

# Open Nerve Evangelism

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## I. Introduction.

### A. Sharing Christ on the plane.

- a. Always get on a plane last so that you make sure that you sit by someone.

## II. Sensitivity to People.

### A. There are times when we scratch and people do not hear.

1. We believe in the fact of sin. (Rom 3:23).
2. Not everyone believes in the fact of sin.
3. Example: using real life examples to make the connection to the fact of sin.

### B. We have to respond to what people are listening to—to what they need.

1. People who have not received Jesus Christ are troubled inside.
2. The issue is getting your answer to what the nonbeliever's need is.

## III. Four open chords for evangelism.

### A. The simple forgiveness of sin.

1. The average person on the block knows what he has done wrong.
2. The offer of a brand new life is very attractive to this person.

### B. The sense of loneliness or emptiness.

1. Found often on the college campus.
2. People realize there is something missing; there is a sense of incompleteness.
3. Jesus Christ makes the life complete. (Colossians 2:10)

- a. The nonbeliever finds real fellowship with man.

- b. He finds fellowship with God.

### C. A world of chaos: economic, family, social pressure, etc.

1. The recognition of an evil world makes the offer of inner peace through Jesus Christ very attractive.

2. A picture of peace is different than what we think; our peace is “just out of the way” of the harsh circumstances of the world. (John 14:27)

D. A desire to do something significant.

1. People know after work that their eight hours have not made a difference.

2. Some will just go get a job to begin a monotonous cyclical lifestyle.

3. Most can analyze the problem, but few can give solutions.

- a. To change the society in which we live, you have to change people (a segway into the gospel).

- b. We must become a brand new person. (2 Corinthians 5:14)

- c. Christ is doing something really significant in this world.

IV. The necessity of our participation in Christ’s work.

A. Christ depends on us to change the world. (Acts 2:16)

1. Peter preaches and three-thousand souls were brought to Christ. (Acts 2:41)

2. The community was continuing steadfastly. (Acts 2:42)

3. The community was in a training program.

- a. Since the Great Commission was to make disciples they held all things in common and attended the temple daily.

4. The community is out preaching the word after the persecution of Stephen. (Acts 8)

5. The hand of the Lord was with the believers and the exhortation goes out from Barnabus to cleave unto Christ if nothing else is done. (Acts 11)

B. God has always placed a great deal of stock on every day people; God will rely upon you as he relied upon the great.

1. All the heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 are laymen with the exception of Samuel.

C. There is a divinely appointed leadership to the church. (Ephesians 4)

1. Their role is for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry

2. The intent of the passage is that the saints would do the ministry; there should not be a comma between 'saints' and 'for' in the text.

3. We are at war—it is our job, not the clergy's.

#### V. Tools for the job.

##### A. Having a practical understanding of the Word of God.

1. Like Paul. (Acts 17)

##### B. Having the skill of sharing your testimony concisely.

1. Learn how to give your testimony in about two to three minutes.

2. If you are having trouble go in pairs and have the passive partner focus on you when you are sharing.

3. Like John. (Revelation 1:9)

4. Like Paul (Acts 21:23)

##### C. Reasoning for methods.

1. These two tools work over other contemporary “intellectual” means. (1 Corinthians 1:2-5)

2. Personal example.

#### VI. Key essentials in being a good witness.

##### A. Have a practical understanding of Scripture. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

1. Many believe in the first part of the verses, but few believe that it is entirely profitable to make the man perfect in Christ.

2. You would get no wheat if you planted chaff because there is no life in it; there is life in the seed. Man's word is like the chaff, and God's word is the wheat. (Jeremiah 23:28)

3. We are born again by the Word of God. (Mark 4:3-14; 1 Peter 1:23; Hebrews 4:12)

4. The Word of God is powerful.

##### B. Memorize Scripture.

##### C. Have a daily quiet time with the Lord.

1. Activity for Christ is not a substitute for fellowship with Christ.

2. Jesus Christ did not die to give you a job; he died to have fellowship with you.

VII. Two excuses for not witnessing.

A. A lack of knowledge of the Word. (Hosea 4:6)

1. A practical, not theoretical knowledge is needed so that it will work effectually. (1 Thessalonians 2)

B. Fear. (1 Peter 3:15)

1. You qualify for witnessing if you share Christ with “meekness and fear”

a. To be afraid is okay.

b. Medal of Honor winners define courage as doing the thing that you are afraid of.

c. Personal examples.

2. Pray that you will be controlled not by your fear, but by God himself, so that you will have a motivation to witness in spite of your fear.

3. Personal example: “The woods are full of them.” We are surrounded by nonbelievers that need to hear the gospel.

**Application Questions:**

1. Why is it not simply enough to share the gospel with someone? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. Which “open chord” to evangelism stands out the most to you? Explain.  
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3. On what grounds does the speaker claim that evangelism is the work of the layman as much as it is the work of the clergyman? How would your life look different if you incorporated the principles the speaker suggests? Be specific.  
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4. In what area do you feel the least comfortable with concerning evangelism? Which tool would be most effective in addressing this discomfort? \_\_\_\_\_  
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