

# Proclaim the Good News



**JESUS  
CHRIST**

**DIED ON THE CROSS  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS  
OF YOUR SINS**

*The Bible teaches that God offers us the benefits of salvation as a free gift, purchased in love by the sinless life and sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ. We accept this gift by placing our faith in Christ, turning away from of our sinful ways, and trusting in His death as the means for the forgiveness of our sins, and acceptance by God into His family.*

**LUIS JOSEPH CASTLE**

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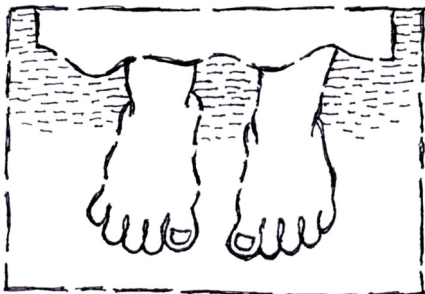
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## HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE YOUR FEET?

**A**re your feet beautiful? Maybe they are, maybe they're not. That depends upon whether you make a daily habit of telling others about Jesus. Wherever your feet take you each day you should be praying and looking for opportunities to preach the gospel to those you meet - at work, at the grocery store, at the gym, while visiting friends and neighbors, and so on. Every day God provides us with divine appointments to plant the seeds of the gospel in the hearts of others. God says that if your feet are actively planting these seeds of salvation, they are the most beautiful feet in the world!



***"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*** - Romans 10:15

***"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"*** - Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)

***"Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God."*** - Luke 8:1 (NIV)

***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance (pardon, forgiveness) to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are oppressed (downtrodden, bruised, crushed)..."*** Luke 4:18 (Amp)

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST?

**B**oth the Latin word and Greek word for “**gospel**” means “**good news**.” So, what is the good news that Jesus wants us to proclaim?

In theological terms, the gospel of salvation can be described as follows:

The God of all Creation is a God of justice and of mercy. Many of us like to hear about God's grace and mercy but we flinch when we hear about His "justice" or "judgment." However, He is what He is. He has revealed in the Bible that every person is born in sin and with a rebellious nature against God. Therefore, we are all born separated from a relationship with God by that sinful nature. He requires the punishment of our human sin before we can be restored. So, out of His love and mercy towards us, He gave His Son Jesus Christ to become the propitiation (atonement) for our sins, to those who will believe in Him. The only way we can incur divine favor and avoid divine retribution, is to repent of our sinful ways and trust Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Christ became a man to fulfill the righteous requirements of God's Law on our behalf and to bear the punishment of our sins. Through His substitutional death on Calvary's cross, we can be forgiven and adopted into God's eternal family. Our Lord knew we would never be able to earn the forgiveness of God by simply being good enough, so He took our place on the cross of judgment. The Bible teaches that God offers us these benefits of salvation as a free gift, purchased in love by the sinless life and sacrificial, atoning death of His Son, Jesus Christ. We accept this gift by placing our faith in Christ, turning away from our sinful ways, and trusting in His death as the means for our forgiveness and acceptance by God into His family.

If you are a born-again Christian, you know what this means since you have already experienced the above gift of God and subsequent spiritual transformation.

## We all have a past we're not proud of.

No doubt, many of us can remember what our life was like before we received Christ as our Savior and Lord. We all have a testimony of being transformed from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. It was the glorious day we placed our faith in Christ. Some of us were so bound by sin that if God had not come along and rescued us from our old sinful life, we might not even be alive today! On that marvelous day, our sins were forgiven and we became new creatures in Christ. We remember back when our lives were previously headed for eventual self-destruction, but then God graciously allowed us to make a U-Turn. He brought us back and placed us on the right path. We were given a second chance, filled with the Holy Spirit, and adopted as His children for all eternity. That should be everyone's testimony indeed, and that is the **good news** that we are called to proclaim to others.

## How to easily preach the gospel.

Preaching the gospel can be as simple as telling others our story in 25 words or less - what God has done for us. Our heavenly Father has called every one of us to tell others about what Jesus accomplished on the cross in a simple and personal manner. God wishes that no one should be lost and perish, and He has determined to communicate the gospel of salvation through us.



We must continually endeavor to persuade people of these vital truths and to live a holy life - a changed life that demonstrates the power of God living within us. When people hear our story and observe the sanctified manner in which we now live, they will be encouraged to respond to the **good news** of the gospel themselves, receive Christ, become saved, and glorify God.

## The word of salvation is in your mouth and in your heart.

The apostle Paul wrote in the epistle of Romans in chapter 10, verses 8-15:

*"But what does it say? 'The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:*

*that if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your heart you believe and are justified, and with your mouth you confess and are saved. It is just as the Scripture says: 'Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.' For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile: The same Lord is Lord of all, and gives richly to all who call on Him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"*



How then can they call on the One in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Notice that Paul says, "How can they hear (and be saved) unless someone preaches to them?" We are God's vessels tasked to preach and evangelize, that is, "communicate" the gospel of Jesus Christ. Unless we open our mouths and tell others about Jesus, how will they ever hear and be saved? Whether it is a family member, friend, or total stranger on the street, we need to open our mouths and communicate the gospel! How can they hear and be saved without someone to preach to them?

## WHAT IS PERSONAL EVANGELISM?

**P**ersonal Evangelism is the one-on-one method of helping non-Christians to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The goal of all forms of evangelism is to lead others to receive salvation and eternal life through faith in the substitutional sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

In a nutshell, John 3:16 explains the great love of God the Father towards all mankind in sending His only begotten Son, to pay the penalty for our sins. The Amplified Bible reads as follows:

"For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life."

This book will easily teach you how to explain the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to others who have never heard it.

### **Witnessing should be natural and easy to do.**

There are several evangelistic programs available today that teach personal evangelism. Some are good, while others are not, since they convolute the witnessing process with man-made techniques and formulas which are unnecessary, or down-right confusing. Others require that you attend complex training courses before you are "certified" as an evangelist, or even allowed to make your first presentation of the gospel. I don't find this type of elaborate training or certification process supported anywhere in the Bible.

### **Go, witness, and teach.**

Biblical evangelism should be simple and uncomplicated. It's not about what kind of eloquent words you should use, it's about simply opening your mouth, speaking what you already know, and leave the rest up to God. God will use what you say and anoint

your words to touch people's hearts. Always remember this: **It is God who does the saving, not you!**

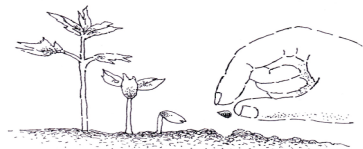
Before His ascension to heaven, Jesus commanded His disciples to "Go then and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto to the close and consummation of this age. Amen." - Matthew 28:19-20.

The early disciples didn't have to go Bible college or get a seminary degree in order to be evangelists, they simply went out and told people about Jesus in their own words. After the day of Pentecost, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit to testify in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The disciples prayed for guidance and allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through them. They were not educated people, nor possessed any special preaching skills, yet they were filled with the Holy Spirit and with power. In fact, they were able to win so many people to Christ that even their enemies were amazed. They were said to have "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). God used every single one of them to become powerful evangelists for Christ.

## Who can be an Evangelist?

Every Christian is called to be an evangelist! We often think of evangelists and missionaries as the brave souls who go into foreign countries to preach the gospel, hold revival meetings, and even start churches. The truth is, we are all gifted to be evangelists and missionaries for God.

## Planting Seeds



Symbolically, the church uses the term, **planting seeds** to describe our spoken word to others regarding the gospel of Christ. It is like a spiritual seed that, once we speak it, it is planted in people's hearts waiting to be germinated by God's power.



## EASY GOSPEL PRESENTATION

**H**ere is an easy way to present the gospel to someone. You don't have to memorize it, or even use it at all. I include it here as a sample guide that anyone can follow to get started witnessing for Christ. Once you have done it a few times, you will likely develop your own style and method; that's ok. Just remember to keep your gospel presentation sounding natural and unrehearsed.



Whether you're evangelizing door-to-door, at a shopping mall, outdoor event, or meeting someone new, approach the person with a friendly smile, offer them a tract, and say something like this...

**Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm talking to people today about God.**

**Do you believe in God?**

**You do? That's awesome. I do too.**

**In fact, I am a Christian and I wanted to share the good news gospel of Jesus Christ with you.**

**You see, the Holy Bible teaches us that we are all born sinners and separated from God. But Jesus Christ died on the cross to bring us back into right standing with our heavenly Father. Today, Jesus is offering you the free gift of salvation if you will receive Him as your Savior and Lord of your life.**

**Would you like to receive Jesus Christ today?**

**Great! Let me pray with you...**

*(Lay your hand on their shoulder and bow your head in prayer).*

**Repeat after me...**

"Dear heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me and sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die for my sins. I repent of my sins. Please forgive me of my iniquities and cleanse me of all unrighteousness. Today, I receive Jesus as my Savior and Lord of my life. From this day onward, help me to live according to Your commandments and become the person You created me to be. Amen."

*(After praying with them, write down and follow-up with them regularly. Make sure they start attending a good Bible-believing church, getting baptized, and growing spiritually as a new Christian).*

**Remember: We are called to make disciples, not just converts,** so follow-up with them regularly and make yourself available to take them to church, praying with them, and teaching them about the Bible.

## **Witnessing with tact**

**TACT** is the art of saying the right thing, at the right time, in the right way. It involves putting yourself in the other person's place and asking, "How would I like to be approached?"

Before you witness to someone, it's always a good idea to take the following into consideration:

- The person's cultural background
- The person's prejudices
- The person's cultural background
- The person's ethnicity
- And any other factors that will help you present the gospel in a



way they can understand.

An example of using tact in evangelizing was used by Jesus in the Book of John, chapter 4. When Jesus came across the woman at the well, He was very tactful in His approach. He was well aware of her immoral, fornicating lifestyle, but He didn't immediately address this issue. Instead, he first asked her for water to drink. In exchange for her kindness, He offered her the living water of eternal life that would never run dry.

It was only after they had conversed in a friendly way that Jesus addressed her issue of sexual immorality. She was amazed that He knew of her many ex-lovers and called Jesus a prophet. In her excitement, the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?"

Jesus could have been rude and immediately confronted her with her sin of whoredom. But this type of rude witnessing only does more harm than good, like those who mistakenly evangelize with signs and bumper stickers that say, "**You're all going to hell,**" or "**Turn, or burn!**" This approach is unloving and highly offensive to most people. It also projects the wrong character of God. It puts the person you're witnessing to on the defensive and they will shut-off their ears to anything further you have to say.

## **The true gospel is a message of love, not hate or wrath.**

Hell-fire and brimstone preaching should be avoided completely and any mention of the consequences of hell should be tempered with God's love.

The primary emphasis in our witnessing should be "**For God so loved the world...**" (John 3:16). The salvation God offers through His Son, Jesus Christ, is motivated by His great love for all human beings. He takes no pleasure in the death or punishment of the wicked, but desires that all men should come to salvation (2 Peter 3:9). If God had His way, no one would ever be lost. But even God

will not go against a person's free will to choose or reject Him. He has allowed every individual to CHOOSE for themselves to ACCEPT His free gift of salvation, or REJECT it.

**Tactful witnessing requires divine guidance and wisdom.** Always pray for direction before you open your mouth, and the Holy Spirit will give you the right words.



Alfred P. Gibbs writes: "The meaning of the word 'TACT' is 'TOUCH'. Thus, we are to touch a soul in the right way. The right combination for the ideal Christian worker is **a cool head and a warm heart.**"

Let us always pray for cool heads when witnessing and a warm heart of patience and love. Don't be surprised, some people will get angry and insulting when you address the subject of God. However, never take it personally, lose your temper, or become argumentative. **Stay calm at all times.** Walk away from a hostile person and simply tell them, "Let's agree to disagree; may God reveal the truth to you as He has for me. Have a nice day!"

God doesn't approve of abusive or hateful behavior displayed by His followers when communicating His message. We want to draw people to Christ, not turn them away. So remember the old proverb, "**You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.**" Be on your best behavior at all times.

## OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS

**B**e prepared for argumentative people. Some will respond to your gospel witnessing with all kinds of excuses and objections. Below are some of the most common responses.

### 1. "I believe in God and try to lead a good life."

Your response: "That's great. You sound like a good person, but even good people need salvation. In fact, the Bible says, '**for ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**' (Romans 3:23). That means we are ALL sinners and in need of a savior - no matter how good we try to be. Would you like to receive His salvation today?"



### 2. "I'm Catholic," or "I'm a Baptist," or "I'm a Muslim," etc.

I'm glad you are a religious person. However, **it's not your religion that saves you**. Only by receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord of your life can guarantee your salvation. He is the only mediator between man and God (1 Timothy 2:5). Would you like to receive His salvation today?"

### 3. "I believe God is a god of love, and would never condemn anyone to hell."

God indeed is a god of love and mercy, but **He is also a god of JUSTICE**. His justice demands that your sins be punished. Jesus Christ will take the punishment of your sins so you won't have to suffer. God's demand for justice will be satisfied if you receive Christ as your Savior. Would you like to receive His salvation today?"

#### 4. "I'm Jewish. We don't believe Jesus was the Messiah (Christ)."

Jesus indeed was the promised Messiah of Israel and the Bible is full of evidence that **He fulfilled all the prophecies of Messiah**. He himself declared, "Before Abraham was, I am" (read John 8:48-59). Your religious leaders rejected Him because they were envious of His popularity and didn't want to repent of their hypocrisy. Jesus described these Jewish leaders as "blind leaders of the blind" (Matthew 15:14). Would you like to receive Messiah's salvation today?"

#### 5. "I'm an atheist. I don't believe God exists."

I can only speak for myself, but I have personally experienced God in my life and **He is as real to me** as you are. In addition, there is so much scientific evidence available today that supports an **intelligent designer** in all creation. All you have to do is open your eyes and see His handiwork throughout the universe. Would you like to receive His salvation today?

##### **PRAYER:**

"Heavenly Father, help me to plant the good seeds of righteousness. I plow up the hard ground of my heart for now is the time to seek the Lord. I expect to reap a harvest of peace, love, and goodness, in this world, and in the world to come. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen."



**Scripture Reference:** Hosea 10:12, James 3:18 (NLT)

## THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

**A**nd Jesus said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves." - Luke 10:2-3

A great want lies before Christ, and that is to see many souls to saved. Truly God loves every human being and wishes that none should ever perish. Jesus told His disciples that the harvest of souls is plentiful in the world but there are never enough evangelists (laborers) to meet the ongoing need. It is a touching instance of our Lord's emotions. He is sympathetic to the needs of the lost and craves to see a greater harvest. Sadly, there is only a small handful of laborers willing to go out to gather the ready crops.

**Will you respond to Jesus?** As His servants and disciples, will you pray that the work of harvesting may be done? Will you also be willing to preach the good news and participate in the work? Oh, I pray that you will say, "**Yes, Lord, here I am. Use me!**"

For he that sows and reaps towards the spiritual harvest of men will find the greatest reward, both here on this earth, and in the ages to come.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brother Luis Joseph Castle is the founder and director of 4JESUS OUTREACH, a non-denominational ministry dedicated to communicating the good news gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. He is also an ordained Christian minister, evangelist, pastor, and author of several books. Visit our website at: [www.4JesusOutreach.com](http://www.4JesusOutreach.com)



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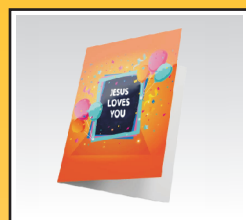
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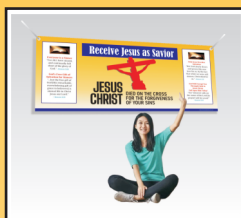
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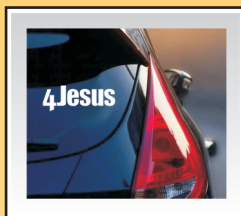
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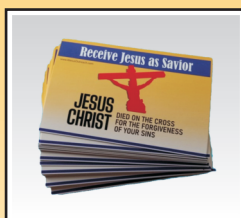
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