



Pastor Hanke's Blog

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Spiritual Conversations – Give the Good News!

Bible Reference: Acts 3:1-10

This should be the easiest part of the spiritual conversation model. I am sure you are like “Yeah right, Pastor Will, easy for you to say because you’re a pastor.” Hang with me, people. Your friends care about you and want to know why you like the things you like. They are interested in your interests. I believe we have made sharing Jesus so hard that we give up. We try to introduce Jesus too soon. Yes, you heard me correctly—we introduce Jesus too soon.

Think about how this world operates. Someone is constantly trying to sell you something. If someone approaches me wanting to tell me about something, it is usually because they are trying to make money. Knowing that, why would I even allow someone to think that Jesus is in that same category by approaching him/her with Jesus right away? This has been the downfall of our evangelism for years. We would approach total strangers about Jesus, they would feel like we were trying to sell them something, then we would feel defeated when they weren’t interested. We would go back to our lives and tell ourselves we were not good at evangelism, when really we just set ourselves up to fail in the first place.

In the Spiritual Conversations model, the person you have befriended will ask *you* about Jesus. Yes, you read that correctly...they will ask you. If they become invested in your life they will want to know why you spend time in church, and more importantly, with Jesus. Sharing the Good News becomes so simple when the person asks you. All the pressure to hurry up and get the Gospel out is gone, and no more stewing about all the things you should have said. In this model you won’t have that pressure because you know this is not the only conversation you will have with them. You are friends; in fact you probably have their cell phone number and home address.

Some of you have heard my story about Carlos, the kid who turned me off to evangelism. It is a simple story. I was a 1st grader excited about sharing my faith, so I picked the meanest kid in my class. I was convinced I was going to help him; he just needed Jesus. No one told me that perhaps I should get to know him first, become his friend, and then introduce him to Jesus. Instead, the only conversation I remember with Carlos was the one that destroyed

my belief that I could actually tell someone about Jesus. It took over 20 years to change my mind, even though I was studying theology and going to school to be a pastor.

I have no clue how many times you have shared your faith. Maybe you have your own stories of the times you tried and failed miserably. Yet, I now believe sharing the Good News of Jesus will come naturally if you have gained a hearing. I believe if the person is your friend they will care about you and they will ask you why you love Jesus. Last week I challenged you to build those friendships with non-Christians. This week I'll talk about how sharing the Good News will come naturally once those friendships are built. This is what I want for your life. Realizing that bringing people to Jesus takes time, but is not hard, will change you and our church.

God's Peace,

Pastor Will