

# ***How To Give Away Your Faith***

***HANDOUT #2***

## *Understanding Conversion And Telling Your Story Handout #2*

*Introduction: We live in a time in Church history when there is considerable confusion & controversy over the nature of man in his unsaved state and \_\_\_\_\_ God works in the hearts of the lost \_\_\_\_\_ to salvation. Many who come from a strong Calvinistic or Reformed background will \_\_\_\_\_ reason, “If the elect will be saved no matter what, why work so hard to reach them?” Those of this persuasion believe that man has \_\_\_\_\_ ability in himself to freely respond to the good news of the gospel unless he is \_\_\_\_\_ elected by God to do so—thus, their doctrine that is commonly referred to as the doctrine sovereign election. Those who do not agree with John Calvin’s (1509–1564) perspective on “sovereign election” believe that his teachings remove the sense of \_\_\_\_\_ to evangelize the lost. In fact, most non-Calvinists reason that if God Almighty has already unconditionally elected individuals for salvation, such an outlook may diminish a Christian’s \_\_\_\_\_ for sharing the gospel. However, those who identify as Calvinists would assert that God ordains both the ends and the means, and that every Christian is \_\_\_\_\_ commanded to share God’s plan of salvation. Most Calvinists would concede that, apart from glorifying God through obedience in proclaiming the message, the majority of individuals \_\_\_\_\_ and will not respond—because they are not among the elect that God chose before He created them to be \_\_\_\_\_.*

*At the other end of the spectrum are those who \_\_\_\_\_ as Arminian in their theology, generally holding to the teachings first articulated by Jacobus Arminius (1560–1609). While there are gradations within Arminian theology, in its \_\_\_\_\_ form, adherents would affirm that although all people are affected by the \_\_\_\_\_, they can \_\_\_\_\_ freely choose for or against Christ on their own—apart from being “elected” or chosen by God ahead of time.*

*A true Arminian typically teaches that even a \_\_\_\_\_ believer can fall away from the faith and \_\_\_\_\_ salvation if he willfully turns away from Christ. In contrast, Calvinists often criticize the Arminian persuasion for underestimating the \_\_\_\_\_ of human depravity, which they argue leads to a more man-centered evangelism relying on human persuasion or even human manipulation, rather than on a \_\_\_\_\_ dependence on the Holy Spirit’s work. Despite these theological differences, both traditions engage in personal evangelism, but with \_\_\_\_\_ emphases: Arminians highlight human responsibility and free will, whereas Calvinists stress \_\_\_\_\_ absolute sovereignty in salvation. I hope in the course of our study that we will find a biblical balance in how we think and in how we \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Throughout this course on evangelism, we will explore various \_\_\_\_\_ of the Calvinist vs. Arminian debate concerning the doctrine of salvation, as we focus on how each perspective—whether positively or negatively—affects the practice of personal evangelism. The topic of salvation often generates confusion and controversy, especially regarding \_\_\_\_\_ doctrines such as Total Depravity, Unconditional Election, Limited Atonement, Irresistible Grace, and Perseverance of the Saints. These five doctrines are usually summarized by the acronym TULIP. Please be assured that both Arminians and Calvinists believe in the same simple plan of salvation. However, the five teaching of TULIP are foundational for understanding God’s sovereignty, human responsibility, salvation and the nature of grace and faith. These issues are \_\_\_\_\_ only for pastors and theologians because our understanding of them deeply influences \_\_\_\_\_ we perceive the character of God, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and our personal assurance of salvation.*

*Tonight, however, we will \_\_\_\_\_ specifically on what is necessary to become a Christian, so that when we write our personal testimonies, these essential truths will be clearly reflected in our presentations.*

***I. To Become A Christian One Must Be \_\_\_\_\_ About Christ***

- A. One must be convinced on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Acts 2:23; 1 Peter 3:18)
- B. One must be convinced of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Acts 2:24-32; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

***II. To Become A Christian One Must Be \_\_\_\_\_ By Christ***

- A. Conviction is not simply \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 9:27-35).
- B. Conviction is not simply \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 12:16-17; Mark 10:17-22).
- C. Conviction is \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 18:10-14).

***III. To Become A Christian One Must Be \_\_\_\_\_ To Christ***

- A. Conversion will show itself in your \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 5:17; Mt. 7:21-23).
- B. Conversion will show itself in your \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 10:32-33; 12:34).

## ***“How To Tell Your Own Story”***

Sharing our testimony is one way of finding common ground with the non-believer. As you tell your story, divide it into three parts:

### ***I. Your Life Before You Received Christ (Acts 26:4-11)***

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ did your life revolve around?
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ did you look for security, happiness and peace of mind?

### ***II. The Process Leading Up To Your Receiving Christ (Acts 26:12-15)***

- A. When did you first hear and \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel?
- B. What led to your \_\_\_\_\_ to receive Christ?
- C. How \_\_\_\_\_ did that decision transpire?

### ***III. The Difference Christ Has Made In Your Life (Acts 26:16-23)***

- A. What \_\_\_\_\_ do you see in your life (attitudes, actions and problems)?
- B. Use \_\_\_\_\_ examples.
- C. What does Jesus Christ mean to you \_\_\_\_\_?

### ***IV. Some Important Reminders***

- A. Negatively
  - 1. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ on how you became a Christian.
  - 2. Don't promise all your \_\_\_\_\_ will go away if you end up receiving Christ.
  - 3. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of your testimony.
  - 4. Don't use terminology that is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5. Write it out to as you would \_\_\_\_\_ it.



**B. Positively**

1. You want to be listened to, so be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. You want to be understood, so be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You want the moment of your new birth to be clear, so be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. You want your testimony to be used, so be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. You want your testimony to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*Assignment: Using the Apostle Paul as an example use the format above to tell you story. Write it out and prepare to give it in three minutes or less. In addition attempt to invite five people to church & memorize John 15:16.*

**GUIDELINES FOR SHARING MY TESTIMONY  
ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I am a member of Community Bible Church.
- ☐ I have written my testimony using the before, how and after format.
- ☐ I have written my testimony as if I were speaking to one single person.
- ☐ I have read the written portion out loud & it is 3 minutes or less.

My signature \_\_\_\_\_