

Him We Proclaim!

Encouragement Share to Christ Naturally

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How to effectively share our faith?

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.” -- Colossians 1:28-29 (ESV)

“So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.” JB Phillips

Three Observations

- 1. Paul had a single-minded, whole-hearted, sold-out purpose: To bring people into full maturity in Christ.

Three Observations

- 2. He looked at it as a “full-orbed” task: taking people from wherever they were to full maturity in Christ.

Three Observations

- 3. Paul didn't assume he was alone in this.

Seven practical
suggestions for sharing
Christ with others

I. Prayer is priority

- I need to talk to God about people more than I talk to people about God.
- John 6:44: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..."
- 1 Cor. 2:14: "The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God ... he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."

I. Prayer is priority

- My attitude should be: "I am joining His ministry; He is not joining me in mine."

2. Engagement is everything

- Remain engaged with the culture and people.
- Invite them into our homes.
- Healthy marriage and family are an excellent witness
- John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another."

3. Little steps are important

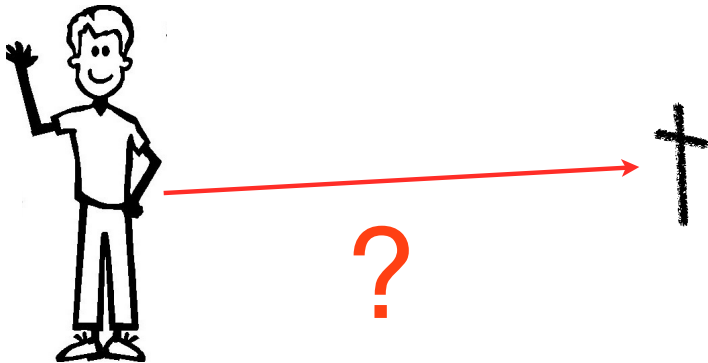
- Neil Armstrong: "One small step; one giant leap"
- 1 Cor. 3:6: "I planted, Apollos watered, God gave the growth."
- Coming to the Lord is a process.

3. Little steps are important

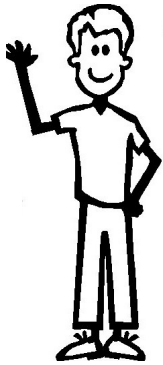
- 1. He's okay.
- 2. I'd like to get to know him better
- 3. I feel comfortable with him. He accepts me.
- 4. I'm going to find out why he's so different.
- 5. It seems that he gets his outlook on things from the Bible

3. Little steps are important

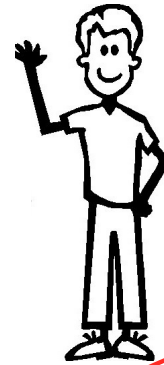
- 6. He's a Christian -- but he's OK!
- 7. Being a Christian sure has its advantages.
- 8. I like his friends. I admire their confidence.
- 9. It might be interesting to look at the Bible some day.



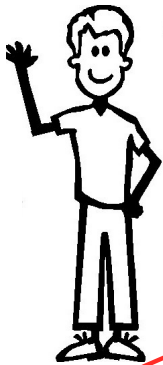
Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit ..."



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3. Little steps are important

- When you and your friend can look at and study God's Word together, then the Spirit can use the "Sword of the Spirit" to change his life and draw him to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 6:17: "... the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “Ask Jesus into my heart?”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “False gospels”
 - God wants us to always be happy
 - God will like me more if I attend church (or serve in the church or do good things)
 - We should become a Christian in order to have a better life

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “False gospels”
 - God always wants us to be healthy and wealthy
 - God is here to serve us and meet our needs
 - Having an “abundant life” as a reason for becoming a Christian.

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- True Gospel
 - We were born sinners, separated from God (Romans 3:23)
 - We are destined for an eternity apart from God (Romans 6:23)

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- True Gospel
 - Jesus died on the cross for our sins (Romans 5:8)
 - I can place my faith in Jesus for eternal life and be assured that I have it (1 John 5:11-12)

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
 - John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
 - John 3:18: “Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe in Him is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
 - John 11:25-26: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.’”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
 - John 5:24: “Most assuredly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life and shall not come into judgment but has passed out of death into life.”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
 - John 6:47: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me has everlasting life.”

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- How does one obtain eternal life?
- By _____ in Jesus for it!

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “Believe” defined
 - Vine’s Dictionary:
 - pisteuo: “to be persuaded of” and hence to place confidence in, to trust
 - Or simply: Take someone at their word

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “Believe” defined
 - To be persuaded or convinced that something is true
 - To take someone at their word

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “Believe” does NOT mean:
 - Believing facts about Jesus
 - Believing that He is God
 - Believing that He died on the cross

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- “Believe” does simply mean:
 - That you trust in Jesus alone for eternal life
 - Or: That you believe that indeed Jesus will take you to heaven when you die

4. Be clear on the Gospel

- Key:
 - Believing (trusting)
 - Jesus alone (for)
 - Eternal life

We can be sure!

- John 10:28-29
 - “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

5. Initiate the conversation

- John 4: Woman at the well. Jesus initiates the conversation with her:
 - “Give me a drink”
 - Ask questions

5. Initiate the conversation

- Develop Rapport
- Be friendly
- Listen for clues to their heart
- Be prepared with follow-up questions
- Be prepared to initiate conversations

6. Walk the talk

- Matt. 5:14-16: “Let your light shine before men”
- 1 Peter 2:12: “Keep your conduct honorable...”
- 1 Thess. 1:5: “... you know what sort of people we were among you...”

7. Maturity Matters

- Goal: present everyone mature in Christ
- Warning and teaching everyone



A shipwrecked faith

- What is true about a shipwreck?
 - It takes something good and ruins it.
 - It takes something “off the track”
 - It causes the ship to be un-useful to the owner/captain.
 - The ship can’t fulfill its intended purpose



A shipwrecked faith

- I Timothy 1:19: “You must hold firmly to the faith and a good conscience which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to the faith...”





God's Word shows the "path"

- Psalm 119:105: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

God's Word shows the "path"

- Obedience to God's Word:
Walk wisely
- Disobedience to God's
Word: Walk foolishly

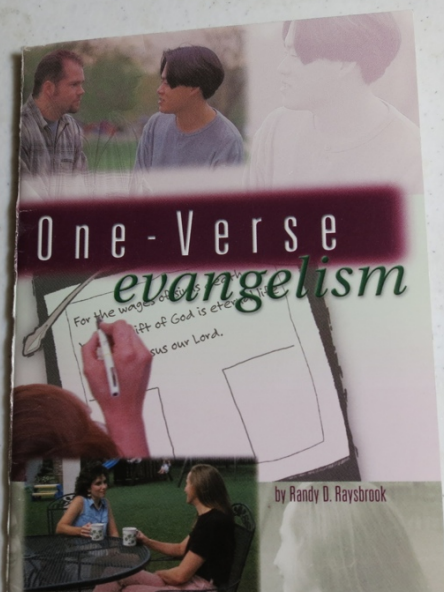
God's Word shows the "path"

- Spiritual advancement OR
- Spiritual regression
 - 2 Peter 3:18: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
 - Eph. 4:14-15: "That we be no more children ... but ... may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, Christ."

Helpful tools

- "One Verse Evangelism" -- The Navigators (www.navpress.com) \$3.99/booklet or \$5.99 for 15 cards
- "May I ask you a question?" -- Evantel (www.evangel.org) \$4.50 for 25 (many languages)
- "Living Water: The Gospel of John" -- Absolutely Free, Inc. (www.livingwater.org): Free for donation

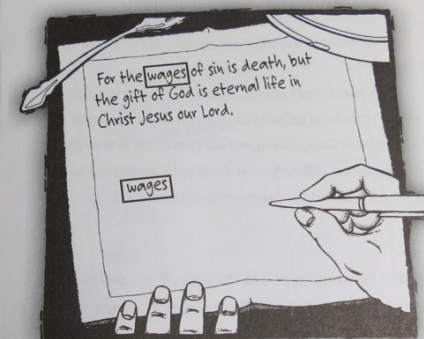
"One Verse Evangelism"



from the Old to the New
a multitude of verses but never ex-
to become a Christian.
I decided that whatever I do in
ever be fuzzy or unclear. I don't have
ple message and make it difficult.
a simple way to communicate the
Bible verse and an easy-to-draw

versation turns to spiritual topics,
son if he would like to under-
of the Bible. I tell him that if he
y him a picture that will explain
in a practical way that he can
are him that it will take only 10

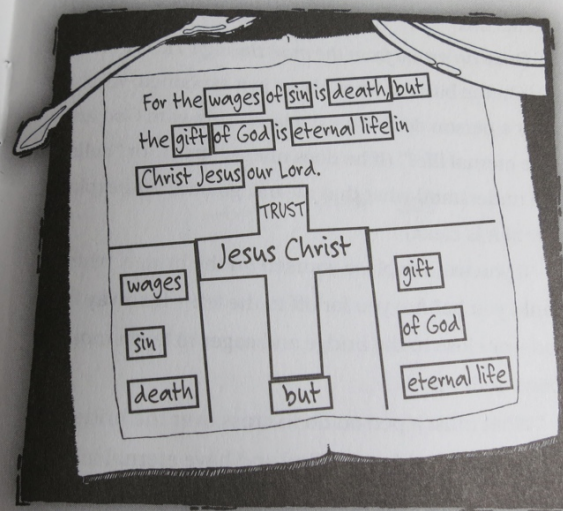
rious and seldom resist this
r had someone explain the
alone in 10 minutes. If the
proceed with the following



WAGES

Open your Bible to Rom. 6:23. While pointing to the verse, ask the person to read it aloud to you while you write it at the top of a piece of paper. (If you're at a restaurant, a paper napkin works well.)

Draw a box around the word WAGES, write the same word midway down the left side of the page, and draw a box around it there also.



believe—that Jesus took our punishment for us, we

with a Christian friend before you share it with an un-
believer. It is also a good idea to know at least one verse
that backs up each step in the illustration in case the
person needs further explanation.

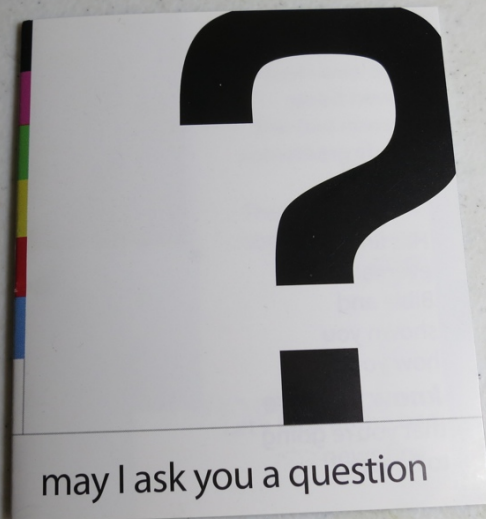
Advantages to using this tool include:

- It is short. It can be used effectively when time is limited.
- It is expandable. Examples are optional, and you can make the presentation as long or as short as you wish, omitting the second example when applicable.

- It is easy for the listener to understand.
- It is easy to learn and use, since there is only one verse to memorize.
- There is no need to flip back and forth through the Old and New Testaments, which can be confusing to the listener who is unfamiliar with the Bible.
- It gives you an opportunity to find out if the listener clearly understands the Gospel by giving him two chances to tell you the steps necessary for salvation.

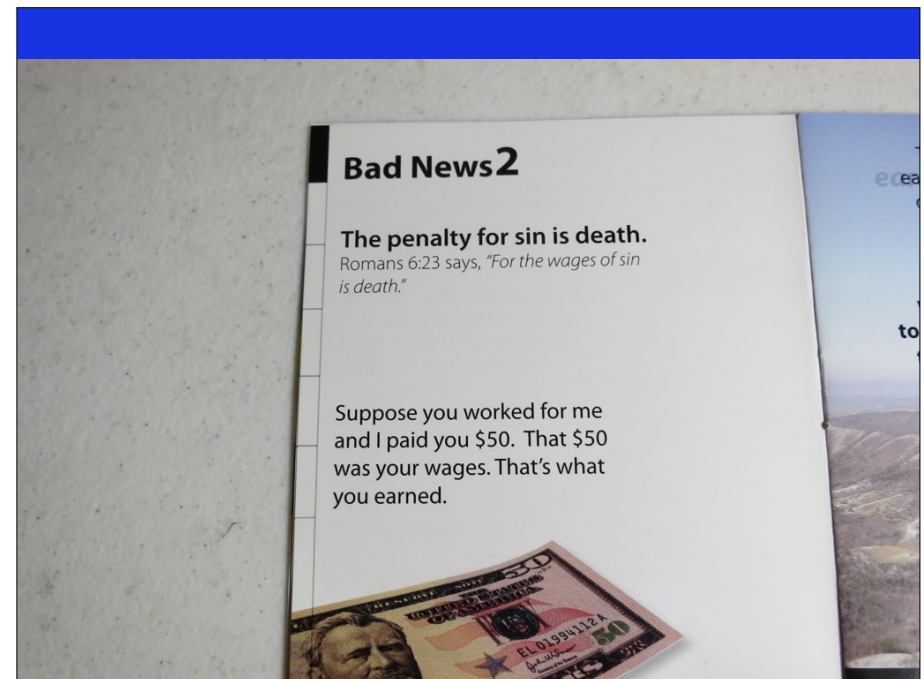
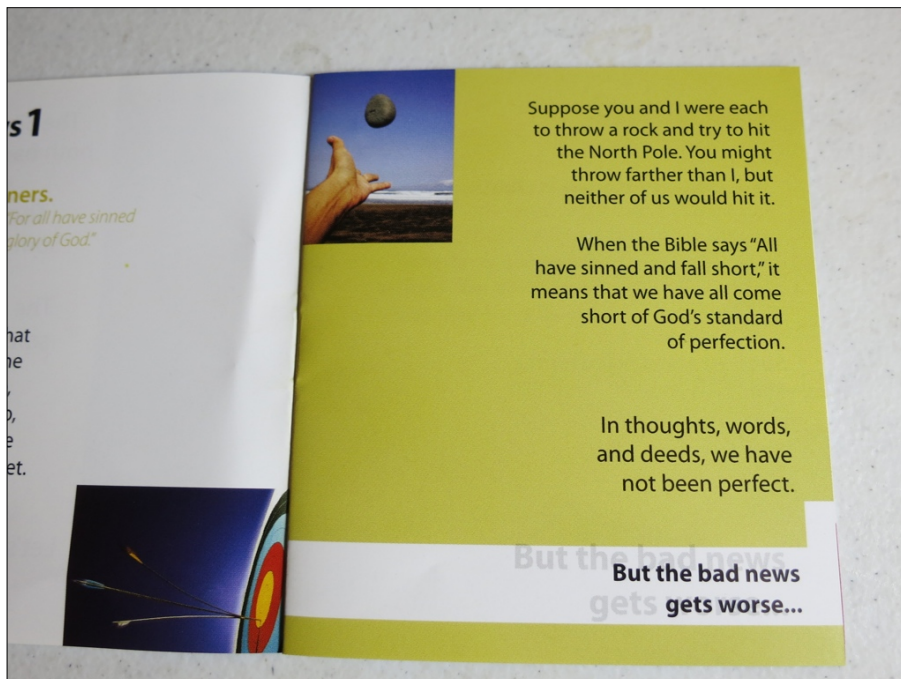
Most importantly, remember that the power to change lives is not in having an effective, smooth-flowing illustration. It is the Spirit of God who opens someone's heart to hear the message of salvation (John

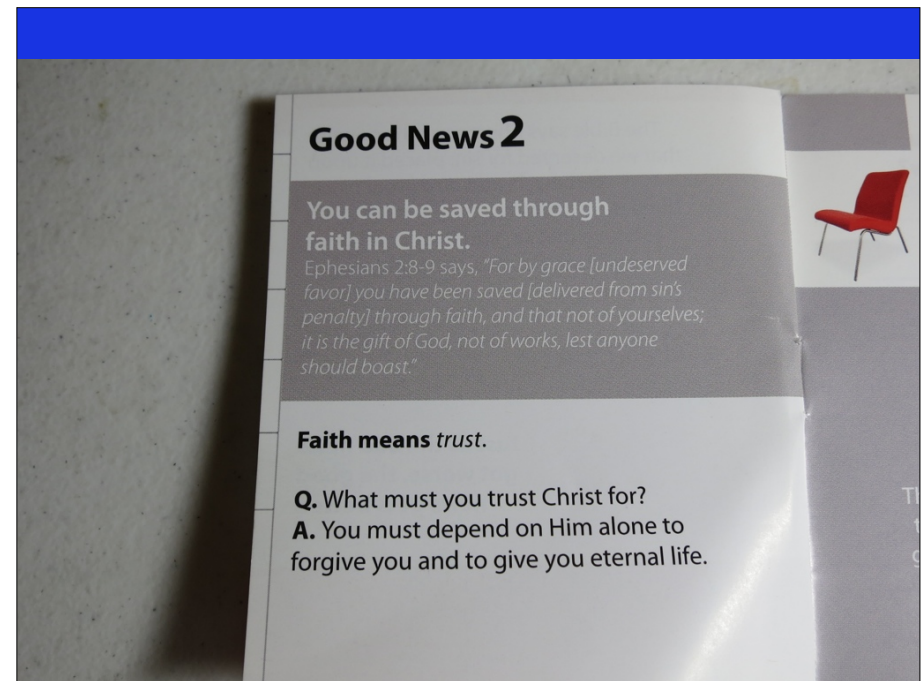
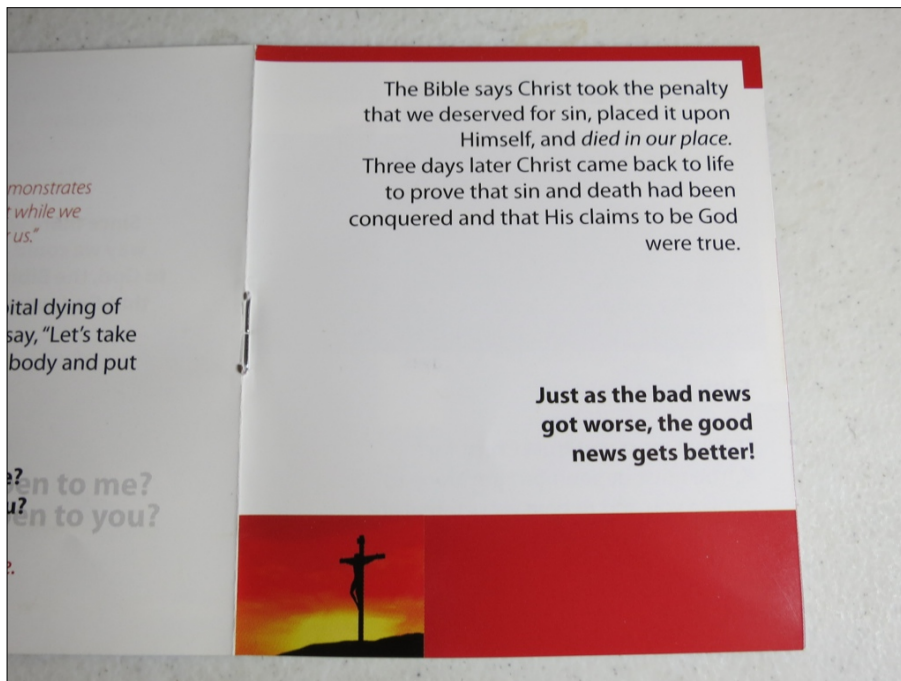
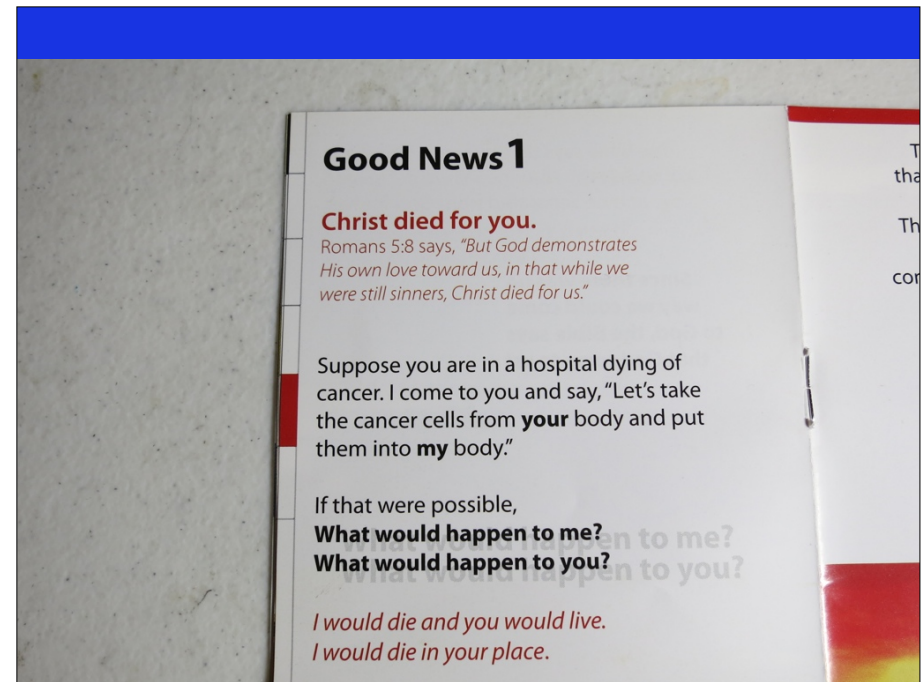
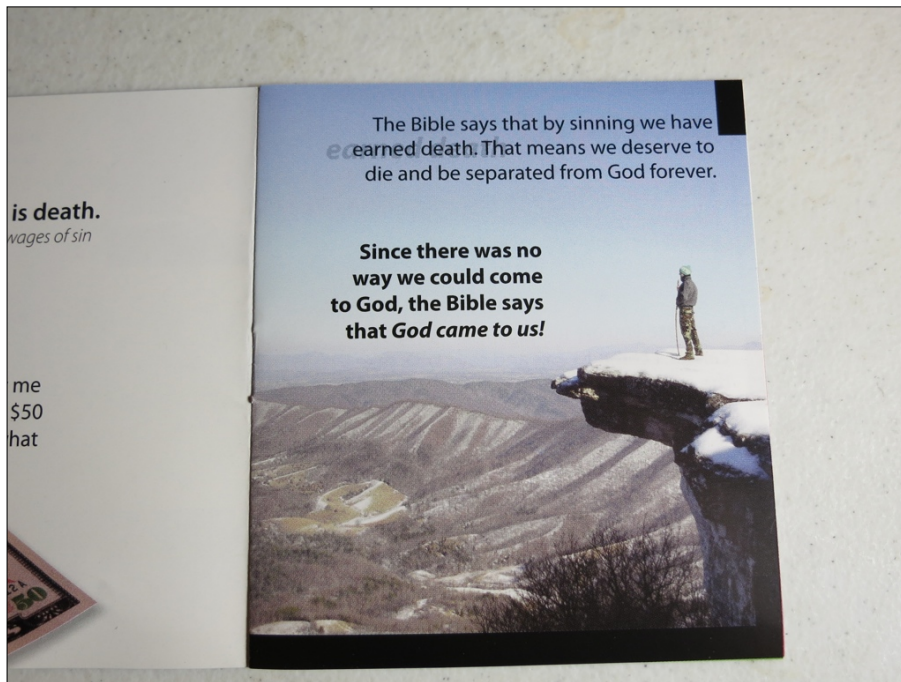
“May I Ask You a Question?”

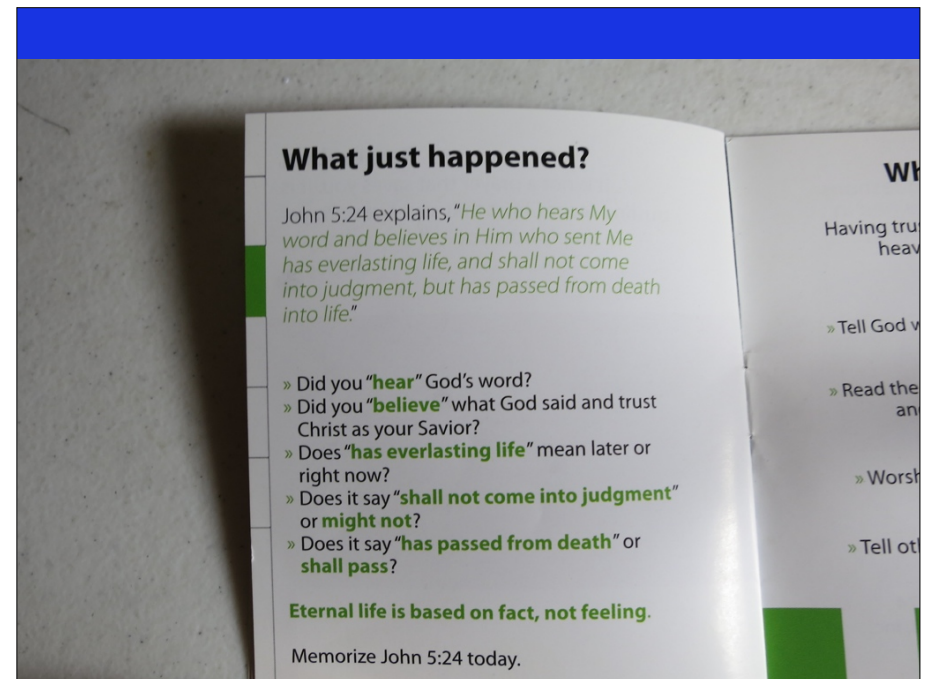
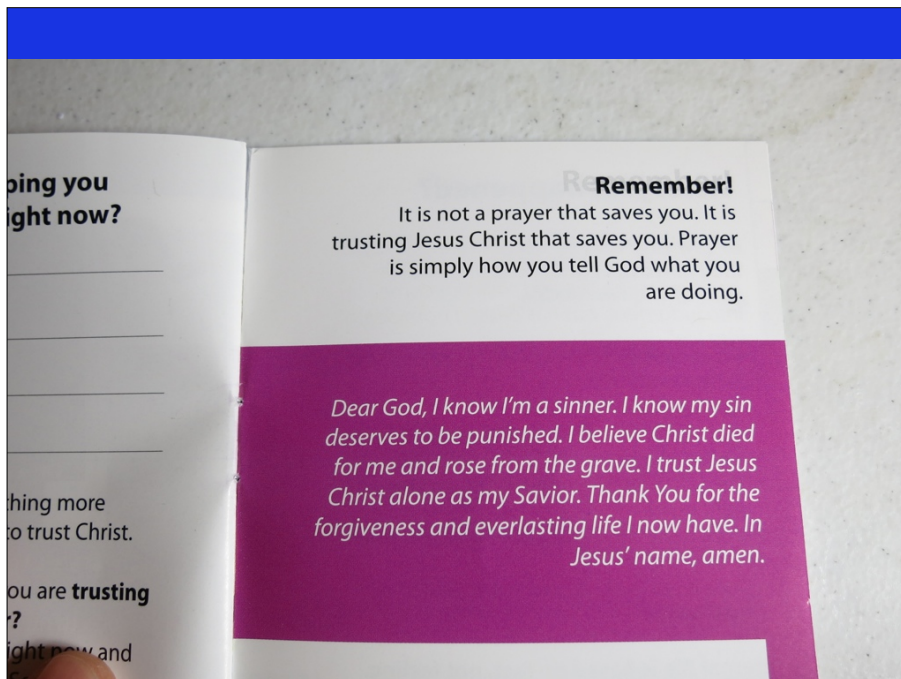
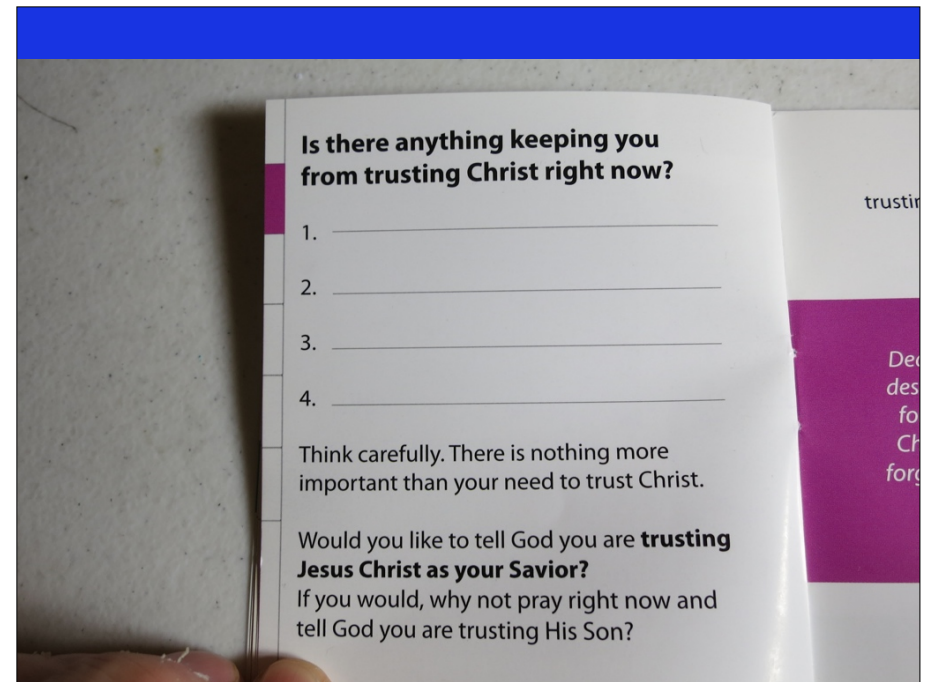
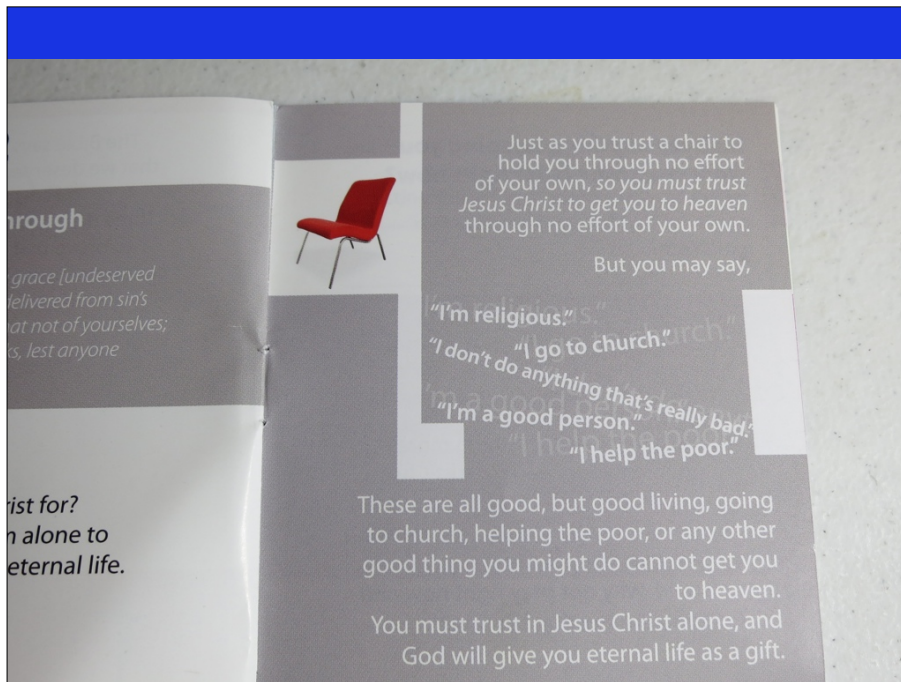


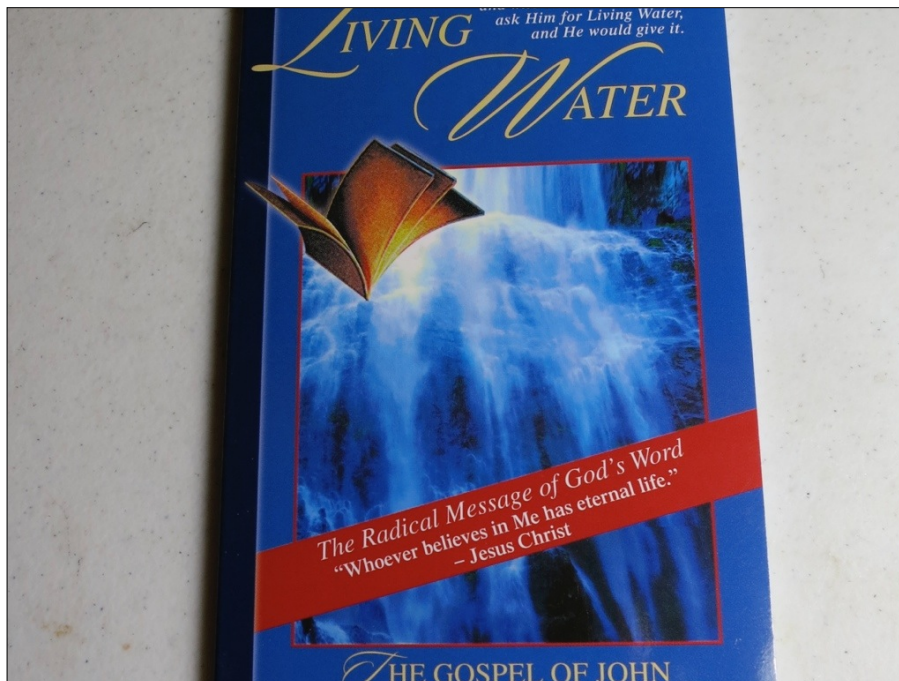
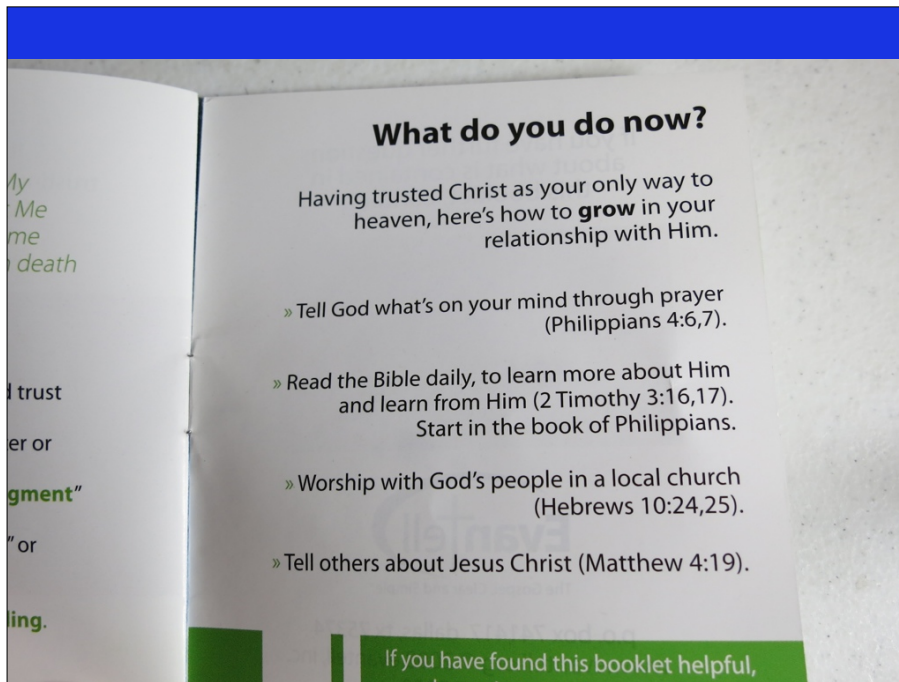
Has anyone
ever taken a
Bible and
shown you
how you can
know for sure
that you're going
to heaven?











Conclusion

- I. Paul was sold out to this single-minded goal.
- Let's pray for a similar mindset.

Conclusion

- 2. Paul looked at it as a continuum.
- My job is not done when someone trusts Christ as savior ... in fact it's just begun! This is an exciting opportunity God has granted us!

Conclusion

- 3. Paul knew he couldn't do it on his own ... he depended on God.
- We have access to this same power.

Encouragement ...

- You can share your faith effectively
- Live your life "elbow to elbow" -- engaged in the lives of others
- You are in a unique, God-given position to minister to the people you know. God has uniquely gifted you and placed you in the lives of your friends, family and coworkers.

Encouragement ...

- You can be effectively used right where you are: with your family, your children, your co-workers, your neighbors
- Make wise use of your daily contact with people

Encouragement ...

- Be friendly, develop rapport on purpose
- Go out of your way to increase your contact with others
- Love them with the Love of Jesus!

Questions or comments?