

**Sharing Our Faith with Others**

2 Kings 7:3-10

Let me start my sermon today with some questions: When was the last time you talked about Jesus Christ with your family? When did you last share the message of Jesus Christ (the Gospel message)? If you did share it, how successful do you feel it was? If you haven't shared the Gospel before, what do you think has held you back? Do you think you will maintain the same approach of not sharing the Gospel message in the future?

Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16, **"For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!"** The Corinthian church was in conflicts among its members: divisions & factions, immorality and sexual sin, lawsuits among believers, misuse of Christian freedom, confusion about the resurrection, and opposition to Apostle Paul's authority. They lost the message of the Cross. They lost their love for Christ and their church family. Accordingly, they also lost their passion for preaching the Gospel. Here, the Apostle Paul tries to redirect their focus to their calling to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as they had become entangled in conflicts, and some were heavily influenced by the surrounding culture. Some of them were heavily influenced by the culture they were in.

There was a German missionary who served in South Africa. He was born in South America as his parents were missionaries there. He received his seminary education in the United States and later became a mission professor at the same seminary after completing his missionary work in South Africa. He said, **"It's very interesting to see the churches in the United States. They do a lot of mission work. However, they do not seem to be faithful when it comes to proclaiming the Gospel message. They seem to think their participation in mission work can replace their sacred duty of proclaiming the Gospel. They have to do both. They have to believe in and experience the power of the Gospel message by proclaiming it to the world."**

Today, we are going to explore the third Means of Grace, which is **"Sharing Our Faith with Others."**

**"I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."** (Philemon 6 NIV)

Through his experiences, the Apostle Paul learned that sharing our faith can deepen our understanding of the blessings we have in Christ.

However, this means of grace is not an option but a command from Jesus Christ. **“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”** (Matthew 28:19 NRSV)

“Sharing our faith with others” is our responsibility.

**“So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.”** (2 Corinthians 5:20 NRSV).

How can we define the phrase “sharing our faith with others”?

**“Sharing our faith with others’ means letting people know about Jesus and how one can become a part of God’s family, and doing it as a natural part of your daily living in a way that is suited to your individual personality and temperament.”** Definition of Lifestyle Evangelism

This definition teaches us that our lives must reflect the Good News before we share it. People should be able to find, read, and understand the Good News through our lives. That is why we need to practice John Wesley’s means of grace intentionally and diligently.

### **Let me share with you the background of today’s scriptures.**

During the reign of King Joram (Jehoram) of Israel, the Arameans invaded Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. They surrounded Samaria, cutting off its food supply and causing extreme starvation. People started to eat unclean animals and resorted to even cannibalism (2 Kings 6:24-29). The king blamed the prophet Elisha for the crisis and tried to kill him (2 Kings 6:31), but Elisha prophesied that the next day, the famine would end and food would be plentiful and cheap (2 Kings 7:1-2). There were four lepers outside the city gates who decided to go to the Aramean camp, thinking they would either be fed or killed. God caused the Arameans to hear the sound of an approaching army, making them flee in panic, leaving behind their supplies. The lepers found the camp deserted, plundered it, and then shared the Good News with the people in Samaria. Their names are unknown, but because of them, the people in Samaria were saved. For them, sharing the Good News was a matter of life and death. This story is well attached to a quote from D. T. Niles, who was a Methodist pastor, theologian, and evangelist in Sri Lanka. **“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.”** D. T. Niles.

One of the main reasons that we hesitate to share our faith with others is because of our fear: Our fear of being rejected, our fear of ruining our relationship, our fear of being involved in other people’s lives, and our fear of how others perceive us.

### **1. Trust the power of the Gosepl of Jesus Christ.**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God’s saving power for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16 NRSV)

Why is the Gospel so powerful? It is powerful because it addresses our sin. The Gospel is the antidote to the sinful nature that all human beings struggle with. It is the only cure for the spiritual bondage of sin. Through the Gospel, new life begins in Jesus Christ, assuring us of the Kingdom life—not only here on earth but also in heaven. The Gospel is worthy of our devotion. As the Apostle Paul says, we are to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, no matter what happens (Philippians 1:27 NIV).

### **2. Start with prayer.**

Ask God to use you to share Jesus Christ with the people who need him. The work of salvation is God’s work. We are His vehicles to share His message.

“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 NIV). Even one of the greatest evangelists asked his church to pray for the sharing of his faith with others. We must pray, too.

### **3. Build up relationships.**

Build relationships with the people you are trying to reach.

#### ***1) To build up relationships, we need to find command grounds.***

There was a Christian couple who wanted to build up their relationship with a newlywed couple in their church. The wife of the young couple was a strong believer but struggled to convince her husband to attend the Sunday worship service. So this old couple invited both of them to a local restaurant every Sunday morning before church for several months. Eventually, the husband decided to attend church. Now, he has become one of the church leaders. A few years ago, when I called the wife of the young couple, I asked her, “How is your husband doing?” She said, “Pastor, he is really busy nowadays because of his ministry at the church. He heard that they needed more people on trustees, so he volunteered for that position. Today, he is at the church, doing gardening work before Sunday.” It was Saturday afternoon.

#### ***2) To build relationships, we are to find and meet the needs of those we try to reach out to.***

There was a middle-aged Christian woman who wanted to share her faith with a young mother who had two small children. This young mother was often homebound due to her parenting responsibilities. The Christian woman offered to babysit her children, saying, “My friend, I have noticed that you are always busy with your kids. If you ever need to go out or spend some time with your husband,

please let me know. I would be happy to babysit for you.” The young mother gratefully accepted her offer. Whenever the Christian woman came to babysit, she would pray for the young family and their children. It didn’t take long for the young mother to decide to join the church attended by the Christian woman.

#### **4. Share your own stories of God’s grace.**

Why is telling your personal story an effective way of sharing the gospel? People are interested in you. People enjoy hearing other people’s stories. People can easily relate to your story. People can’t easily argue with your story. When sharing your story, focus on how you met Jesus Christ and how your life has transformed since that encounter.

#### **5. Finally, pray continually.**

Our efforts to share our faith with others must begin with prayer, and we must pray continually. Remember, we are dealing with a matter of life and death. We need power from above in this process.

Let me share with you two scriptures before I finish my sermon today.

“What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell ... ”  
(2 Kings 7:9 NRSV)

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.” (Ezekiel 3:17-19 NIV).

A month ago, I asked you to fill out this prayer request form. If you have anyone that you want to share your faith with, please write down their names on this form and submit it to the church office or give it to me. “Sharing our faith with others” has to be our lifestyle because it is our calling from Jesus. By obeying this call, we can experience His grace and deepen our understanding of the blessings we have in Christ.