



There Are Four Important Growth-disciplines To Strengthen Every Fisher:
Prayer, Bible, Fellowship and *Witnessing*

4.) Fishers Need to Fish (Witness to unbelievers)

God has called every Christian to be a good witness for Jesus Christ, every day by His power. When you live the life as God would have you live... when you have the right attitude and go tell others about Christ and His Good News for the purpose of winning them to righteousness in Christ—that's witnessing (a.k.a. *Fishing for souls*). Fishing for people is so important and edifying and it's the natural outgrowth of sowing to the Spirit by practicing the first three other disciplines (listed above). Obedience in these four areas is vital for having a close relationship with God. Who wants to backslide? Not me! I want to seek and obey Him all my days.

It's because souls are of the greatest value to God—every individual. Yes Christ died for every person. Jesus was so moved with compassion for them too. There is joy in Heaven over even ONE person who comes to repentance. There is enormous joy in my heart when I lead one person to Him. I don't want to ever be like a mere armchair quarter back that doesn't go fishing (witnessing).

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" (Matt. 14:14).

"Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out [His] hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed'" (Mk. 1:41).

The Bible says in Ezekiel 18:4, ***"Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine."*** You see, we have been bought at a price. You are not your own. I can't just go do what I want to do anymore.

Jesus told us to ***"preach the Good News to everyone."*** And helping to lead someone to Christ is one of the greatest privileges and hugest blessings that believers take part in! On the horizontal level, I can't even think of anything more excellent.

One of the greatest joys of the Christian life is being able to help lead someone to Jesus Christ. We are never to outgrow this! It is so cool to see someone else experience the same things in the Lord that you did when you first became a Christian.

"But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!" (Jn. 9:25 NLT).

God tells us that it's important to share your faith with other people (see Matt. 28:20). In fact, it's not just something He wants you to do; He commands us to do it!

Sharing your faith can sound like a scary thing to do, but it doesn't have to be. One of the best ways you can do that is by telling them your story. When you share how God has changed your life, it lets people see that you were once in their shoes, but have now been changed by the power of Christ. A changed life is the best evidence of what Jesus can do.

And, it doesn't have to be a long speech. You can share the basics of your story and what Christ has done for you in just a minute.

Here are some things that can help you share your story, or testimony, with your friends, family, or other people you know:

Three Key Elements:

My Life before I met Christ

Remember not to glorify all the gory details of your past life, but talk about what it was like before you became a Christian:

"I felt empty inside and nothing could fill it" (see Eccl. 3:11).

"I felt separated from God" (see Isa. 59:2).

"My life was dominated by sin and with pleasing myself" (see Lk. 15:11-24).

My Life Changed by Christ

Discuss what it was like and how you came into a relationship with Christ. Be sure to mention the important parts of the Gospel:

1. *"I realized that I'm a sinner"* (see Rom. 3:23).
2. *"I recognized that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins"* (see Rom. 5:8).
3. *"I repented, or turned away, from my sins"* (see Acts 3:19).
4. *"I received Jesus Christ as Lord of my life"* (see Rev. 3:20).

My New Life After Coming to Christ

Discuss how your life is different now that you have become a real Christian.

- *"God has given me peace"* (see Rom. 5:1).
- *"God has a wonderful plan for my life"* (see Jer. 29:11).
- *"I know that I'm going to heaven"* (see Jn. 3:36).

With every open-unbeliever or backslider that I share the Lord with, I indeed want to give them an opportunity to come to Christ (or come back to Jesus) that day.

There are four kinds of people in the world that you'll be addressing whether it's in a church or out on the streets. You will be speaking with those who are:

1. Not saved but know they are saved, because of all they've done or experienced (they have a false assurance because of a religious gospel or maybe a belief in universalism).
2. Not saved and know it (they feel guilty and are aware of what they've done or not done).
3. Saved and know they are saved (they might be carnal Christian or a growing, spiritual Christian who is learning fast).
4. Saved but don't know they are saved (they have no assurance inside—they often trust in their feelings that are fickle. They could be a carnal, religious, worldly, lukewarm, poorly taught, legalistic or uninformed Christian).

Along with other verses I tell them what Jesus said, ***“He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters”*** (Matt. 12:30). He said, ***“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”*** (1 Jn 5:12).

I ask them if there is anything that would prevent them from getting right with Christ right now. What needs to happen is real easy...

ADMIT IT AND QUIT IT, BELIEVE HIM AND RECEIVE HIM!

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| 1. | ADMIT | - you've done wrong—sinned--and are in spiritual need. |
| 2. | REPENT | - forsake you own way, willing to turn from your sin. |
| 3. | BELIEVE | - that Jesus Christ died and rose again to save you. |
| 4. | RECEIVE | - through prayer, ask Jesus Christ into your life by faith. |

I ask: Would you like me to break it down further so you can know specifically what you need to do in this regard? And if they say yes, I tell them about seven “R’s” to experience redemption:

1. **Recognize that you are a sinner** (that’s admitting your need).
2. **Repent of your sin** (be willing to hang a 180 away from all sinning to Jesus).
3. **Realize that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.**
4. **Receive Jesus as Lord into your life by faith, so He can begin to empower and control you through His Holy Spirit. Stay tight with Him in fellowship with a Bible teaching church.**
5. **Resolve to do it publicly. Everyone, who Jesus called, He called openly and publicly**
6. **Respond To Christ now! Why NOW? Because God says now -- Today is the day of salvation, now is the acceptable time. The Devil will say “tomorrow,” but Jesus says now.**
7. **Rejoice in Jesus.**

Then I want to help them gain an assurance of their salvation by asking where Christ is in relation to their person (If they meant it, He is inside of them). I like to ask: In the Bible, can you find any repentant sinner that Jesus turned away. No!

I help them understand that they weren't coming to me, rather they came to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We aren't to make converts unto us, but point them to the only One who can save them. I next want to get them a Bible and take them to church where they can make more friends and get established with a good foundation in the basics of the Word.