

# Evangelism Principles

In Christian 12-Step groups our purpose is to help individuals find a safe and solid place by introducing them to Jesus Christ as a higher power and learning to put the 12-steps into practice. While we recognize that individuals come from a variety of spiritual backgrounds, we want to offer them an opportunity to see how having a relationship with the Living God through Jesus Christ can have a significant positive impact both in maintaining sobriety and in finding healing and purpose in one's life. We believe that it is the sharing of our experience, strength, and hope that we best give witness to this living relationship. We believe Francis of Assisi was "onto something" when he said, "Preach the gospel always and when necessary use words." We provide these simple thoughts about evangelism as a way to help engage people where they are at and be with them in that place.

**Choose to be actively engaged** – Evangelism is a deliberate choice.

- Ask the Lord to lead you to hearts that He is touching.
- Be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit leading you to people with open hearts.

**Begin to engage the conversation**

- Listen and get to know them – our focus is on their salvation, not our ministry
- Meet people where they are at – touching their felt needs as you help them journey towards Jesus meeting their real needs
- Keep it simple
- Avoid "Christianese"
- Tell your experience including Biblical principles

**Pray**

- Prayer opens the door to effective personal evangelism.
- Prayer also empowers you to discern and overcome demonic opposition to your soul winning efforts
- Prayer ministry for an individual is often their first "experience" of the presence of God for them personally
- Prayer waters the seed beyond the encounter time

**Evangelism and Discipleship as a Process**

Arriving at Christian faith is a process that takes time—a process

- Discern where the individual is currently in the evangelism/discipleship process
- Affirm them there and seek to move them one or two steps up the ladder
- Ensure that you are prepared with tools for the levels into which you are leading them so they don't flounder once they get there

Note: In selling it takes an average of seven calls to make a sale. How much more is required to change the total direction of a person's life? This is why effective evangelism needs to be treated as a process, not just a single event.

## The Spiritual Decision Scale

- +8 Continued growth, maturity, and service
- +7 Continued growth, maturity, and service
- +6 Discipleship and service
- +5 Exhibiting the fruits and gifts of the Spirit and service
- +4 Christian maturity and service
- +3 Christian growth and service
- +2 Fellowship in the church
- +1 Post-decision evaluation
- 0 A person's point of conversion or new birth
- 1 Repentance and faith in Christ
- 2 Decision to act
- 3 Personal problem/need recognition
- 4 Understanding of the gospel
- 5 Increased understanding of the gospel
- 6 Some understanding of the gospel
- 7 Introduction to the gospel
- 8 Sense of a Supreme Being but no understanding of the gospel