



### ***Basic Elements...***

*involved in sharing your faith at work or anywhere.*

**By Kurt von Schleicher**

1.) Have an absolute assurance of your own salvation! Doubt your doubts and pray this in. You can not be an effective fisher if you lack an assurance of your own salvation.

2.) Start at home early. Pray alone everyday for your boss, coworkers and whatever visitors might come to your workplace! Be baptized in, continuously filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit will give you abounding joy and this is one of the best lures in your tackle box. Lost people have no joy. They lack hope. Most people you meet at your place of employment today are not so much interested in going to heaven or to hell, they just want to know how to cope and "hack it" from Monday until the bell rings on Friday afternoon. Many live for the moment and from paycheck to paycheck. They need to see you living in victory, filled with the Holy Spirit and infectious JOY! Life in Jesus never gets so rough that you can't find something to laugh at. Your love, joy and peace in the midst of different struggles at work will be a great entrée into boldly sharing your faith with loving sincerity.

3.) Since your coworkers will have the chance to see what type of person you really are on an everyday basis, please resolve now to prayerfully exhibit godly character through your gracious attitude, diligent work habits, selfless personal interactions, loyal submission (short of sin) to flawed people in authority, and godly integrity in all you do.

4.) Have you ever memorized soul-winning verses from one of the newer Bible translations? I like the NLT and NKJV Bible for doing this. It's a great way to prayerfully prepare. God's word doesn't return void in witnessing, so be sure to share what He says, but not like some uncaring, mechanical robot. Personal crisis in the lives of your coworkers can often reveal itself in subtle ways on the job and we must be prepared to tactfully explain the right verses to those in trouble, or simply just be there with them to listen. Allow the

Spirit to lead you as to the timing for opening your mouth or keeping it shut. But this is an excellent time to show Christian love and extol Jesus in a non-religious way as you clearly verbalize His Gospel. Make it your goal to keep your eyes open for coworkers in distress, invite them to lunch and share Bible principles which correspond with their real needs or challenges.

5.) Have an understanding of the Gospel Message and some important first steps to apply after conversion. Spend time in the Word of God daily! Be ready to give an answer. The Good News isn't complicated, but very simple. The Gospel is simply glorious and gloriously simple. So let's keep it simple, identify smokescreens and not allow any sinner to get us sidetracked onto some stupid rabbit trail. Keep bringing the conversation back to the person and work of Jesus Christ and what the Bible says about Him in relation to an unbeliever in their sin. When presenting the Gospel, there are two tools which may help you: a.) "The Roman Road" which is real old, but is still real good. It includes passages such as Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:6-8; b.) and b.) A concise gospel tract with Scriptures.

6.) A personal testimony (your own story of how you used to be, of what you learned and went through and of how you came to believe in Jesus Christ) is a powerful but neglected tool in your fishing boat. You can use key verses that deal with what you went through. You don't have to be like many who over-elaborate on all the gory details of their past sins, as they hyperventilate an excited child on Christmas morning. The Bible says that sin is fun for a season, but you know how moldy it got. You wouldn't have come to Christ if that old life was so great. Have you ever written out, talked-out and memorized a three-minute testimony presentation, detailing (in non-religious terms), how you came to know Jesus? Do so this week, pray and be ready to quickly and understandably, at a moment's notice, show how God cares and is in the fishing business – the business of changing lives for eternity. Use clean language – you know, the terms they understand and that are natural for you to speak in. Don't use some TV-preacher-y inflections with strange-jerks or quaking. That's so lame. They would just run for the hills. Just give it to them plain. Brag on Christ Jesus the most ...giving your friend a no-pressure opportunity to pray and receive Jesus right there, on the spot. God can use you today to reap a harvest. He wants to use you at the right moment to reel in the line. Your three minute testimony, previously written out, prayed over and practiced will at least plant seeds in their hearts. Not that you're going to whip out this sheet of paper, unfold it and read it to them verbatim in some wooden, literal unnatural way. I mean, just get it down and be spontaneous when explaining it ...allowing them to interject ...allowing them an easy out if they have to run back to work. You giving them an easy out will only make them feel free to come back for more. A Christian with a glowing testimony is worth more than a library full of arguments. And the wonderful thing about sharing your own testimony is that you don't have to come off like you've arrived. You can tell about where you've blown it, even as a Christian and how God helped you overcome (or is helping your to overcome) in those areas. This honesty will make you

genuine and believable. Read about the man in the Bible who was born blind, to whom Jesus gave him his sight? He was asked many questions, to which he responded, *"I don't know."* But there was something the scoffers couldn't refute: *"One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"* (John 9: 1-34). The goal is not to have all the answers, but to keep learning and point them to the One who does.

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