



**As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

## Teaching 4 – True Evangelism leading a person to Christ

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### TRUE EVANGELISM - LEADING A PERSON TO CHRIST

In **John 3:1–8** there is the familiar story of the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. This has become famous if only because it introduced terminology that has gone from being the deepest meaning of regenerated life to the shallowest.

In our society the term “born again” is not only used as a sometimes derogatory Christian label, but it has been applied to motorcycles, laundry soap, and tennis stars! Nevertheless, “born again” is a biblical term from Jesus’ own lips: “Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again” **John 3:16**

Nicodemus (*“Conqueror of the People”*) was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin. He was familiar with Jewish law, history, and custom and was easily aware of the prophecies concerning the Messiah. It appears that many of the people of Jesus’ day who were interested in a Messiah were concerned about the present Roman oppression and wanted their freedom from it. Whether or not this was a concern of Nicodemus’s is difficult to tell, since the Sanhedrins were granted civil authority under Roman rule. But his interest in Jesus was, perhaps, compromised by his concern over his reputation and position. This may be why he came to Jesus by night. It appears, however, that Nicodemus became a believer because he helped prepare the body of Jesus for burial **John 19:39–42**

To be “born again” means to experience a new kind of life in which the human spirit becomes “alive” to God. This is not a second biological birth, of course, but a spiritual one in which we are “born from above”. A person is literally introduced into a new realm in which he can realize, experience, and communicate with God. Sometimes we use the term “saved” or “converted” to acknowledge this new birth experience.

### Coming to Christ Jesus:

**Redeemed**, Ransom, redeem, and repurchase; to set free by avenging or repaying. Jesus refers to the custom of buying back something a person has lost through helplessness, poverty, or violence. Furthermore, the one who does the redeeming is often a close relative who is in a stronger position and buys back the lost property on behalf of his weaker relative. **Psalms 72** is universally understood as speaking of the Messiah; **v. 14** states “He will redeem their life of the

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needy from oppression and violence.” In **Isaiah 52:9**, God redeems Jerusalem, buying it back from its oppressors on behalf of His people. The biblical view of redemption is extremely wide, for God has pledged to redeem the whole creation, which currently groans in bondage **Romans 8:20–23**

Who or what holds us in captivity?

What is the currency God uses to pay for our release from bondage? **John 3:16**

**Ransom:** From the verb “to loosen”. The word signifies a release from slavery or captivity brought about by the payment of a price. Sin demands a expiation, atonement, a price paid because of the penalty of death that was upon us. Jesus’ gift to us was Himself, a universal ransom (for many) that was of a vicarious nature. A ransom is the amount that must be given in order to buy someone’s freedom. Sin has brought mankind into bondage to self and Satan. The price that must be paid is that of the blood of an innocent person who, personally, owes no debt. The seriousness of our crime against God requires this great price. But because of the greatness and grace of our God, He pays the price Himself in the person of Jesus.

**Matthew 26:28** tells us that the blood of Jesus was poured out for the forgiveness of \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1:7** says that the blood of Jesus purifies us from every \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of the blood of Jesus, we come into right standing with God as if there had never been a problem. “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him” **Romans 5:9**

**Justified:** A legal term signifying acquitted, declared righteous, shown to be righteous. The idea is that we are so completely free in our restoration to God; it is as if we never sinned. The blood of Jesus has rendered us this free.

By what is a person not justified? **Galatians 2:16**

**Romans 10:9–10** That if you \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth the Lord Jesus and \_\_\_\_\_ in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Once we have received Christ, our desire should be that others come to know Him also. Of course, we cannot “save” a person ourselves. We cannot determine the moment someone else will truly come to know the Lord. This is the point Jesus is making when He says, “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit” **John 3:8**. Our responsibility is simply to tell the good news. In doing so, however, be careful of two things:

**1)** Don’t try to second-guess what the person’s response should be because you will probably be disappointed. Just come to the conversation and minister the truth and life of Jesus, and let the Holy Spirit take it from there.

List some assumptions you may have brought to a conversation with a possible “convert” and why these may have led to disappointment; for example, the church they “need” to start attending.

**2)** Try not to show disappointment if a person doesn’t become a Christian right away.

List any unrealistic expectations you may have concerning a person’s response to prayer to receive Jesus.

There is perhaps no greater joy than seeing someone truly come to know Jesus. Consider carefully the following statement in light of winning the lost: *Living, vital, Holy Spirit-filled Christianity reaches people and often leads them to Christ.*

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## Don't overlook these:

**Recognize that the new birth process is multi-staged.** When we encounter people who are opening their hearts to Jesus Christ, we don't know where they are on the spectrum of God's dealings with them. But the Holy Spirit knows. Therefore it becomes necessary to rely on the Holy Spirit as we minister. **Invite the Holy Spirit to minister to them.** We need to minister with trust in God the Holy Spirit and listen to Him. In John 16 the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. The Holy Spirit shows Jesus to them so clearly that they will know that only He can save them. The Holy Spirit also reveals that the power of sin has been broken, and that the serpent has been smashed and that the power of death and hell, have been overcome. That's what Jesus meant when He said that when the Holy Spirit would come, He will convince the world of sin and righteousness and judgment.

**Know the Word and believe in its power as we minister.** In **John 6:63** Jesus says that the flesh profits nothing. We can bring all kinds of experience and wisdom to speaking with people, but what we bring naturally out of ourselves will lead no one to Christ. In contrast, the words that Jesus speaks are Spirit and life.

Know what the Bible says and trust the Holy Spirit to make it alive, and life, to people. Even if we see no response on a person's face, the Holy Spirit will take the Word as we speak it and accomplish His purposes.

## THE SIMPLICITY OF GOD'S WORD:

**Focus on Jesus Himself as God's Son and resurrected Saviour.**

Frequently you will find many questions and concerns that tend to draw attention away from a person's need to accept Jesus. Keep focused on the issue of new birth. Write out the five scriptures below. You may want to copy the references into the front of your Bible for future use.

I'm not sure that Jesus is the only way to be saved. Quote **Acts 4:12**

I'm a good person, I don't hurt other people. Quote **Romans 3:23**

I'm not worried about what happens after I die. Quote **Romans 6:23**

There are too many hypocrites in the church. Quote **John 21:22**

How do I know that God will accept me? Quote **John 6:37**

There will be times when questions arise for which you don't have answers. Be honest and admit that you don't know how to respond. If the person gives you time, suggest that you will find answers to their questions. Also, be careful that you don't become a Scripture "machine gun". You don't need to feel that everything you say is a quote from Scripture. People are looking for genuine, concerned, loving individuals who can carry on normal conversations without appearing to know everything and without appearing to be overly religious.

**Present the promises of acceptance, forgiveness, assurance and eternal life:**

When we accept Christ we are fully accepted and entirely forgiven. That's what is offered to the person who comes to Jesus. Show the person you are witnessing to the scriptures that state the following truths. Write them out here, and, again, you may want to note the references in your Bible.

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Acceptance **Ephesians 1:6**  
Forgiveness **Ephesians 1:7**  
Assurance **Philippians 1:6**  
Eternal Life **Romans 6:23**

**Invite the seeker to prayer as an action of faith in God's promises:**

Show them that they can come to God and ask Him for forgiveness and salvation. Again, note these scriptures for reference.

Come **John 6:37**

Ask **John 16:24**

**Help the person pray to receive Jesus:**

Below is a simple but to-the-point prayer that you may want to keep handy, or memorize in your own words, to use when necessary.

*Father God, I accept Jesus as my Saviour and ask Him to come into my heart. Forgive me my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Thank You that Jesus died on the Cross to save me from sin. Take control of life. I surrender it to You right now.*

Afterward, show them the following scriptures by way of assurance of their new life.

What does a person become upon receiving Jesus? **2 Corinthians 5:17**

What else does a person become upon receiving Jesus? **1 John 3:2**

We pass from what to what upon receiving Jesus? **1 John 3:14**

**Affirm their obedience to God and say a prayer of thanksgiving:**

Father God, thank You that \_\_\_\_\_ (name) has surrendered his/her life to You by inviting Jesus to take up residence within their heart. Thank You that he/she has entered into eternal life and is now a child of God. We thank You that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from sin. Father, we also thank You that the Scripture affirms that You will work in us to bring us safely to heaven. May we be mindful of Your great grace and willingness to help us in every detail of our lives? Let us never forget Your Word and the assurance it brings to our hearts.

New converts need to understand some important concepts and kingdom principles as soon as possible. Here are several. In each case let the Word of God do the convincing. We are called to share the Word, not force it on people.

God will complete the work He started in us. **Philippians 1:6; 2:13**

War is waging over the souls of men and women. **Luke 22:31, 1 Pet. 5:8, James 4:7, Ephesians 6:10–12**

God's Word provides protection, safety, and guidance. **Psalm 119:11, 105; Matthew 26:41**

Christ's body, the church, is a corporate group for safety, comfort, fellowship, prayer, and sharing of burdens. **Galatians 6:2, Hebrews 10:25, James 5:16**

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New believers need to know that kingdom authority is available to them to be used against sin and Satan. The power of God, however, must not be sought or used for any reason other than the glorification of Jesus and the deliverance of people from bondage. Look carefully at **Acts 8:14–24 and 19:11–20** to see what happens when motives are wrong.

Because of the price Jesus has paid to secure our release from sin, we are free from guilt and condemnation and have access directly to the throne of God. Such liberty, when fully understood, is the basis for a joy that is unspeakable.

**Father in Heaven, I acknowledge the blood of Jesus that was poured out on Calvary to set me free from sin. I thank You that sin no longer holds me in bondage and that because of my release from it, I am also released from the power of Satan and his demons.**

**André Rivenell**