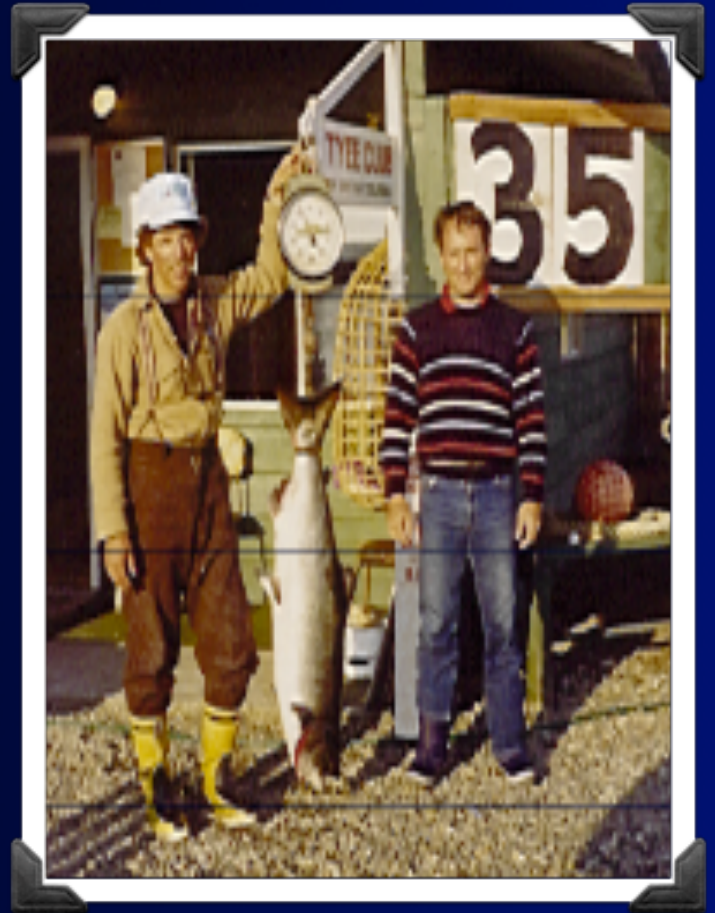


“I Will Make You Fishers of Men”

Mark 1:14-18

Evangelist Mike Gendron
Countryside Bible Church

Lord,
please
send
one of
your
fish my
way



God does
exceedingly
more than
we could
ever ask or
imagine
(Eph. 3:20)




Principles of Effective Fishing

- A. Know the nature of men
- B. Be properly equipped
- C. Go where fish/lost are
- D. Use the right lure
- E. Cast your line
- F. Be patient
- G. Stay out of sight
- H. Reel in your catch
- I. Trust God

We long to be successful fishers for Jesus! But we are tempted to try methods which Jesus would never have tried. Shall we yield to this suggestion of the enemy? We must follow Jesus to succeed. Can we imagine the Lord Jesus using such means as are now commonly used?



A fisherman in a white shirt and dark shorts is shown from the side, casting a large, vibrant red fishing net into the water. The net is arched high in the air, creating a dramatic shape. In the background, a cluster of traditional houses with brown tiled roofs sits on a slight rise. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is one of traditional fishing activity.

We must preach our Lord's doctrine and proclaim a full gospel, for this is the net in which souls are taken, We must preach with His gentleness, boldness, and love to have success with human hearts. We must work under divine anointing, depending upon the Holy Spirit. Then we shall be fishers of men.

Two Approaches to Witnessing

Man's Way

- Tell them God loves them and has a wonderful plan for their life
- Goal - get decisions
- Ask them to repeat a "sinner's prayer" and "accept" Jesus.

RIGHT

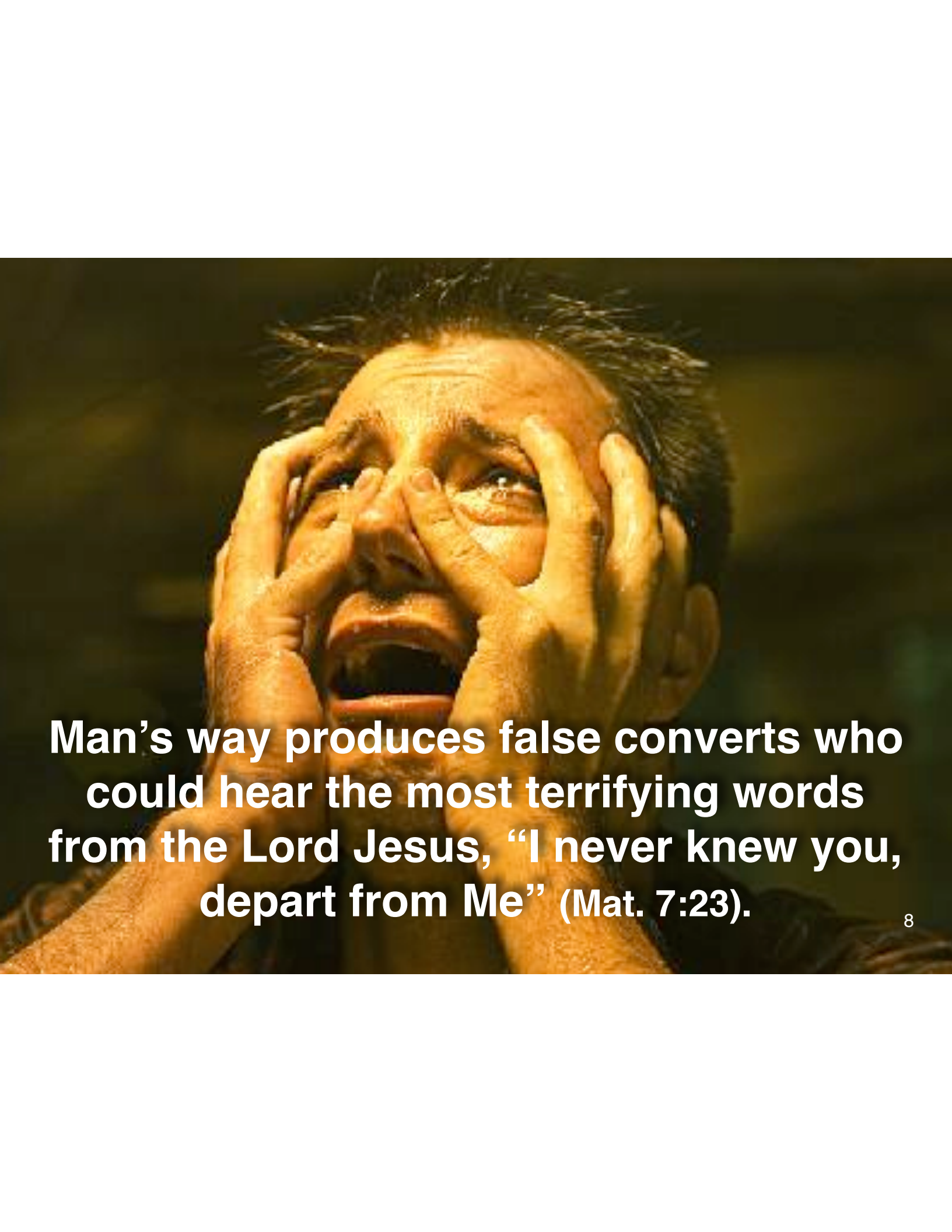
God's Way

Tell them they are accountable to their Creator who is also righteous and just


Goal - make disciples of Christ

Call them to repent and believe the Gospel

WRONG

A close-up photograph of a man's face, showing a state of intense distress or fear. He has his hands pressed against his face, with his fingers covering his eyes and nose. His mouth is wide open in a scream or shout. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his face and hands, and a dark, blurred background.

Man's way produces false converts who could hear the most terrifying words from the Lord Jesus, "I never knew you, depart from Me" (Mat. 7:23).



Keys to Effective Witnessing

1. We Must Get the Gospel Right
2. We Must Speak the Truth in Love
3. We Must Pray
4. We Must Use God's Word
5. We Must Discipline Ourselves
6. We Must Call for Repentance and Faith



1. We Must Get the Gospel Right

- **It is eternal** – the same message for every generation (Rev. 14:6).
- **It is exclusive** – all other faiths and religions are false (John 14:6).
- **It is of grace** – those who add anything to it stand condemned (Gal. 1:6-9; Rom. 11:6).
- **It is according to Scripture alone** - no other source (2 Tim. 3:15, 1 Cor. 15:1-4)
- **It has divine power** - to save those who believe it (Rom. 1:16).

Getting the Gospel Right

- It is about **one person** - the eternal God incarnate, His virgin birth and His perfect life.
- It is about **two events** - the historical, unrepeatable, atoning death of Jesus Christ and His glorious resurrection from the dead.




2. We Must Speak the Truth in Love

- God does not save anyone until they are convicted of sin and coming judgment (John 16:8-11).
- God does not make sinners alive in Christ until they are slain by the law (Rom. 7:5).
- God does not put His robes of righteousness on sinners until they are stripped of their own (Phil. 3:8-9).

Use the Law for Conviction of Sin

- The Law brings the knowledge of sin and accountability to God (Rom. 3:19-20)
- Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (Jas 2:10).
- No one is righteous (Rom. 3:10).



**Speaking the truth in love,
we must tell those who are
perishing...**

**they have broken God's Law
they are condemned by God's Justice
they deserve God's Wrath
they need God's Mercy
their only hope is God's Son**

3. We Must Pray

- for the **salvation** of our loved ones (Rom. 10:1)
- for **words** to be given to fearlessly make known the Gospel (Eph. 6:19)
- for God to **open doors and hearts** for us to proclaim Christ clearly (Col. 4:2-4)
- for **wisdom** and to make the most of every opportunity (Col. 4:5-6)



4. We Must Use God's Word (Heb. 4:12)

- It is sharper than a two-edged sword - can slay devil's lies.
- It pierces – penetrates and cuts to the depths of the soul and never returns void.
- It judges - Before anyone can be saved, their sin must be judged by the Word.
- It is living and active - no other words can bring life to a dead soul.

THE GREATEST NEWS
Ever Told About

THE GREATEST MAN
Who Ever Lived
Who Offers

THE GREATEST GIFT
Ever Given



The Greatest News Use Only God's Word

God's **P**erfection

Man's **P**roblem

God's **P**rovision

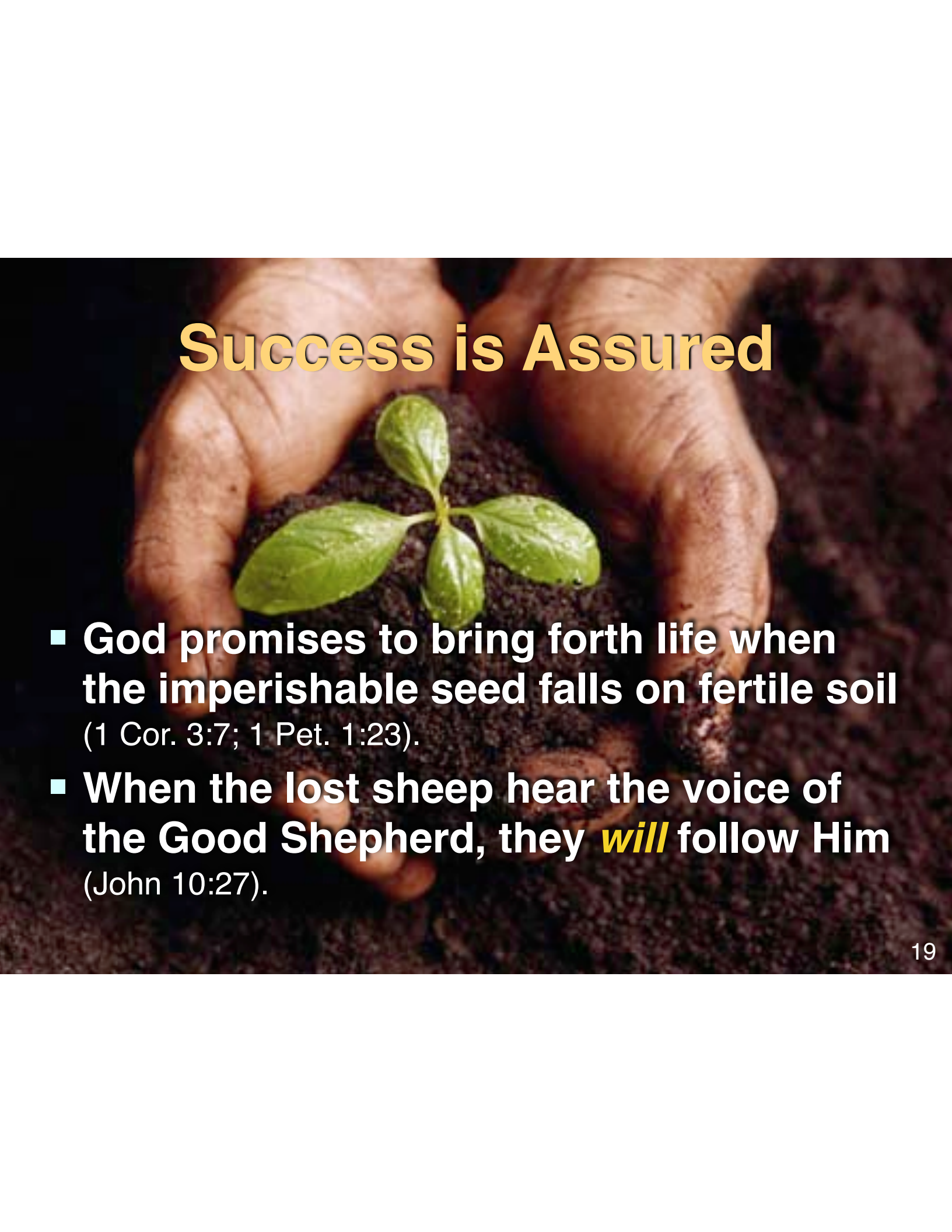
Man's **P**art

God's **P**romise

Man's **P**rivilege

5. We Must Discipline Ourselves!

- **Let us all scatter the seed of God's living Word and pray it will land on fertile soil** (1 Cor. 3:7).
- **People are born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God** (1 Pet. 1:23)

A close-up photograph of a pair of weathered, brown hands gently cupping a small, vibrant green seedling with four leaves. The seedling is growing out of a mound of dark, rich soil. The background is a blurred expanse of more soil, creating a sense of depth and focus on the hands and the young plant.

Success is Assured

- **God promises to bring forth life when the imperishable seed falls on fertile soil** (1 Cor. 3:7; 1 Pet. 1:23).
- **When the lost sheep hear the voice of the Good Shepherd, they *will* follow Him** (John 10:27).



A Witness for Christ Is Like a Spiritual Doctor

Give people their true diagnosis. They are not only sick, they inherited a ***fatal*** disease called sin (Mat. 9:12).

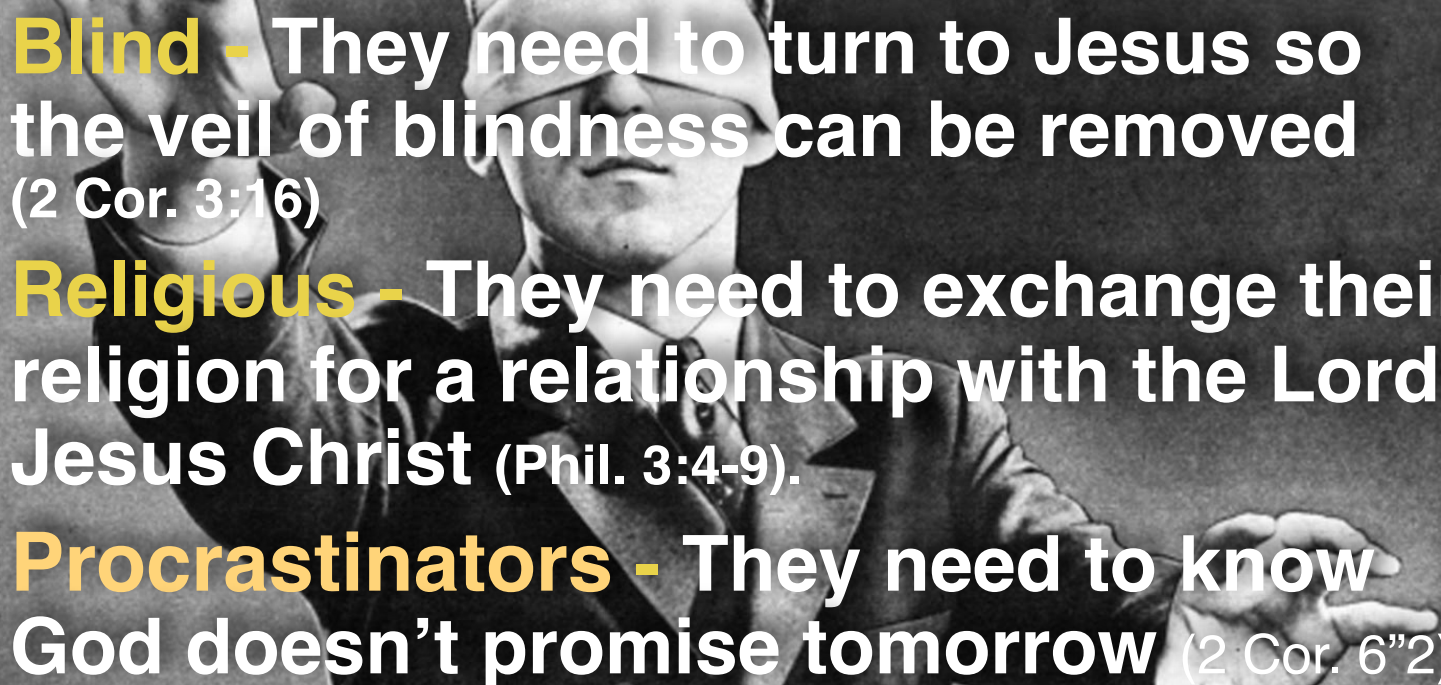
There is more bad news - there is no human cure.

6. We Must Call Them to Repentance and Faith

The first and last command of Jesus included repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:15; Luke 24:47).

Repentance is a change in mind and direction after hearing the truth. It is granted by God and results in a turning from sin and self to God (2 Tim. 2:25).

Let us Exhort the...

- 
- **Blind** - They need to turn to Jesus so the veil of blindness can be removed (2 Cor. 3:16)
 - **Religious** - They need to exchange their religion for a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil. 3:4-9).
 - **Procrastinators** - They need to know God doesn't promise tomorrow (2 Cor. 6:2).



Show People You Care by Asking Questions

- What is the most important decision you face in this life?
- What is the greatest gift you've ever received?
- Where will you spend eternity?

A man in a dark suit and tie is shown in profile, looking to the left with his hand on his chin in a thoughtful pose. The background is a dark, textured grey with several white, hand-drawn question marks scattered around him. The title 'More Engaging Questions' is written in a bold, orange-yellow font at the top left.

More Engaging Questions

- If you could ask God one question, what would it be and why?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Are you ready to meet your creator?
- What is God doing in your life?

A man with short, dark, spiky hair and a questioning expression on his face. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and has his hands raised in a shrugging gesture. The background is a solid light blue color.

What is Keeping Us from Being More Faithful Witnesses?

- Many people say they don't feel like they know the Gospel well enough.
- Others say they don't know how to get started or how to finish.

The background of the slide features a blue-tinted image. On the left, a person is shown in silhouette, facing right. On the right, another person is also in silhouette, facing left. Between them, in the foreground, is a large blue water cooler. The overall scene suggests a casual conversation or meeting.

Guiding a Conversation Toward Spiritual Truths

- **F**amily - where did you grow up?
- **I**nterests - work, hobbies, sports, school
- **R**eligious background - Where do you go to church or what was your religious upbringing?
- **E**vangelize - Ask “how can a person have any hope of heaven.” Stay



What is Keeping You From Being a More Faithful Witness for Jesus?

- Paralyzing Fear (39%)
- Being Unequipped (30%)
- Lack of discipline (22%)

A woman with long dark hair is sitting at a desk, looking down at an open book. She has her hands pressed against her temples, suggesting stress or frustration. The desk is cluttered with stacks of books on both sides and a white coffee cup on a saucer in the foreground. The lighting is dim, with a warm glow from the desk lamp and a cooler blue light from the background.

Overcoming Being Unequipped

Study to show yourself approved by abiding, meditating, and memorizing God's Word to gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel.

G o s p e l C a r d s



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Jesus Christ



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FAITH



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The Gospel



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the Gospel
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- Jesus is the personification of truth, His Word is truth and He came to testify to the truth. Jesus and His Word are the **only infallible sources for truth** (John 14:6, 17:17, 18:37).
- Those who abide in God's word, know the truth and the **truth sets them free**. Everyone who is of the truth hears the Savior's voice and comes into the light (John 3:21; 8:31-32; 18:37).
- Believers of the truth are born of God, sanctified, sealed and saved (Jas. 1:18; Eph. 1:13; 2 Thes. 2:13-14).
- Worshipers of God must worship Him in truth. Those who suppress the truth should fear the wrath of God (John 4:24; Rom.1:18).

Overcoming Lack of Discipline

- Remember that God chose you to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9)
- make it a priority to engage people often.
- carry tracts with you

Overcoming Fear of Failure

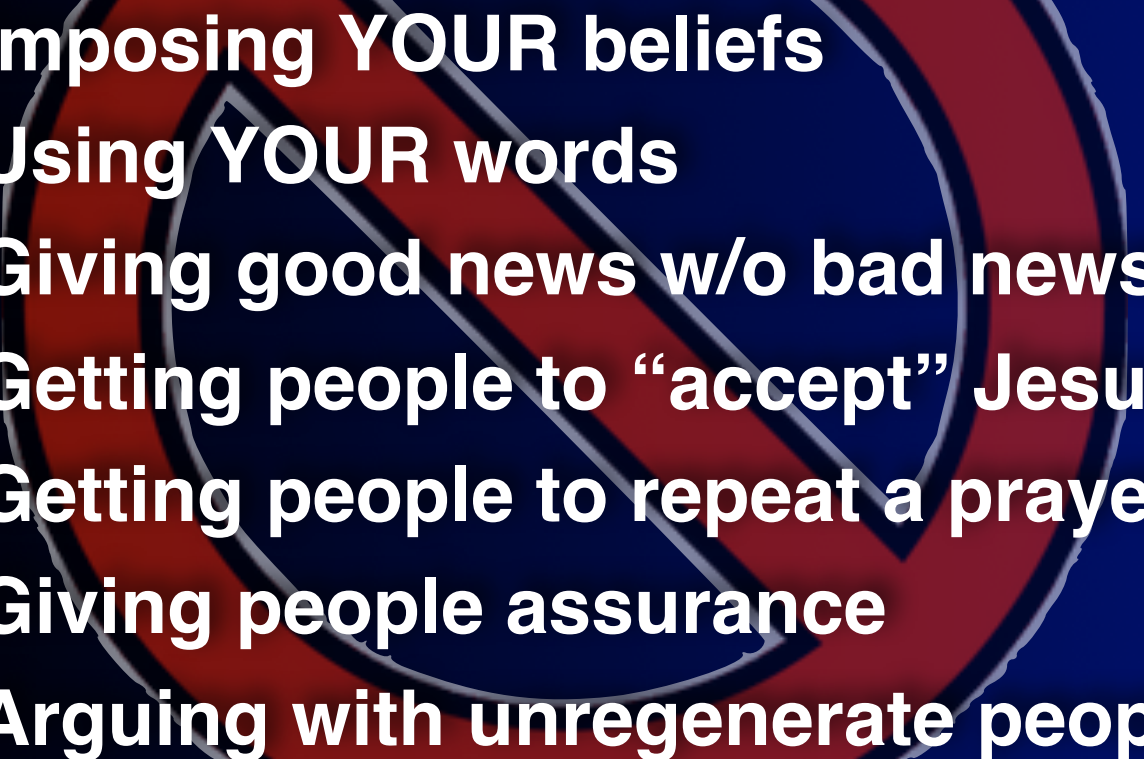
Know that you are successful every time you deliver the Gospel.

28

Replace your fear of men with a healthy fear of God to motivate you.

“Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” (1 Cor. 9:16)

What Evangelism is Not!

- 
- **Imposing YOUR beliefs**
 - **Using YOUR words**
 - **Giving good news w/o bad news**
 - **Getting people to “accept” Jesus**
 - **Getting people to repeat a prayer**
 - **Giving people assurance**
 - **Arguing with unregenerate people**

When You Witness

- Address the primary problem – sin
- Avoid preaching and arguing, seek to have a conversation that is balanced & sensitive
- Define terms biblically
- Some will reject the Gospel because it would mean their ancestors are not in heaven (Luke 16)




Evangelism is a Discipline

- pray for divine appointments
- make a list of unsaved family, friends, neighbors and co-workers
- sow the seed of God's Word with Gospel tracts. Keep them in your purse or pocket.
- mail tracts along with payments of your bills, place them in strategic locations.
- engage solicitors in spiritual conversations before they make their pitch
- develop a lifestyle of evangelism

Questions to Ponder

- How many people in your circle of influence know you're a Christian?
- How many have you engaged in a spiritual conversation?



How are you doing with the Lord's last command? Is it your great **commission** or your great **omission**?

Grace Evangelism Class

- Mike Gendron and Bryan Chandler will teach this class that will provide encouragement and training to share the Gospel. We will meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 -5:45 pm in CH1 beginning March 3rd, and running 6 weeks.
- Registration is required on the CBC website and you will need the *Grace Evangelism Student Workbook* and a copy of *Today's Gospel* by Walter Chantry. Both are available in the Bookstore.

A hand reaches into a field of golden wheat under a bright sun. The background is a soft-focus field of wheat with a bright sun in the upper right corner, creating a warm, golden glow.

Seven Motivations to Labor in Fields White for Harvest

- 1. It glorifies God our Savior**
- 2. It is a divine command**
- 3. It is a royal privilege**
- 4. It is the greatest act of love**
- 5. It is a mark of true conversion**
- 6. It is the only hope for the lost**
- 7. It will soon be too late**