



Why Not Share My Faith Consistently?

August 26, 2018

Eight Reasons People Might Not Share Their Faith:

1. WHY NOT? I am afraid
2. WHY NOT? I am shy
3. WHY NOT? I don't know what to say
4. WHY NOT? I don't want to bother people or make them feel uncomfortable
5. WHY NOT? I am not an evangelist (or I don't have the gift of evangelism)
6. WHY NOT? People in our society will reject me and the message
7. WHY NOT? I lack the power to do it
8. WHY NOT? No one will listen to me

What God wants you to know...

- There is blessing if you do the right thing and people do not understand
- You do not need to be afraid, even in fearful times
- You can and should be ready to explain your faith in Jesús
- You can share your faith with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:14-15

¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

What God wants you to know...

- Even faithful and committed people deal with doubts

- You are called to make disciples of all nations
- We are to help people come to Jesus and grow in their faith
- Jesus is with us every time we share faith!

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What God wants you to know...

- God will provide the power you need to share your faith
- The Holy Spirit is with you and will guide you
- You will share the story of Jesus all over the world!

Acts 1:6-8

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

What God wants you to know...

- The story of Jesus is Good News
- God's kingdom power can change lives radically
- Compassion should guide our witness
- People are more open than we realize

- We need to be more ready to go out with the message of Jesús
- We need to pray for believers to go out with the Good News!

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*
³⁶ *When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* ³⁷ *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

What God wants you to know...

- You are utterly new in Jesus Christ
- We have been reconciled through Jesús
- We are called to a ministry of reconciliation
- God makes His appeal to the world through us!

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

When We Think... I am afraid

Why Not... Commit to seek the boldness of the Holy Spirit who lives in you?

When We Think... I am shy

Why Not... Learn to share the story of Jesus in a way that fits your unique personality?

When We Think... I don't know what to say

Why Not... Get trained and practice until you know just what to say?

When We Think... I don't want to bother people or make them feel uncomfortable

Why Not... Recognize that many people are hungry for truth, grace, and the love God offers?

When We Think... I am not an evangelist (or I don't have the gift of evangelism)

Why Not... Recognize that all Christians are called to shine God's light.

When We Think... People in our society will reject me and the message

Why Not... Embrace the reality that all kinds of people talk about all kinds of things with freedom.

When We Think... I lack the power to do it

Why Not... Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with heavenly power?

When We Think... No one will listen to me

Why Not... Trust that there people waiting to hear Good News and that God is sending you to them?

When We Think... My life will be my witness so I don't have to say anything

Why Not... Recognize that people come to faith when they hear the truth of God's love and receive the gift of Jesus?

There are lots of reasons *not* to share the story and love of Jesus, but there are even *better reasons* to break through and shine His amazing light and grace!