

Life Notes *Sharing Your Faith with Pastor Justin*

3. Elements of Sharing Your Faith

In order for us to be effective and to not be fearful of what it involves, we must take a look at the necessary components of personal lifestyle evangelism. Remember, we are not interested in creating a program for evangelism, memorizing a religious speech, or stirring up spiritual arguments with our friends and family. We are, however, interested in understanding what it takes to help us move forward in being responsible and intentional to help people, who are far from God, learn how to have a personal relationship with Him.

Lifestyle evangelism must first be fueled by love.

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. We should ask the Lord daily for His heart to be placed in us for those who are far from Him. Love is a huge factor! It can conquer many fears and pull down many barriers to faith in Christ.

Lifestyle evangelism is built on relationships.

From your oldest relative to the clerk at the local grocery store, relationship with people is key to having an open door to their heart. We must build trust and rapport with people God allows us to intersect with in our daily lives. It's important to have friendships with "no strings attached," meaning we will still love and care about them whether they ever agree with our understanding of God or not.

Lifestyle Evangelism is expressed in both actions & words.

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words." Our daily actions need to exhibit God's love.

1 John 3:18 NIV

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Romans 10:14 NIV

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

But we also need to open our mouths and speak the truth of who God is and why Jesus came to earth and gave His life for us.

Lifestyle evangelism is a process.

We cannot rush people on their spiritual journey. It takes time for people to understand the message of the gospel, to trust it and then act on it.

1 Corinthians 3:6 NIV

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.

Lifestyle evangelism is always a partnership.

It is a partnership with God and with other people. God rarely uses just one Christian to bring someone through the entire process of coming to faith in Him. Instead God uses and orchestrates a number of people, influences and experiences to move a person toward Himself. See the teamwork and partnership involved in the scripture we just looked at?

Paul planted the seed.
Apollos watered it.
God made it grow.

A person's coming to Christ is like a chain with many links. There are many influences and conversations that precede a person's decision to convert to Christ. I know the joy of being the first link at times, a middle link usually, and occasionally the last link. God has not called me to only be the last link. – Cliffe Knechtle

Which link are you willing to be?