

Sharing My Faith: Learning as I Go...

'Walk while you have the light.'
(John 12:35)

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Introduction:

Jesus called his followers to share his message with others.

‘The Holy Spirit will testify about me, but you also must testify, because you have been with me.’ (John 15:26-27)

His message, his ‘good news’, being his own name and person: ***‘God with us.’*** (Matthew 1:23)

God has come. His name is Jesus Christ. He paid for our sin by his own death. He came back to life. He calls us to turn away from our sin, to believe in him. If we do this, we will be forgiven, and live forever with God.¹

This is the message that messengers brought to you and me. And this is the message that we are to bring to others.

‘Jesus said, ‘You will be my witnesses in your hometown, in your neighboring towns, and to other nations.’ (Acts 1:8)²

¹ Please see the section, ‘*The Gospel*’, in the book: **‘Verses to Learn: How and Why’**.

² Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria

1. My Part

My dad is a street preacher. I grew up seeing this, and even being part at times. It is a very particular type of spreading the gospel, or 'evangelism'.

Skip forward a number of years, to when I had truly committed myself to the Lord and was walking with him. My faith established. Here I felt the Lord prompt me – over time – to be a bolder witness. This was not about pressure, but rather about purpose. I now *wanted* to be a bolder witness.

But how? Street preaching came very naturally to my dad, and he was great at it! It energized him, encouraged him. But for me that mode of evangelism was scary, a pressure, not natural to me. It is a powerful form of evangelism for those called and anointed to do it, but it's not for everyone!

I felt the Lord press on my heart to simply speak more about Jesus to people, as the opportunities came along. OK, yes, this felt good to me. This felt solid. I felt equipped to do this.

The important thing to note here, before considering practical steps, is simply that God moved my heart to be more active. I had a sense of calling, purpose, in sharing about Jesus with people, with this hurting world. I did not yet have a map of where to do this, or with whom. But I

did have a sense of purpose in this, a yearning to be part, and also a green light from God. Then I felt him give me a lane, a type of modality – to share with people directly, as God opened doors.

A sense of calling and release. A sense of how-to.

2. Practically Speaking

I came out of the blocks a little over-eager. The reason I say this is because I began witnessing at my job, not to colleagues, but to my employer's clients. I lacked a sense of boundaries, even God's boundaries. I was a drug-addiction counselor at the time, in a methadone clinic, and I began asking the clients: *'Who is Jesus to you?'*

Honestly, in my ignorance and zeal, I think the Lord allowed me a season of this. I had amazing conversations with people – clients – and saw lots of fruit. But over time, the Lord taught me better boundaries. We do see boundaries and respect in the way Jesus worked. This is why it is so important to stay in the Word. Read the Bible daily. Consider not only *what* it says, but *how* God, and God's people, worked. We see order. We see respect. We see **'a time for everything.'** (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Jesus was bold, zealous. But his actions and zeal were applied in very understandable situations. When with religious leaders, whose influence and hypocrisy affected and hurt many people, Jesus was straight and strong, and even cracked a whip and turned tables.

But with the humble, the lay people, the market people, Jesus was mild, kind, approachable.

Jesus' ministry was radical but not chaotic. It

was bold, but not confusing. It was Spirit-led. And he was kept in **'perfect peace.'** (Isaiah 26:3)

Regarding my employment, for example, I had to learn to respect my employer's time and jurisdiction. When dealing with my employer's clients, I was to 'be' a good Christian: honest, excellent, gentle, moral. When dealing with my own clients (friends, family, neighbors) and on my own time and at the cost of my own reputation, I could witness to the name of Jesus.

So practically speaking, I remember some ways I would share my faith with people at this time...

I remember one evening under a street lamp, a neighbor talking to me about pressure he was feeling being out of work. I said, *'Ted, one thing, to be honest, where I have found real peace in my own financial pressure these days, is in coming in prayer and faith to Jesus. I decided I really want to honor him with my life, and trust him in my life.'*

With another neighbor in a similar conversation, I said, *'Can I pray for you right now?'* He agreed, and I had the opportunity to put my hand on his shoulder and pray in the name of Jesus for God's favor on him, to open a door for a new job, and to bless him and his family.

When people asked me what I had planned for the weekend, I began seeing this as an

opportunity to simply say, for example: *'Well, a few commitments on Saturday with the kids, and Sunday we do go to church so that keeps us busy, too!'*

This often led to people asking for a little more detail on church. Where do we go? What type of church?

And this also led to some people coming with us to visit church, even coming to the Lord. Events at church became a great opportunity to invite people to, for example the Christmas or Easter service. I would make sure, as the Spirit opened doors, to invite people, and use my social media to share details of the upcoming event.

I used my desk at work to put up a few Scriptures on my walls. I added a verse at the end of my personal email text, so even 'random' people that get emails from me, or responses from me (teachers, neighbors, businesses, etc.) will see my verse at the end of my email.

Now, over time, as I shared more about my faith, well, people began to know me as a Christian, not just as a colleague or neighbor. So this in turn – a 'reputation', so to speak – brought other opportunities. People would approach me on occasion to ask a question about faith or religion, or to ask for prayer.

I remember after a couple years of this new season of sharing Jesus a little more openly,

how grateful I was in my soul. I felt I had become known as a follower of Jesus in some circles where my faith had not really been clear.

3. Spirit-Led

I've learned over time to heed the leading – and the freedom and peace – of the Holy Spirit. There is a time to speak. There is a time to not speak.³ In the life of Jesus he would heal some, and not others.⁴

Jesus shared his own secret with us:

'I can do nothing by myself... Whatever the Father does, I also do.' (John 5:19)

There are many times and places and people where you could witness, speak out, shout out... But the question is: *Is Jesus leading you to do this?*

If you fear it, feel pressure about it, stressed about it, then no, the Holy Spirit is not leading you to this.

'He is kept in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on the Lord.' (Isaiah 26:3)

And look carefully at the teaching and lifestyle of Jesus and his followers, through the whole New Testament. Jesus would heal one, but not others. Jesus would share the gospel but then tell his disciples they needed to not talk about him for a while. Paul the apostle says there were times where the Holy Spirit (not the devil) would

³ Matthew 16:16-20

⁴ John 5:1-13 (note verse 3)

prevent him from sharing the gospel. (Acts 16:6-7)

Jesus never tried to compel his followers with 'theory', such as: *'If you truly believed what you say you believed, you would shout out from your rooftops!'* Jesus never worked like this, nor put this on people.

So yes, we are called to live and testify to Jesus. But only in the same way Jesus did – by the leading of the Father. Listen to the Spirit. Be at peace. Speak when you feel the door has been opened to you in the Spirit. Pray for people. Pray for opportunities to share.

But rest. Take a break. If the devil can't stop you from sharing your faith, he will try to add pressure, fear, guilt to the trip - classic alternative route to making bitter a good thing. The devil is an 'accuser'⁵, and he will accuse you of being a coward, so that in the *flesh* you will speak out.

If it is not of the Spirit of God, his leading in your life, his partnership in the process, his calling and anointing on you... Don't take it on. Pray. Commit it to the Lord. Rest.

'The Lord grants sleep to those he loves.'
(Psalm 127:2)

⁵ Revelation 12:10-11

4. Specific Tools – Verse Cards

It's nice to have something to leave with people, if the opportunity arises.

Here is a picture of the verse card I currently carry with me - business card size. I pretty much always have these on my person when I'm out and about, in a small business card holder.

'Where can I hide from your Spirit?'

(Psalm 139:7)

'Does he who made the eye not see?'

(Psalm 94:9)

'There will be no more gloom for those who are in distress.' (Isaiah 9:1)

'Jesus said, 'Come to me all who are weary.'

(Matthew 11:28)

Jesus knows both your sorrow and your sin. He knows you, and loves you!

Jesus offers you forgiveness of sin and new life. He is the only One with power to give you a ***'new heart and new spirit.'*** (Ezekiel 36:26)

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For example, when I check out in the grocery store, as they hand me my receipt I will offer them my card: *'Can I leave this with you? It is a few verses I love to share with people?'*

Very rarely do people reject it. If they do, I smile and say, *'No problem at all! Have a nice day!'*

Sometimes I might see a group of young people just sitting on a wall talking. I will walk over as I take my business card holder out of my pocket. I approach them with a smile and say, *'Hey guys, can I give you each a verse card? I love to share these around. Something to read later!'*

I keep these cards in my gym bag, also, in case I get opportunities with staff or other members: *'Hey, can I give you this card? I love to share it with people for encouragement!'*

Every now and then I make a new card, a new version. I might feel other verses on my heart to share, or I might do a 'Christmas Edition' to share in December.

5. Specific Tools – More Stuff!

The verse card is a very economical tool. It is a day-to-day resource.

Now, you will note that my verse cards lead a person to a website with other books and ‘stuff’ that I have developed. But really you can use any type of ‘tract’ that you believe in! You don’t have to design your own. You don’t have to design follow-up materials. There are plenty out there to just order and use.

If, however, you do like my card – and the website it leads to – why don’t you go ahead and design/print your own at www.vistaprint.com

You can create a card with verses and text you like, or just copy mine. And yes, refer them on to my website for more information!

As the years have gone on, I’ve enjoyed the ‘outlet’ of writing short books, cutting short videos, creating an easy website, easy APP. So I use materials that I have developed, but you can make your own, copy mine, order someone else’s.

Once you are comfortable sharing cards, you might incorporate some other things. I usually have a few of my booklets on hand also, just in case opportunity arises for that. I have also designed a key tag that I like to share, just has John 10:9 on one side, and a QR code and

website URL on the other side, in case people want to go deeper.

There's no end to the different 'tools' we have and can keep creating. The real challenge, however, is a heart open and willing to be used by God to share his gospel. He will then lead you in ways that really fit your personality, your gifting, your calling.

'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.'

(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

6. Outreach Events

I enjoy evangelism. Not all kinds, not at just any time, but in my lane.

I have learned, however, to bless others who do evangelism differently to me. Usually if I'm not comfortable with what others do, it's just because I would be uncomfortable or afraid to do it. But God has taught me that I can bless others, and even pray for their work, but not join in. I need to focus on the Lord myself, listen, and do what he has called me to do. Much less complicated than feeling I need to judge what others do!

“Master,’ said John, ‘we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.’

‘Do not stop him,’ Jesus said, ‘for whoever is not against you is for you.’

(Luke 9:49-50)

In the previous sections I refer mostly to sharing my faith as I go through my day. But there are times I do pre-planned outreaches. So, for example, I might feel a particular town – and even part of that town – on my heart. Usually it is a sense of people being ***‘harassed and helpless’***, and in need of the healing message of Jesus. (Matthew 9:36)

What I do is order some verse cards, some

books and some key tags. I usually pick an urban spot, like a gas station at a crossroads or a strip mall with neighborhoods nearby. I park my car, load up my backpack, put 15-20 key rings on my fingers, and I just start walking and offering people I meet a free book and key tag:

'Hey! Can I offer you this free book and key tag, something to read on a rainy day!'

I might wander into the gas station and actually ask permission to stand outside and offer these books to people for free, for a while. Usually I am given permission, sometimes not. That's OK. I just keep on walking, and sharing as I go.

I remember once I came across a Saturday market in a town I had gone to, all the workers were setting up. Perfect timing! I walked along to all the stall owners: *'Good morning! Hey, can I just give you this free book, something to read later today when the market is finished! I hope you get great business today!'*

When I go to a place I feel led to, it is not till I am there – on the planned day and time – that I can see and take opportunities. Sometimes it is quieter than I thought, other times I encounter big groups of people and I run out of material sooner than I planned!

The dynamic of an outreach is very different to my day-to-day witnessing. Outreaches are concerted, planned, I'm in that place for one

reason only. It is much like when Jesus sent out his disciples on specific missions, as we see at the beginning of both Luke chapter 9 and 10.

When I do an outreach, I am going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people. I believe the gospel is **'God's power for salvation to all who believe.'** (Romans 1:16)

Although I usually take some money to offer people in need, a couple dollars with a book, my primary purpose is not to meet physical needs. There is a time and place for that. There are those called to reach out with practical services like that. I thank God for them! But my call is to share the gospel with people. A verse that often goes through my mind is when Jesus said to the woman at the well: **'Anyone who drinks of this water will thirst again.'** (John 4:13)

I have often given people money, water, or paid for a room at a hotel, or a meal. But within hours, those provisions I give will be no more. They will be hungry again, thirsty again. I have come to a deep sense of confidence in the power of the gospel. Like Peter and John said to the beggar: **'Silver and gold we have none, but what we do have we give you...'** (Acts 3:5-6)

I believe that in sharing the gospel with people, I am giving them not water, but the source of water; not wealth or health, but very Creator of wealth and health.

7. Stories & Scenarios

Once I was at a stop sign in my car, and a man staggered out in front of the car crossing the street. He was drunk. I said to him out the window, *'Hey man, here is a few dollars and verse card!'* He took them, and stood at my car window reading the verse card. After reading it, he handed me back the money and said, *'These Scriptures are all I need.'* He insisted. I stepped out of the car to pray with him. We prayed together. Again, he insisted on needing only the Word of God. He staggered off.

I was humbled. It was me and not him that lacked confidence in the Word of God. I believed he would take the money and possibly scorn the verse card. The opposite happened.

Jesus said, ***'Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*** (Matthew 4:4)

One day I approached a man who was on a highway junction asking for money. I crossed the traffic to him, and offered him some money and a verse card. He looked up and said, *'Are you a minister?'* I said, *'No, I'm just a Christian, I like to share the message of Jesus.'* He said, *'Would you mind praying for me now?'* He took off his cap, cars still passing us by on both sides, and as I prayed for this man, tears rolled down his

face. When we were finished, he thanked me. Faith and prayer meant more to him than the money. Again, it was me that was blessed, challenged, to know the worth of the name, Spirit and blessing of Jesus.

'Your faith, more valuable than gold!'

(1 Peter 1:7)

I was waiting for my daughter as she tried on clothes in the department store. The employee at the stalls was folding clothes. No one else was there. As I waited, I offered her a verse card, *'Hey! Here's a little verse card I like to share when I can.'*

She stopped folding, and with no expression on her face (which worried me a tad!) she read the card. Her eyes suddenly welled up with tears. She said, *'Thank you so much! Can I get another one for my brother, because our family is going through a lot right now?'*

I had planned a 5-day outreach trip to a border town in the USA. There had been many illegal immigrants crossing the border, the river, at this town. They were coming in destitute, scared.

I felt a desire to go to this town with a lot of books, cards, key tags, and find the areas where

these people were staying, and share the **'gospel of peace'** with them. (Ephesians 6:15)

As I planned this trip, some people questioned me: *'Why go with a message, when these people need supplies?'* Well, I believe in Jesus Christ we have a message that provides for the soul, not just for now but for later. And God called us to believe him in this, to honor him in this, and that man needs the **'Bread of life'**, not just bread. (John 6:35)

I booked an Airbnb for my stay. I shared with the owner of the Airbnb what the intent of my visit was, because I needed to ask if I could pay extra for her to store my books which I would send ahead. I also offered to pay her – or someone – to stick labels on the inside of my books in advance of my coming, to save me time.

The owner of the Airbnb wrote me back and said: *'I am actually an immigrant from that same country across the border. Thank you for coming to share the message of God with my people! I will store your books and also put labels in them for free. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this!'*

I approached a Muslim on the street with an offer of my book and key tag. He was friendly, receptive. He told me he was a Muslim and they also believe Jesus was an amazing prophet, and

their holy book, the Koran, speaks of Mary.

I acknowledged this. I said to him, however, that according to the prophets in the Bible, Jesus was *more* than a prophet; he is God in the flesh. I said very gently that this is the key to the message of Jesus – his own identity, one with God.

He acknowledged this difference. I asked him if one day he would please read my short book, ***'Who Is Jesus?'*** – which is now in 40 languages on the website, free to read! He said he would.

(I always have about 10 copies of this book in my home near the door. I wrote it with Muslims, Hindus, Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons in mind. It is on the home page of my website: www.1peter1three.weebly.com)

When I meet with Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons, I am friendly and show them respect. I say I know it is not easy going door-to-door, and I'm sure they experience a lot of rejection.

Then I say, OK, let's do this, if it is OK with you? You tell me what you believe to be the gospel message of Jesus Christ. And then I will share with you what I believe it is.

More specifically this is what I ask:

1. Tell me the gospel message of Jesus Christ – in other words, if you found me lost in my sin, how can I go away, here and now, saved of my sin?

2. Tell me this message without mentioning your church/organization.

They always agree to this - but can never do it! They fumble and start to share about their special prophets... I often, gently, have to redirect them at this point. Here discussion opens up. I come back to the point that Jesus had a message where people could encounter him, and leave 100% saved, safe. Can they do the same? Do they share this same message – the *'good news'*, the gospel – of Jesus?

Or are they just recruiting for membership of an organization?

I encourage most Christians, unless they feel very comfortable and equipped, to simply avoid conversation with JWs and Mormons. It can derail very, very quickly and become an unfruitful argument.

If you want to consider this area of conversation with the cults a little more closely, I would recommend you read these three short books of mine:

'Who Is Jesus?'

‘Verses to Learn: How and Why’

(particularly the section called, *‘The Gospel’*)

‘Dealing with the Cults’

(Also see Question #30 in the Q&A section of this book)

Remember, our message is the identity of Jesus. He is the message! He is ***‘God with us.’*** (Matthew 1:23) He is the ***‘door’***. (John 10:9)

So where cults deviate from his identity, even just trying to shave it off from the Father, they deviate from who he said he was, and they lose God himself.

‘Jesus looked directly at them and asked, ‘Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.’

(Luke 20:17-18)

Again, Jesus said, ***‘If you do not believe that I am the one, you will die in your sin.’*** (John 8:24)

Jesus *is* the message. So the question is not *what* he taught, but *who* he is.

Start and stay on this point with all cults and other religions. There is no point discussing things *about* Jesus, if we're talking about a *different* Jesus. Get to know the Scriptures about who he is, and start and stay on this topic alone. Direct the conversation. Insist on this. You don't owe it to anyone to discuss anything else, unless the Spirit directs otherwise.

Jesus did this. He had a mission, a message. He was not a sitting duck for Q&A. So even when people brought tricky questions to him, he would say, as in this instance:

'First let me ask you a question...'

(Mark 11:29-33)

And this is a good segue to my next 'story'...

A lesbian woman at my work – married to another woman and with child – asked me this:

'You as a Christian, what do you think about me being gay? Can I be saved?'

I smiled gently and said, *'These are tough issues, and I don't take them lightly. But first let me ask you a question: Who do you say Jesus Christ is?'*

She said, *'Well, I don't believe in him, and I don't believe the Bible.'*

In a light-hearted spirit (and we both laughed together) I said, *‘Well, honestly then, you probably shouldn’t really worry about my thoughts about your life or morality.’*

I went on to say the following: *‘You see, I believe that Jesus is God in the flesh. I believe that he has all authority in heaven and on earth, and that every human being will be judged by him. So, my views about homosexuality are directly from what I believe to be his teaching – through his prophets, himself, and his followers.’*

This approach helps to establish the terms of a ‘real’ discussion. It first asks, basically, what our sources are, what our authorities are on the issue. So I go on from this point – if there is any more discussion – and say that I can share what the Bible teaches about homosexuality (and indeed, heterosexual sin!) if the person is interested. And I do believe what the Bible teaches. So if they are interested, I share.

I do think homosexuality is an issue that is important for Christians to have a few Scriptures on. We don’t need many. We don’t need to think it through or ‘read between the lines.’ The Bible is clear.

I would encourage you to check out 2 sections in this booklet:

Verses to Learn: How and Why
(‘Homosexuality’ and ‘Sexual Immorality’)

8. You Are of Christ

‘No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.’ (2 Timothy 2:4)

The kingdom of Christ was very disappointing to his own people, because it was not political, economical or military. It was not even tangible in the sense of buildings, churches, or ministries.

‘Jesus said, ‘The kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.’ (Luke 17:20)

As followers of Jesus, our primary mission is to introduce him – the Savior of the soul – to people. We are to introduce people to the King of *all* countries, not just this or that one.

When Jesus had a key opportunity to speak to the political issues of his day – not only about the political leader but his policies on taxes – Jesus took the focus right back to his timeless one: ***‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.’*** (Mark 12:17)

People – both inside and outside the church – love to get distracted from Christ as their King, to ***‘civilian affairs’***. We love to pretend that political/civilian affairs are one and the same with

Christianity, but they are not. They are two completely different kingdoms.

When I share Jesus, both privately and on outreaches, I never tell people what church I go to, what church they should go to, nor what my political views are. I don't discuss policies, laws, taxes, leaders – or any humans other than Jesus.

'When I came to you I came in fear and trembling, claiming to know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified.'

(1 Corinthians 2:2-3)

Be careful to avoid mixing up worldly kingdom issues, and those of Jesus Christ! Look at these warnings of Paul. Let's start by repeating the one above:

'No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer.' (2 Timothy 2:4)

'Guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.'

(1 Timothy 6:20)

'All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ. I tell you this so that no

one will deceive you with fine-sounding arguments. (Colossians 2:2-4)

‘See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.’

(Colossians 2:8)

‘Command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work — which is by faith.’ (1 Timothy 1:3-4)

And when it comes to those of us who profess to be Christians, well, are we bringing in discussions and topics of worldly affairs that cause division?

‘Avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.’ (Titus 3:9-11)

We need to be clear on our kingdom, our identity, our **‘citizenship’**, and our mission. This will keep our testimony pure and build unity

among believers. We have one clear common mission – to share Jesus with people.

Regardless of your denomination, political views, etc., if you can unite with other brothers and sisters in the trenches of sharing Jesus with the lost, you will find yourself in that unified, ***‘new humanity’***.

‘Jesus himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.’

(Ephesians 2:14-15)

Paul admonishes us in *1 Corinthians 3* to avoid loyalties to ‘men’, where they distract and compete with unity and gospel mission. He ends the chapter by saying:

‘No more boasting about human leaders! All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.’

(1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

9. Where I'm at Now

So at the time of writing this book, 2023, I continue to work full-time as a social worker for the State, and my wife as a teacher. We've had five kids, three have left home at this point.

A few years ago, after becoming increasingly active in evangelism, I tried to raise support and join a Christian organization, so I could work full-time in ministry. This did not work out. I was discouraged. At that time, however, I remember the Lord whispering to my heart that he had plans, even through my working full-time in a secular career. The Lord still had plans, had outlets for my desire to share his Word, and I just needed to trust him.

And sure enough, over the last number of years, through the means and tools I've shared in this book, the Lord has opened many doors for me. I've had opportunities with colleagues that of course I would never have met. There have been other key benefits to supporting myself, as it were, in ministry. It has allowed me latitude in much of what I do, without some red tape and even bureaucracy that might come with being part of a Christian organization. I can speak and work freely.

Over the years, as I developed some resources and my outreaches can be quite expensive due to the cost of materials, a brother in the Lord suggested – and made happen – registering a

not-for-profit company for my work, a charitable organization. This now allows people to support my work financially, making tax-deductible donations. I don't use these funds for personal living costs, as God has given me employment for that. I use the donations for outreach work. This has been a huge blessing!

What the future holds, I do not know. Maybe one day I will find myself in full-time ministry, maybe not. It does not matter to me. It would depend simply on the Lord's leading and will. However, I have seen great purpose and even shrewd effectiveness by being full-time employed in a secular career and doing ministry on the side of that.

Appendix: 30 Questions & Answers

The first 20 questions below were sent to me by son, Isaac, a few years ago. He was asking general questions. The questions after that, 21-30, were sent to me by some friends after they had read the draft of this book.

I take a little more time on the last question, number 30 about the 3-in-1 God, or, '**Jesus as God**'. This question around the identity of Jesus is the very point, the crossroads, where cults and other religions diverge from the truth about Jesus. In my day-to-day witnessing, this question does not often arise. But on occasion the issue is contested, and even if we can't explain it, we should be clear in our own hearts and minds that it has been undeniably revealed.

We don't need to have all the answers on this, or even stand around and debate it with people. We can say, '*That is a tough issue, but the Bible clearly reveals that Jesus is God.*' We can then say with humility, '*I'm not going to continue debating this, I have to go, but God bless you, have a great day.*'

Yep. Sign off! Here we are dealing with a spiritual issue of 'revelation', not explanation, and it is futile to debate it. We share the revelation of Jesus as Lord, and let God ignite our testimony with fire.

'Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to

your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.' (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

1. Who is one of your role models when it comes to sharing Jesus with people?

My own father, Mickey Walker.

2. Do you ever get nervous talking to random people?

Yes!

3. Where do you get your confidence (*is it just natural or do you talk yourself into it*)?

Just natural really, and then over time I have had positive/reinforcing experiences that have served to 'establish' my confidence in my area of ministry/serving.

4. What are your favorite ways to start a conversation with someone in order to talk about Jesus (*do you just dive right in or do you casually bring it up after talking about the weather*)?

I usually look for an opportunity, or opening, rather than 'bring it up'. If an opportunity does

not present itself, then we just keep chatting about the weather!

5. Do you try to make people feel as 'comfortable' as possible when talking to them? Or do you welcome a bit of tension?

I try to make people feel comfortable. I try to be really friendly and kind. We are called to be intentional about that - ***'Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.'*** (2 Timothy 2:25, and see 2 Cor 8:21)

6. What is one thing that helps you be a good communicator?

'Relating.' In other words, listening and expressing sincere 'empathy' - e.g. *'That's difficult work you do! I'd say it's also tricky, sometimes, trying to keep spirits up in work?'*

7. What is something every Christian should do in order to be more confident when it comes to sharing the gospel?

Christians should not be ashamed that they feel some fear or lack confidence in sharing the gospel. After only a short while of being a Christian, we come to realize that the message of Christ flows in a different direction to the natural 'flow' of this life, of people's hearts and desires.

I think Christians should not feel bad or even 'try' to be more confident. What I *do* think we as Christians need to do is ask God for more confidence *in the gospel*. In other words, we need to humbly - together as family - be reminded of this beautiful message - forgiveness, fresh start, eternal purpose, '*life that is truly life*' (1 Tim 6:19) - and continue to believe that the world needs this gospel.

If we are all pointing in the same direction - conviction that people do need to 'hear', believe and receive (Rm 10:14-15,17) - then we will move together in testimony, sharing. We might not all be the 'mouth' on the street, because that is only one part of the whole body (1 Cor 12:7-12) - but we would all pray for the advance of the gospel, and help in ways that we can, in ways we are gifted to do so, with our eyes on advancing this gospel to the lost. (Luke 15:1-7)

8. Do you ever practice what you might say to someone? Or do you wing it every time?

I don't 'practice', but I do find myself sometimes having imaginary conversations! I'm sure, for example, you find yourself practicing some riff on a guitar, just because you came across it and feel drawn to the challenge of it? Now, will that practice in your ministry ever be called into play? Probably at some point, and you will be ready for it because you practiced - not for a specific event, but just generally. So the 'skill' you developed is drawn on at some point.

Paul told Timothy to *'be ready in season and out of season'*. He also told Timothy to *'do the work of an evangelist'*. (2 Tim 4:2-5) Timothy - like Paul and Barnabas - was *'set apart'* for this evangelistic work. (see Acts 16:2) Not everyone in the church is *'set apart'* to concertedly do the work of an evangelist - otherwise we would have no other giftings and service in the body. But the same way an evangelist must believe in the work and ministry of worshippers, of servers, of those who disciple, of prophecy, etc., so, too, must these other parts of the body understand the need and try to support the work of evangelism.

9. What is always a *'warning sign'* for you to know when not to bring up God or hand someone a tract?

I continue to learn in this, and to listen in this. And when I do, I grow and experience more freedom. I have particularly learned of late to have more boundaries in my day job. In the past I have made the mistake of using my employment time to witness as openly as my free time. This has led to some problems, even losing my job. I think there was more wisdom available to me, even freedom and peace available to me. It was more of a misunderstanding on my part than anything else. Here is what I have learnt in this area, and would advise:

Use your work to *'be'* a good witness through actions, spirit, integrity. (Gal 5:22-23) Honor the

roles and job descriptions of your employer. (Eph 6:5) Pray for people in secret, binding/loosing spirits of truth in the realm of the Spirit. (Mt 6:4,6,18; Mt 16:19) Then use your *free* time and 'areas' to witness. This could include your lunch time or a work party to share about Jesus with colleagues from work, if the Spirit leads. But separate work (your employer's time and clients) from your free time and relationships. Share Jesus on your time.

10. Which do you enjoy more - writing about Jesus or speaking about him?

Writing about Jesus is a treat for me. But it is more like *'training for battle'* than *'being in battle'*. So honestly, I probably like writing more! The resources I write are useless unless shared. I more admire the person who shares what I write! But I enjoy the writing, because it is also a gift from God to me - to enjoy! (James 1:17)

11. Did you grow up seeing a lot of evangelism? Was it different to the way that you do it?

Yes, I grew up watching my father as a street preacher and a tract-giver! I learned how to share my 'verse cards' from watching my dad give tracts. He was so natural in it, and would always say with a smile, *'Here! You'll enjoy this!'*

And yes, I work differently, and this has been a learning curve for me. For a long time I felt the

only 'real' type of evangelism was on the street, preaching and sharing. But that is not the case. And that's not really my personal lane! I can enjoy street outreach on campaign and with a group of people working together, as I have many happy memories of the fruit and reach of street evangelism. But I've learned more personal and integrated ways to share Jesus in my day-to-day life and my community - 'verse cards', social media, chatting/praying with people as conversations arise.

12. How much does memorizing verses help when it comes to sharing Jesus with people? *(Do you generally just keep it very simple when explaining the gospel? Or are there special cases where you need to pull out a few references when talking to mormons, for example?)*

Knowing the Bible generally is more important than knowing verses by memory. Like, knowing that God is loving, Jesus forgives, Jesus calls us to repentance... Knowing these truths is far more important than knowing chapter/verse. However, for me - like Timothy - I feel I need to be 'prepared' in season (when people are for you) and out of season (when they are not). (2 Tim 4:2) And I feel that part of my gifting is not just knowing Scripture, but being able to equip others. (1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:12) I personally, therefore, feel more 'prepared' in having specific knowledge of chapter/verse in many cases. And when actually dealing face-to-face with false

teaching, it is important.

Paul, at times, had to 'debate' such people, as did Apollos. And look what is noted about Apollos: *'... he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.'* (Acts 18:27-28)

13. Do you find it easier to share Jesus with people you've never met or with people you've known for a while?

These are different types of sharing and can't really be compared. However, what I would say is this: It is very important to live your life in a way that when God *does* open a door to share Jesus with a friend or neighbor - someone you have known a while - that your testimony/witness is no surprise to them. Hopefully they have already 'seen' it or felt it in the *'fruits of the Spirit'* in your life, or in the words they have heard you share with others, either in conversation or on social media.

14. How often do you get hostile responses?

Here I'm thinking of when I share my 'verse card' with people. Very rarely do I get a hostile response! I fear it a lot, but get it very rarely. Sometimes a little cold response, like no smile and a quick moving on; but very rarely a rejection, like, *'No thank you!'*

15. What is one thing that you stopped doing in your communication style and why?

I try not to be argumentative. I try not to say, *'But but...'* I don't have to prove a point, or even win an argument. I have to 'share' the revelation of Jesus, by the Spirit, by his leading (John 5:19), and allow the Spirit to do the convicting. (John 16:8) I don't have to do the convicting, and I don't have to see fruit. I have to be faithful to do my part, *'fulfil the ministry given to me.'* (2 Tim 4:5)

16. What is the best way to get through to people when you want to share the gospel?

We don't really have to strive to 'get through'. It is a spiritual battle. There will be times we are called/led to share a word of truth - not just about Jesus, but about his Kingdom, e.g. *'I don't feel that is right to do.'* If God leads us to stand on truth, either in his way of life, or Word of Life, we will only answer for doing just that. We don't need to worry about 'getting through', if you know what I mean.

We are called, however, to be loving in our 'stand'. Without love, we are told, even our 'true' speaking is like a clanging symbol - empty! (1 Cor 13)

17. Are more people actually open to listening or are they not?

Yes, more people are actually open. People have been made by God to hear this message. That is clear in Scripture. (Acts 17:25-27) Now, will they actually *respond* to the message when I share it? Not often in the moment. Most of my 'sharing' is sowing, not reaping. That's OK! That's part of the process! (1 Corinthians 3:5-9)

18. What is your favorite way to approach people about Jesus?

My main avenue to 'deposit' the message with people, are my 'verse cards'. They are a gift to me, and allow me in so many normal spaces of life to deposit a word about Christ. Just last week while checking out at a grocery store, I offered the cashier a verse card after she gave me my receipt - *'Here! These are a couple verses I love to share!'* - she looked at it, and tears welled up in her eyes. She said, *'Thank you! There was a reason you came here this morning!'*

19. Do you ever follow up with those you have talked to?

Yes, sometimes. If the conversation ran deep and there is opportunity/interest to talk more.

20. What is your best tip for communicating the gospel in a genuine way?

Humility. See yourself as a 'servant' to the listener, as 'less' than them - even in faith. (Phil 2:3; 2 Cor 4:5; James 2:5)

21. How can I discover my own personal 'lane' if I want to be a witness on a regular basis?

Each person has a unique set of spiritual gifts, personal traits, life circumstances and opportunities. Everyone is uniquely crafted and uniquely situated in this life. Sharing Jesus happens in many ways by all of us throughout life – like praying for someone, praying with someone, inviting a person to church, sending a card with a Scripture on it, simply letting people know that you go to church or other Christian events (i.e. not hiding the facts), and talking to people about Jesus himself, his teaching and promises. There is also our way of living, honoring God by our conversation, actions, generosity, morals.

Now, as we journey through life being mindful of these opportunities, we might find an 'outlet' that is more natural to us, or an opportunity that comes our way frequently.

I think of a business owner. It is his/her prerogative, 'right', to allow Christ a more prominent place in the business, than other

'gods'. Like, what charities will the business give to? What signs/Scriptures might be hung in a waiting room or break room? Maybe a personal card with Scripture in it from the CEO to all staff at Christmas time? Etc. Yes, as in all walks of life it will call for some courage, maybe some sacrifice, but with God's wisdom there are amazing opportunities there that others will not have.

A student might be able to attach a keychain with Scripture to their backpack or sports bag. This might open up conversations.

A teacher might share invitations with other teachers in the breakroom for their church Christmas service or food bank drive.

An employee might start a mid-week prayer group with other Christians in the same company, to pray for the salvation of some colleagues, and against any immorality in the workplace.

We have seasons in life that will present different opportunities. I think it is great to pray to the Lord in whatever season we are, and ask him for eyes to see. We need to see the field in front of us, the people we can reach, and then ask God for our part in it. Something in particular – among the general opportunities – may come to you. In my life that has been the 'verse card'.

22. I think it is human nature to talk ourselves out of doing what feels uncomfortable. Is that getting in the way of me sharing my faith or is it God's way of letting me know that this is not something that I was called to do? The outcome of a botched job sharing my faith could possibly turn someone away from Christianity and, knowing this, I rarely take the opportunity to do so.

Sharing our faith should be thought of as a 'team effort'. Honestly, we are all part of 'sharing the faith' just because the Holy Spirit is in us, and people do feel that. They feel the Spirit of God in you. So you are called to it, but maybe your primary role is not in speaking openly about it. Remember, a team is made up of many players in different roles. Not everyone is a striker or defender or mid-field playmaker... We are all working with one objective, however. This is the key!

I have met people who have been open to me speaking to them about Jesus, because they remembered a Christian once showing them kindness. Often our part in the 'sharing' might be sowing seeds of kindness, and deep in our soul doing this to honor Jesus.

Now, when it comes to speaking about Jesus to someone, I think it is important to *first* find peace in God, let the fear slip away. If you find yourself in a relationship or a space where you feel fear about speaking to them about Jesus, I

would recommend that you continue in your kindness towards them, and begin to pray for them – maybe in this order below:

- (1) Pray that the Lord opens their hearts to Jesus.
- (2) Pray that the Lord will bring someone across their path to share about Jesus.
- (3) And pray that the Lord might give you an idea or an opportunity to share your own faith with them.

Remember: You are not alone in this – not even with your own family or circle of friends! The Holy Spirit is at work in their lives, and other Christians might cross their paths and share faith with them.

23. I do not feel confident in my knowledge of Scripture or theology. What would you suggest to gain confidence or knowledge?

The truth is we need very little knowledge of Scripture to be used by God as a witness. Our simple, common testimony is that we believe in Jesus as Lord. He claimed to be it, and we believe it. As Christians we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God, and that the Bible tells his story. In those Scriptures we are told of Jesus as God, Savior of the world, and we believe him. Simple as that.

Knowing the ‘story’, and having a few verses to back up that story, is really all we need. Maybe

today search up, write out and memorize this one verse: John 3:16.

And here's a summary of 'The Story':

God created the world. God is holy and good. Mankind is not holy and good, and God calls this 'sin'. God said that sin must be paid for by blood, by sacrifice, and so for many years God's people sacrificed animals to pay for their sin. Then God himself breathed himself into a man, Jesus Christ, and he sacrificed himself for our sin. He then came alive again, and offered to forgive our sin, and give us eternal life.

(Genesis 1:1; 1 John 1:5; Romans 3:23; Hebrews 9:22; Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23; John 1:29; 2 Timothy 1:10; John 3:16)

24. How do I determine where the line is between sharing my faith and coming over like I'm questioning or not allowing someone their own personal beliefs?

Sometimes even when you are sharing your belief in Jesus, people are going to act or say that you are 'pushing' your beliefs on them. This is because what we believe – that Jesus is Lord and King – is threatening to a person being their *own* lord and king. The gospel message about Jesus is inherently jarring to the ego.

I recently had a person say to me that it was not

what I said, but *how* I said it, that was offensive. Interestingly, this particular dialogue was fully through private written messages, and began with a question asked to me. And if you looked back through the private messages – only 5 or 6 of them back and forth – I was very gentle, deferential, and even praised some of their own character and attributes. But what I did *not* do, was compromise on what the Scriptures said on the issue. I shared the actual Scriptures. This person was upset that I could not just affirm their set of beliefs that went against these Scriptures. At this point they accused me of disrespecting them, of speaking down to them. I never did. So the offense they took was for the exact *opposite* reason they accused me of. It was not *how* I said anything, it was *what* I said. Or rather, it was what the Bible says.

So we need to be gentle, Spirit-led. This is clear in the Bible. (1 Peter 3:15) But we must *not* believe that sharing our faith is somehow not allowing others to have their own beliefs. We are sharing faith, not forcing it on people. We offer it, and people can reject it.

What I have found is that what people are *really* offended by in me sharing my faith, is that I am not saying that whatever they want to believe is OK. People really want others to act like, and say, that they can believe whatever they want, and do whatever they want. As a follower of Jesus I cannot do that.

‘Jesus said, ‘Blessed are you when people

insult you, persecute you, falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12)

25. Do you find it easier to share with people outside your coworkers/friends/family?

Yes. Evangelism as an activity is easier for me than ongoing witness with people I know. Being a testimony to coworkers, family and friends, requires not only 'words' but 'actions', and a lot of humility over time – because they know the real you, faults and all!

Also, of course, if there is a type of hostility to my faith, well, this takes ongoing work and sacrifice if it is with a neighbor, friend or relative.

26. It seems like you purposely place yourself outside of your comfort zone. I don't do this on a regular basis. Is this wrong?

I do tend to push myself a little, but it may be different to how it looks from the outside. The truth is, I see evangelism as a type of investment. I do believe that I will be rewarded for sharing the gospel with people. So, in some ways, I go out of my way to give a verse card here or there, or to plan an outreach, because I feel in doing so that I am '***storing up treasure in heaven.***' (Matthew 6:20)

So although I do step out of my comfort zone maybe a little more than others, there is a type of excitement in my spirit about it. It does not stress me so much as it stretches me. I am reaching for more, a bit like an athlete might be aiming for a higher goal.

I don't mean to come over 'transactional' in what I do; but in any and every outworking of a spiritual gift, there will be reward. If a person has a gift of 'serving', for example, but they also *enjoy* serving, well, they might push themselves a little more than others – volunteer for more opportunities – but deep within, they have a God-given sense that they will be rewarded.

This principle is also at work in me, in stepping out of my comfort zone.

But this is not for everyone! God is not leading everyone in his family to mimic each other. We all have different gifts, callings, and 'zones' to operate in and maybe push the borders of. Mine is in the realm of evangelism.

The real question in following Jesus, and sharing Jesus, is where is he leading *you*? And to do *what*? We should not lean into our fears just for the sake of it. In the world today there is a type of addiction to facing our fears, and '*doing it anyway!*' This is not God's way. Sometimes, in a sense, we let our fears be our map. They drive us. We are constantly considering what it is we fear, and how to get over it. Why? What has God

given you to do in order to build his kingdom, that you do *not* fear? This is far more likely to indicate a 'gift' (not a curse), and to be a map from God and not from our egos or the enemy.

So I encourage people not to focus outside of their comfort zone, but just to focus on the Lord in the land he's placed you. Who are the people around you – in your world - that do not yet know the Lord? Maybe make a list of a few of them that stand out, and just start praying for them.

(see question 22 above, as it has some specific prayer 'steps' for this same situation)

27. I'm an introvert - I rarely speak my own feelings let alone share my beliefs. Any thoughts to help me open up?

God has given us all different personalities for good reason! I thank God for the introverts in the body of Christ, because while some of us are running our mouths they are actually running the show!

I wouldn't worry! If natural inclination is less speaking generally, I think just join the forces as primarily a praying person and other key skills God has given you. Join in the battle with back-up support, be a '*prayer warrior*', a '*sender*', a '*follow-up-er*', etc. (Romans 10:14-15,17)

And many indirect opportunities, so to speak, can present themselves. For some specific

examples, see question 21 above.

28. The evangelism you do is more ‘sow the seed’, and not going deep in relationship building. Do you do the other methods, too? I feel more comfortable with building relationships/sharing with those I know and see, rather than with strangers.

Yes, my preferred type of evangelism ‘activity’ is to **‘scatter the seed’**. (Mark 4:26-29)

But like most of us, I also have the challenge of being a testimony/witness with longer-term relationships. I live in a neighborhood – i.e. with neighbors – and work a secular job in daily contact and working relationships with colleagues. In the context of these relationships, I share differently. I take it slower, and listen to the Spirit.

There were times Jesus stood up and addressed a crowd, like in Luke chapter 12 when *‘thousands were gathering.’* So no time for small talk, just concerted ‘mission’. This is much like my evangelism ‘activity’, out and about, outreach, etc.

But in other circumstances, where Jesus was in ongoing relationship with people, he had time to teach, discuss, evidence miracles, go to someone’s house for dinner and share a parable, and even hit the pause button, like telling the disciples to *not* tell anyone for a while

that he was the Savior. (Matthew 16:20)

So situations, circumstances, the nature of relationships, etc., these all matter and should impact how we witness. We must heed wisdom, the examples/teachings of Scripture, and the lead of the Holy Spirit.

(Also see question 13)

29. Following Jesus is a daily struggle and I often fall short. Do you think every Christian eventually has to make an ‘all-in’ decision in order to go deeper in their faith?

I have had times in my life where I felt I needed to go deeper. Honestly, it was more like I needed to be *truer* – truer to my faith and relationship with Christ.

There was one decisive moment like this when I was 16 years old. I share about this in the opening chapter of my book, *‘Alone With God.’* However, just now I am remembering a moment leading up to that when I felt so disloyal to the Lord. I had not been following him, but neither had I been feeling any guilt about that. But then one day, standing around with my so-called friends, one guy told a really dishonoring joke about Jesus. Everyone laughed and moved on. My gut sank. I felt – indeed I was – like Peter in the Bible: in that moment I had denied Christ. I had not stood with him. (***‘He who acknowledges me before men...’*** Luke 12:8-9)

Not too long after that the Lord did lead me to be truer.

As you raise in this question, however, even as a 'true' follower of Jesus we still will fall short and struggle. Stepping on to the narrow path is definitely a decision we need to make, and got to do it *'all-in'*. But then there is actually *walking* along the narrow path, day after day, and it stays narrow!

In my life, being a bold witness is not so much about gritting my teeth and being deeper or more radical. It is usually a faith-filled *'letting-go'*. It is more childlike. It is, in a sense, being weaker and not stronger. Not so guarded, tense, afraid. Just that humble voice – with gentleness, with a smile - that says I *do* believe in Jesus. I *do* stand with him. I don't deny him. Radical for the most part is childlike loyalty, not warrior-like.

30. How do you give an answer to those who don't understand the three-in-one God? Short and simple if possible.

In sharing Jesus I always assume this and refer to this – **Jesus, God in the flesh.**

The topic of Jesus as God, in my experience, arises in two ways:

1. A sincere question about this mystery of Christ's identity. (A seeking soul)

2. An argument about it. (A divisive person, or a deceived person)

First, it is important to discern who we are talking to. This will inform how we answer. Even the devil can put reasonable questions to us, as he did to Jesus in Matthew 4. But if we know it's the devil talking, well the motive is wrong and it's not worth engaging. He's not seeking truth, but seeking to destroy. So who's asking the question? What motive do we discern? This is our first question!

With a seeking soul, this question is not a problem. We can gently and enthusiastically point them to this incredible mystery, Scripture by Scripture, beyond the mind. It is not on the level of 'reason', but on the level of 'revelation', and it is beautiful to see.

With a divisive person – or possibly a deceived person, but who is in an argumentative mode - I tend to be very gentle, very strong, and go straight to the issue. Here is what I say:

'Although this is a mystery, something beyond the mind, it is clearly revealed in Scripture. From the beginning we are told there is only one, true God. Worship him only. And then Jesus was born, described as 'God with us.' (Mt 1:23), and the disciples 'worshipped' him. (Matthew 14:33; John 9:38) We're told all of God dwells in him. (Col 2:9) We're told that every knee will bow to him

(Phil 2:9) – and yet we can only bow to God.

There are many more Scriptures and stories that reveal this mystery of the full and true identity of Jesus. If you are interested in considering what the Scriptures teach, I would love to give you this book, 'Who is Jesus?' Would you like a copy?'

And that's a wrap! No more discussion. If a person continues to argue, I stay straight and strong:

'I'm sorry, I feel the Scriptures are not vague but crystal clear on this. It is mysterious, yes, but undeniably revealed. If we cannot agree on this identity of Jesus, we really cannot discuss more, because we are not discussing the same Jesus. The Lord bless you! Have a nice day.'

Christ's identity as God is what I consider the most important topic about which to have some Scriptures memorized. I don't bring out many Scriptures and stories about this, unless conversation is genuine, and we find ourselves discussing (not arguing) some key passages. Generally, I take authority in Jesus' name, as noted above, and make clear the truth of what's revealed. If there is sincere interest in moving forward, I'll move forward. If I discern a spirit of distraction, division, argument, I underline it and graciously move on.

So the short answer is above, highlighted. However, because this issue is so critical, I want to draw your attention to this key point, which I'll call '**Revelation vs. Explanation.**'

When we are talking about the identity of Jesus, that he is God, one with the Father, I always stay with the word, **REVELATION**, because honestly there is no *explanation* given in the Scriptures.

There is no explanation for Jesus as God, anymore than there is an explanation for God as God. When Moses tried to get something from God that would 'explain' his identity to the Israelites, we have the famous response of God to simply say, '***I AM sent me to you.***' (Ex 3:14)

When Saul saw the light, he said, '***Who are you, LORD?***' and the LORD responded, '***I am Jesus.***' (Acts 9:5)

There is no explanation for God as God, for Jesus as God, but there is clear REVELATION, start to finish in the Scriptures. For this reason Jesus called people to simply look at what he did, which revealed God in him, him in God.

'Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.'
(John 10:37-38)

We see here no explanation, just revelation.
Only God can do this, and Jesus does it,
therefore...

Only God can forgive sins, and Jesus does it!
(Luke 5:20,24) Therefore...

Only God commands creation, and Jesus does
it! (Mark 4:25-41) Therefore...

No explanation, just revelation. The truth of the
identity of God was never made for the mind of
mankind, but for the soul. God reveals, and the
eyes of our heart see, and our heart says, 'Yes!'
And it is here we find ourselves dropping to our
knees, and whispering with Thomas, '**My Lord
and my God.**' (John 20:28)

So as believers, we introduce Jesus to people,
Lord and Savior, God's '**door**' to himself - which
can only *be* himself. We can't explain it, but we
testify.

We don't explain, we testify. God doesn't
explain, he reveals.

These are the key words - **revelation and
testimony.**

Explanation - a wing of the soul that ate of
the '*tree of knowledge*' - is very limited, very
connected to pride, and God doesn't allow
himself to fit that faculty of mankind. (Genesis 3)

But if we humble ourselves and believe what he reveals, *who* he reveals, he will open the eyes of our heart to see!

Closing Prayer:

My friend and brother in the faith, Dave Duggan, suggested we include a prayer in this book. I asked if he would provide it, a prayer we could all pray, including myself.

'Father, in light of all that I have read in this book, I am opening my heart to You as an instrument of evangelism in my daily life.

Give me boldness, wisdom and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit as I grow in my ability to share the Good News about Jesus with others all around me.'

Conclusion:

Thank you for taking time to read this book! I have a website with more on this topic, called:
www.sharingyourfaith.weebly.com

The Lord bless you and lead you, in Jesus' name!

