to give the Gospel. The story is the open door to present the Gospel. I usually say something like this: “Since the time that happened with my twins, I’ve studied the Bible a lot. This is what I discovered. There is a kingdom of darkness, and there is a kingdom of God’s dear Son. When Jesus came to earth, the Jews thought He was going to be a political Messiah that would put down their enemies and destroy Roman rule. But Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this earth.’ Jesus was calling people into His kingdom and rule by repentance (having a change of heart and mind) and turning to Him for the forgiveness of their sins through His shed blood. I don’t know where you are in all of this—have you ever heard this message before?” Depending on how a person responds at this point will determine if I leave or go right into the Word. I always leave tracts to reinforce the message.

## PRESENTING THE DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

At this time we usually present the discipleship program. Jesus’ real commission is to make disciples. We are here at your home today to offer you, in just a 10-15 minute presentation on video or audio cassette, a concentrated teaching on various Bible topics. A dialogue will follow that will take you to the Bible for answers. It’s not like going to church. If you have a question you can’t stop the pastor and ask a question. We go directly to the Bible and use no additional books or magazines. I’ll tell you what! If you would like to try the first lesson, and if you are not helped, encouraged and spiritually strengthened, you won’t see our faces anymore. We are not here to waste your time or ours. Would you like to try our first lesson?” If they say “yes,” we schedule a time to return and meet where they are most comfortable—in their home. We are not after a high pressure decision. We are building relationships, friendships, and are bringing them God’s Word. It is only after weeks of establishing relationships that we begin to ask for a response. People then are coming into Christ with an understanding and commitment. They are ready to become Jesus’ disciples.

## USING THE SCRIPTURES

I recommend reading R.A. Torrey’s book, “How to Bring Men to Christ” to give you many examples of how to use the Scriptures in winning souls. Let me give you just one: “Many years ago, I noticed a white-haired man in a meeting who did not stand up to acknowledge that he was a Christian. At the close of the service, I walked over to him and asked, ‘Are you a Christian?’ He said he was not. I was sure he was interested, so I asked him the direct question, ‘Would you become a Christian tonight if I showed you the way?’ He said that he would.

“I opened my Bible to Isaiah 53:6 and read the first part of the verse, ‘All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way.’ I then said to him, ‘Is that true of you?’ and he answered, ‘Yes.’

‘Now,’ I said, ‘let us read the rest of the verse. ‘And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.’ What has the Lord done with your sins?’

He thought a moment and said, ‘He has laid them on Christ.’

‘What then,’ I said, ‘is all that you have to do to be saved?’

He replied promptly, ‘Accept Him.’

‘Well,’ I said, ‘will you accept Him tonight?’

He said, ‘I will.’

“Let us kneel down and tell God so.’ We knelt down, and I led in prayer. He followed in a simple way, telling God that he was a sinner, but that he believed that God had laid his sins on Jesus Christ. He then asked God for Christ’s sake to forgive his sins.

“When he finished, I asked him if he thought God had heard his prayer and that his sins were forgiven. He said, ‘Yes.’ I then asked him if he would begin to lead a Christian life at once, set up the family altar, and openly confess Christ before the world. He replied that he would. Some months later, I met his pastor and found that he had gone to his home in a distant city, set up the family altar, and united with the church. Apparently all that this man was waiting for was for someone to make the way of salvation plain to him” (How to Bring Men to Christ, by R.A.Torrey, pp. 27-29).

### APPROACH NUMBER 3:

Approach Number 3 is similar to Number 2, in that it uses a testimony. People may argue with your theology but not with your personal experience or testimony. I use my testimony, but also use others. That’s why I wrote tract number 11 “Do You Believe in Miracles.” This is a testimony of how my wife received a healing. I find that these testimonies work similarly to the accounts recorded in the Gospels, except that they are modern-day miracles. The whole point is, as John’s Gospel states, “these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31).

I encourage my Discipleship Evangelism partners to write their own testimonies in tract form. A friend (Joe Rose) has written three tracts that I have on my website, and I often use his testimony in conjunction with mine. Sometimes he shares mine. Use your testimony in conjunction with others and always “salt and pepper” it with Scriptures in between. Real success in Discipleship Evangelism results from using God’s Word. Testimonies and tracts are only a means to an end, that is, to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

How to Bring Men to Christ by R.A Torrey, Whitaker House Publishers. (This book takes you step by step in using the Scriptures in leading others to Christ).

What the Lord God Has to Say About Prayer, Repentance and Salvation by James Brand. (You may read this booklet at [www.krowtracts.com](http://www.krowtracts.com)).

Evangelism A Concise History by John Mark Terry. Broadman & Holman Publishers, Nashville, Tennessee USA (A great book that gives evangelism history throughout the church).

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