

SERIES: Go2020

**Title: "SHARE"**

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**Online**

### **Memorial Day**

THIS MONTH WE ARE **COLLABORATING** WITH THOUSANDS OF CHURCHES WORLDWIDE IN AN EFFORT CALLED **GO 2020**.

**The goal is for every Christ Follower to share the Gospel with ONE person in May — and then to turn it into a lifestyle of gospel sharing!**

Now this may surprise you but stats say **9 out of 10 Christians** will NEVER tell another human being about Christ.

**9 OUT OF 10!**

And if this trend continues, the words from the Book of Judges will reemerge **in our day**:

**And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel. (Judges 2:10)**

For the record, I actually believe Christians want to share the gospel but STRUGGLE to overcome their fears:

- **Fear** of being rejected.
- **Fear** of the awkward moment.
- **Fear** of not knowing the answers.
- **Fear** of being labeled a fanatic.
- **Fear** of alienating people / losing friends.

And so today I want to give you **5 strategies** to help you **overcome the fear** of sharing the gospel:

I'm going to use the ACRONYM: **S.H.A.R.E.**

## ◀ OUTLINES ▶

First,

**S - See the BIG PICTURE**

C.S. Lewis said:

***The salvation of a single soul is more important than the production or preservation of all the epics and tragedies in the world.***

That's a pretty massive statement isn't it?!

Other than the worship of God — the salvation of one person is more significant than anything else we are a part of as human beings!

**Try this strategy:** when it comes to sharing the gospel, **STOP** thinking about how **you'll** be received and **START** thinking about the **magnitude** of the stakes!

**Yeah, you might get mocked or laughed at...!?**

BUT in light of the fact that every single human being on the planet (is either going to) **Heaven/Hell...** a little uncomfortability on your part pales in comparison to the alternative.

And so: **Big Picture —Evangelism is not ABOUT US — whether we are rebuffed in some way or not?!**

**EVANGELISM IS ABOUT THE FINAL — ETERNAL —HEAVEN OR HELL DESTINATION of every single human being.**

If Hell weren't real — there'd be no urgency whatsoever.

But the Bible says HELL is conscious torment.

**Matt. 13:50** says:

**<sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

Mark 9:48 says Hell is a place

**<sup>48</sup> 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'**

Rev. 14:10 says:

**<sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

I see this as if there's a constant/eternal reminder of one's rejection of Christ.

The Bible also says HELL is IRREVERSIBLE.

Rev. 14:11 says:

**<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."**

The Bible does not teach annihilationism!

**Rev. 20:15** says:

**<sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

So I hope you feel the weight of that reality.

We all need some perspective on this, right!

- Me feeling AWKWARD
- or SOMEONE going to HELL!

I'm not trying to be manipulative or dramatic HERE  
— but rather theologically AWARE / tormented by  
the fact that people go to Hell without Christ.

**SEE THE BIG PICTURE!**

## ◀ OUTLINES ▶

Secondly, in order to overcome your FEARS:

**H - Have a plan to share**

Preparation alleviates fear. So plan out how you're going to share the gospel.

The first part of the planning process is to discern where people are in relation to Christ.

I want to show you a valuable tool that has helped me over the years:

MICRO-DECISIONS OF FAITH				
<b>DISCIPLE</b>	Chooses to share faith	+ 5	<b>MULTIPLYING</b>	* Goal is growth & witness at this stage
	Chooses to live by faith	+ 4		
	Makes Christlike choices	+ 3		
	Joins in community life	+ 2		
	Assimilates God's Word	+ 1		
<b>BELIEVER</b>	<b>Trusts in Christ</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>HARVESTING</b>	*Goal is for the person to trust in Christ at this stage
	Turns from self-trust	- 1		
	Sees Christ as the answer	- 2		
	Recognizes spiritual need	- 3		
<b>CURIOUS</b>	Considers the truth of the gospel	- 4	<b>PLANTING</b>	*Goal is understanding the tenets of the gospel at this stage
	Understands the implications	- 5		
	Aware of the gospel	- 6		
	Recognizes the relevance of the Bible	- 7		
<b>SPECTATOR</b>	Begins to look positively at the Bible	- 8	<b>CULTIVATING</b>	*Goal is to develop trust at this stage
	Open to the messenger	- 9		
	Dislikes the message	- 10		
	Going his/her own way	- 11		
	Avoids the truth	- 12		
<b>-CYNIC</b>				

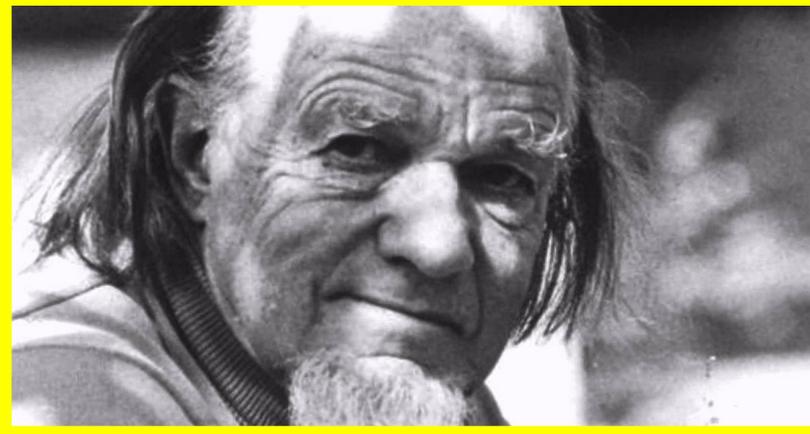
## ◀ OUTLINES ▶

Thirdly, to help overcome your FEARS:

**A – Ask good questions.**

Evangelism isn't just about having all the answers  
— it's also asking good questions.

[Show **Francis Schaeffer** photo on TV with Troy speaking]



Francis A. Schaeffer (1912-1984)

Schaeffer was one of the most influential figures in American evangelicalism in the period between World War II and the mid-1980s.

**Francis Schaeffer** once said if he had an hour to share the gospel with someone, **he'd listen for 55 minutes and then talk for 5 minutes.**

Here are a few **GOOD QUESTIONS** to ask:

- Do you think much about spiritual things?
- Where are you on your spiritual journey?
- Has your spiritual journey answered your deepest questions?
- Have you found the meaning and purpose of life?
- Do you consider yourself a religious person?
- To you – who is Jesus?
- What is your understanding about God?
- Why are we here?
- What happens to us when we die?
- What do you think is wrong with the world?
- Is there absolute truth?
- What do you like and dislike about your current religion?

I'm convinced that evangelism in the 21st Century needs to be more dialogical and less monological!

Interestingly, did you know Jesus asked over **175 questions** in the gospels?!

**Listen to some of His questions:**

- Who do you say I am? (Mt. 16:15)
- Do you believe? (Mt. 21:22)
- Do you want to get well? (John 5)
- Why are you so afraid? (Mt 8:26)
- Why did you doubt? (Mt 14:26)
- Do you still not see or understand? (Mk 8:17)
- Are you also going to leave? (John 6:54)
- What does Scripture say? (Luke 10)
- Do you love me? (John 21)

Jesus used questions to gauge readiness in His hearers!

So ASK GOOD questions!

## ◀ OUTLINES ▶

Fourthly, in order to overcome FEARS think:

**R – Relationships—Relationships—  
Relationships**

Capitalize on your existing relationships.

Don't feel like you have to share the gospel with a complete stranger in order to be evangelistic.

If you coach or participate in **basketball – football – soccer – or volleyball – or dance – or gymnastics** you already have an inbuilt way to stay involved in the lives of lost people.

If you like to **hunt or fish** or do **underwater basket weaving** – use those activities to share the gospel with others.

The point here is simple – capitalize on your existing relationships **AND build relationships with lost people.**

CAN I SAY THAT AGAIN: BUILD  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH PRE-CHRISTIAN  
PEOPLE!

**BECAUSE NO RELATIONSHIP MEANS NO  
INFLUENCE!**

Sadly, in the church today very few Christians  
have deep relationships with people who aren't  
Christians.

**It's easy to get bubble wrapped/trapped in our  
Christian circles!**

And so I'm not trying to complicate your life with  
**another thing to do!**

I AM SAYING, CAPITALIZE ON YOUR EXISTING  
RELATIONSHIPS.

Build relationships

- At the gym
- At school
- At work
- At the game
- In your neighborhood

Since we are in a pandemic,

- **ZOOM a friend**
- **Walk your DOG**
- **Host a Virtual Watch Party for Online Worship**
- **Invite your friends to a Virtual Small Group**
- **Record your testimony and share it on Facebook live / Instagram live**

**In Cor. 9 Paul said: I become all things to all people in order that I might win some.**

**He tried to relate to everyone.**

**He built redemptive relationship bridges to people and then shared the gospel!**

## ◀ OUTLINES ▶

Finally, in order to overcome your FEARS realize:

**E – Everyone NEEDS JESUS.**

Let's not forget that regardless of what someone **says** about Christ — thinks about Christ — does with their lives — **they need a Savior.**

So let that motivate you!

Ephesians 2:1-3 says this about EVERY SINGLE HUMAN on the PLANET:

**And you were DEAD in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of DISOBEDIENCE— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

Every person needs Jesus because they are:

- DEAD in their sins
- DISOBEDIENT in their lifestyles
- DEPRAVED in their flesh
- DOOMED... objects of God's wrath.

Every single person is DOOMED without Christ!

So, I'm not saying your FEARS are unfounded —  
I'm saying, let the larger reality of eternal destiny  
position your fears accordingly and then motivate  
you to share the gospel!