

## TIP #9B THE ART OF SHARING

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*"At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak."  
Colossians 4:3-4*



In this last newsletter for the year, we will talk a little more about the Art of Sharing: the practical steps in how to share.

The first practical step to sharing is to practice. Sometimes, we find that when we try to say what it is that we believe in, it comes out all jumbled. Sometimes, we try to say everything that we think the other person should hear and we end up just confusing the other person. However, if we practice putting our faith into words, others will find it less confusing.

Practicing will help us get better at sharing God's message. The neat side-effect is that as we practice clarifying our statements, this will also help clarify and strengthen our faith as well.

So, let's get to preparing your testimony.

There's a reason why books, shows, and movies attract the attention of people – we all love stories. Mary Schaller writes, "your story captures both the head and the heart of the listener and can move people to consider things they never have or would have considered."

# People love stories.

Your story is a real experience of the power of God at work in your life. It can generate questions, thoughts, and even inspire actions in response. Luis Palau adds, “don’t be afraid to speak from personal experience; in many ways, those vulnerable moments will be the key that unlocks a hardened heart.”

In fact, your story of how Jesus has impacted your life makes a “radical statement that He is living and active today, that He is personally and uniquely an integral part of your life now.”

So, as you write down your story, think through what it means that you were once dead in sin, but how Jesus as your Lord and Savior has changed who you are, changed your purpose in life, and how you persevere in faith

daily. This will help shape what you write and share with others.

Another thing to keep in mind as you are writing your story is this: what is the goal at the end of your conversation with the other person? We don’t usually get many opportunities to tell our faith to others. It is a great privilege when it happens. But, you can’t just say everything all at once. Writers use something called a “hook” or “logline.” It’s to hook someone into the story – where they want to know more. In other words, you don’t have to explain everything, all the theology about God, Scripture, salvation... but point them to Jesus in a way where they become curious and want to hear more.

Finally, after you tell someone about Jesus, make a personal invitation. Because at the end of the day, the goal isn’t to just tell them about Jesus, but asking them to open themselves to Him – if they are ready to receive His forgiveness, to pray with them, or helping them to investigate further.

## Practice: Developing Healthy Spiritual Rhythms

1. Try writing out your story – what was life like before Jesus and how He has changed your life.
2. Is there a person in your life that you want to share the gospel with? What is your goal in your first conversation with them?
3. Practice your story. And then pray for divine appointments. Be prepared to share.