

We continue to look at Acts 2 and strategies for sharing our faith on a daily basis. We have looked at: **1. Our walk matching our talk;** **2. Learning to use the Bible and memorising scripture.**

3. FOCUS YOUR DISCUSSION ON JESUS V22-24

Peter bears witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus. *So why is this so important?*

There needs to be clarity in what the gospel

is. Paul in 1 Corinthians

15:1-4 gives us a succinct

explanation of the gospel by which a person might be saved. There needs to not only be clarity in what the gospel is, but what it does.

We see this in Romans 3:23 and 6:23 :

- > Jesus died for our sins
 - > Jesus made atonement for our sins
 - > Jesus became our substitute
 - > Jesus took our punishment
 - > Jesus rose from the grave conquering sin and death
- Jesus' resurrection gives Christianity a uniqueness that no other religion has – it is simply that their graves are not empty, but full.

So Jesus' resurrection is both fundamental and foundational to the gospel. The cross is meaningless without an empty tomb.

That empty tomb of Jesus is so powerful! Jesus' victorious resurrection brings hope to a dying world. The resurrection brings hope not only for this life but the life to come.

It is important that once we have built a relationship with our neighbour, friend, work colleague, family member, that we keep our focus on Jesus.

John 4:42 states: *"They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'"*

4. ALLOW FOR THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT V37-41

Holy Spirit witnessing brings about Holy Spirit conviction. John 6:44 tells us *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."* We need to be wary of relying on witnessing techniques as an end in themselves ... unless the Holy Spirit is at work nothing will be achieved. So why should we be careful of depending upon techniques?

Continued over

PRAISE

the Lord for:

★ USA prisons.

A total of 520 responses coming from the prison edition in 2016. At the moment we distribute papers into prisons within six states

★ Australia. An

increased print run for the Easter edition of Challenge

★ USA. A fruitful trip for Carl and John.

The paper continues to grow, particularly Spanish and prison editions

★ Impact Africa mission trip, July 2017.

At the moment we have 20 participants

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
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PLEASE TURN OVER

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311
Email: info@challengenews.org

PRAYER

needed for:

★ **South Australia trip.**

Carl will speak at an Easter Convention, then stay on for promotion and development of the newspaper

★ **USA.** The Trezona family (Andrew/Karen and girls) as they continue to lead the ministry of Challenge. Pray particularly for main edition of newspaper as churches seem to regularly disengage with evangelism

★ **Malawi.** Ananda & Grace Pula as they head up the Challenge ministry. Pray for prison ministry as it continues to grow. Pray discipleship material will be available

★ **Kenya.** Lazarus & Jane Kisau as they continue to use Challenge newspaper in their prisons work. Pray for effective distribution to Kenya's 104 prisons

- (i) We start to rely on our own abilities;
- (ii) We rely on our personality traits such as one's ability to talk;
- (iii) We can get caught up in arguments. This can be especially so when we take our witnessing down an intellectual path;
- (iv) We can fall into the trap of competing intellects. This then can fall into the struggle of competing pride as to who wins the argument;
- (v) We can get wrongly drawn into banging on doors that are closed; and
- (vi) Lastly and most importantly we neglect or forget the importance of prayer for who to witness to and how.

E.M. Bounds put it so well when he said; "It is a great thing to talk to men about God. It is greater still to talk to God about men." So we see the work of the Holy Spirit as Peter preaches. John 16:8 says this; "When He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Notice how the Holy Spirit worked. The people were pierced to the heart, for what was said had hit the mark, and the listeners realised they had a problem. So Luke is telling us that the Holy Spirit was speaking deep into the hearts of those Peter was speaking to.

The evidence of this is the people cried out asking what should they do. Peter gives them clear guidance in verse 38 when he states; "Repent and be baptised...in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Now note baptism is not a requirement for salvation, but a desire to be baptised is evidence of a believer.

Notice also the promise of salvation is for the hearers and their families and for those yet to come to Jesus ... thus underlining our responsibility to gossip the gospel.

{ CARL CARMODY
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

To be continued



MY RESPONSE

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 - \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

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