

Life Notes *Sharing Your Faith with Pastor Justin*

11. Crossing the Line of Faith

Our goal is not only to learn how to share our faith and talk about it intelligently or help people understand it better, but to help them reach a point where they too can trust Jesus as the one who forgives their sins and leads their lives. This is called crossing the line of faith.

Let me be clear, we are unable to make this decision for them, nor should we try to rush them into it. But we can encourage and help them to keep taking steps in the right direction until one day they will step across the line of faith.

That is the most exciting part! Nothing compares to being right there, helping someone you have been praying for put his or her trust in Christ. So please don't leave this for your pastor or some other "ministry professional." God wants to work through you, including this exciting last stage of the evangelism process.

There are four elements to the process of our leading our friends to faith in Christ:

1. Approaching the Line

Helping our friends and family reach the point where they are ready to trust in Christ is a process that could take days, weeks, or even years. We must be patient and continue to pray for them, deepen our relationship with them, raise and discuss spiritual issues with them, and communicate the gospel in natural ways.

We need the Holy Spirit's guidance to discern how bold and direct we should be.

2. Checking Readiness

At points along the way you may sense your friend is getting clearer on what it means to follow Christ and might even be open to making that decision. It is important to prayerfully watch for those points and make the most of those opportunities when they appear.

There are three questions we can use to assess their spiritual readiness:

- a. Have you come to the point of trusting Christ, or are you still in the process of thinking it through?
- b. Where would you say you are in that process right now?
- c. Is there any reason you wouldn't want to ask Jesus for His forgiveness and leadership right now?

3. Prompting in Prayer

If your friend is willing to pray with you to receive Christ, the first thing you will need to do is RELAX! I recommend prompting friends and family to pray in their own words to God. It gives them a sense of ownership of their need for forgiveness and leadership and allows them to truly express to God what they are feeling in their heart.

Here are some helpful suggested guidelines:

- Ask for the forgiveness of Christ.
- Ask for the leadership of Christ.
- Give thanks for God's forgiveness and leadership which are already in effect because of the cross, burial, and resurrection!

You start the prayer by first thanking God for this opportunity to receive the forgiveness and leadership of Jesus. Then prompt your friend in prayer with the three suggested points above. Finally, you close the prayer time. At the end, summarize what has just happened and communicate how all of Heaven is rejoicing over the decision your friend has just made to follow Jesus!

4. Celebrate!

After closing the prayer, congratulate your friend for taking the most important step of their life! Don't rush on to something else but acknowledge what just happened and discuss its importance. Let them describe how they feel and talk about it with them in ways that seem natural.