

Telling People about Jesus

Questions, excuses, and fears

Questions and Excuses

Shouldn't we just leave people alone to believe what they want?

It's our mission

Matthew 28:19-20 [Jesus said,] Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV

Save some by all possible means

1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. NIV

Try to persuade men

2 Corinthians 5:11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. NIV

Obligation/duty

Acts 20:26-27 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. NIV (see Ezekiel 33:8)

Snatch people from the fire

Jude 22-23 Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh. NIV

For the love of others

1 Thessalonians 2:8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. NIV

Shouldn't I just wait until the gospel comes up naturally?

Example of Paul

Philippians 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. NIV

The concept of a mission

1 Timothy 4:9-10 This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance ¹⁰(and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. NIV

Speed its coming

2 Peter 3:11-12 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. NIV

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People's negligence is not my problem.

Ezekiel 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. NIV

What if I don't feel called or gifted to share my faith?

I don't think evangelism is effective.

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. NIV

2 Corinthians 9:6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. NIV

Fears

I don't like conflict.

I don't want to bother anyone.

I don't want to be pushy

Matthew 10:14 If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. NIV

Acts 13:50-52 But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. NIV

I don't like rejection.

John 15:18-19 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you." NIV

I'm afraid they won't care what the Bible says.

Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. NIV

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. NIV

My life is too messed up.

Practicals

I don't know who I would talk to.

How do you enter into a spiritual conversation?

I don't know anything about other religions.

I'm afraid I won't know how to answer a question

I don't know what to say.

Acts 18:26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. NIV