

Overcoming the Fear of Sharing Christ

2 Questions:

What do we fear?

1. _____

- If we are faithful at sharing Christ it becomes a matter of _____ not _____ we will get rejected.
- As long as we are enslaved to people's opinion of us, that will be a controlling fear.

2. _____

- The fear of rejection would be the fear people will turn down your message. The fear of failure is the fear that you will not accurately present, defend, define, or explain the message.

3. _____

- This has always been a real fear for believers in certain locations in the world.
- It's a fear for some right now. In places like N. Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Syria—the top 5 nations on the World Watch List, which tracks persecution globally.

How can we overcome our fears?

1. _____

- This is actually part of your identity.
- Jesus told His disciples that they would be rejected at times:
 - Joh 16:2-3 *They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.*

○ Joh 15:19-21 *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.*

- When Jesus came, the world crucified Him. We ought to expect no better treatment.
- If we live in total ease and an absence of persecution, we are actually the **anomaly** in the history of the church.
- _____, because when you do, it will free you not to fear it anymore. It will take that weapon out of Satan's hand.

2. _____

- William Carey, the father of the modern missions movement: *"Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God."*
- Question: Do you believe that God will save people through your witness?
 - He says, "My word ... shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." (Isa 55:11)
- Expecting great things **from** God will fill us with passion to attempt great things **for** God.

3. _____

- We all know the verse, *"Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."* (1 Pet 3:15)
- **Get prepared!**
- There are literally dozens of different courses or programs or curriculums on how to share the gospel.
 - The Exchange
 - Evangelism Explosion
 - Netcasters (and others)
- Whether you use a curriculum or just study the word on your own, you need to get prepared to explain what you believe. This is spiritual as well as intellectual:
 - It's not just about memorizing a ton of verses on salvation, or a million answers to apologetic questions.

- It's also about spending time in the Gospels and Acts, looking at how Jesus and the apostles interacted with individuals and brought them to saving faith through direct, personal witness.
- **View hard questions as an opportunity**
 - Instead of becoming flustered and embarrassed use it as an opportunity to have a follow up conversation: "That is a very good question, Can I look into and meet up with you next week with an answer?"
 - Use it as a chance to show humility. Unsaved people want to see Christians that are real people that care about them.

4. _____

- If you become aware of certain realities, it changes your perception of everything else.
- One of the key things that Jesus has said to **us** is ***I am with you always***.
 - Hudson Taylor: *All God's giants were weak men, who reckoned on God being with them.*
- Acts 18:9-10 - *And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people."*
- Want to overcome fear? _____

5. _____

- One of my Bible teachers has said, "_____." Sharing the gospel is no less.
- You need a passionate, vibrant, healthy relationship with the Lord in order to overcome your fear of sharing the gospel. Acts 26:29

6. _____

- This is really the lynch-pin issue.
- If you take men, transformed by the gospel and filled with the Spirit of God, and you turn them loose among unbelievers, do you know what happens?
 - The Book of Acts happens.
 - They turn the world upside down.
- Jesus said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the **Holy Spirit** is come upon you, **and ye shall be witnesses unto Me!**"
- The Holy Spirit is way, way, way better at sharing the gospel than you are.

- The Holy Spirit produces boldness.
 - **Act 4:13** Now when they saw the *boldness* of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that *they had been with Jesus*.
 - **Act 4:29** And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all *boldness*,
 - **Act 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and continued to speak the word of God with *boldness*.
- **This is what you and I need to overcome fear of sharing the Gospel—we need the Holy Spirit.**

Conclusion

- We can fear one of two things

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

- **Either we fear _____ who can do minimal damage or....**
- **Fear _____ who has given the maximum penalty to those who do not repent.**
- We can love one of two things
 - _____
 - The most self-serving thing we can do is to ignore someone’s eternal conditions based on our own comfort.
 - _____
 - The most self-sacrificing thing we can do is to give our lives putting aside everything that is comfortable and safe to us so that we might win some. (1 Cor 9:19-23)

- **We overcome fear by replacing our fear of man with a fear of God.**
- **We overcome fear by replacing our fear of man with an unwavering confidence in the Gospel God has called us to.**
- **We overcome fear by replacing our self-preserving love for ourselves with an undivided love for God and a whole-hearted love for lost souls.**