

WITNESSING “ONE-LINERS”

--from many sources near and far

1. Turn fear into your ally, as Paul did in I Cor. 2:1-5. Fear actually helps us...depend more on God!
2. Closed doors are God's way of getting us to an open door. Often, an open door comes after a string of closed doors. So don't get discouraged by down time. Discover if a door is closed by...testing the knob!
3. People do what they do because they are who they are. They act lost because they are lost.
4. "I consider a person lost until I know he is saved." --D. L. Moody
5. There is no bad way to lead people to Jesus...if we love them. God uses all types of approaches to reach all types of people. There is no perfect witnessing tool that fits everyone.
6. When D. L. Moody was criticized for his method giving an invitation to repent, he asked: "What is your method?" The critic replied, "I don't have a method", to which Moody then answered, "I like the way I do do it better than the way you don't do it!" Do something to reach lost people for Christ! Something is better than nothing.
7. You will never meet a person God does not love. You will never meet a person God does not want to bring to himself. You will never meet a person in whose life God is not working in some way. (Jn. 3:16; II Peter 3:9; Jn. 1:9; Rom. 1:19,20)
8. The very fact that we crossed paths and that the thought came to my mind about this person's spiritual need is an indication that God is working in this person's life. (Acts 17:26,27) *If you are shy, try saying "Hi!" (Mat. 5:47). If in doubt, check/try it out!*
9. We cannot save, convert or change anyone. It is God who opens hearts, eyes, mouths, doors and homes and who gives the gift of repentance and eternal life to people. (Acts 16:14; 26:18; Eph. 6:19; Col. 4:3; Acts 14:27; II Cor. 2:12; Rev. 3:7; Acts 11:18; 13:48)
10. Ask God to give you opportunities to witness today, to see them and to seize them. We pray, He works; we announce, He confirms. (Mt. 7:7,8; Mk. 16:15-20) Pray for needs you encounter.
11. Great opposition indicates great opportunities. Big dogs guard big treasures! (I Cor. 16:9) Often, the greater the opportunity, the stronger the opposition to taking action.
12. How to handle "no soliciting" signs and "private property": "I didn't know..." "I am not soliciting anything..." Skip around; low profile presence...
13. Even if people are not open to hearing the Gospel message, they may be open to hearing your "story" and are often open for us to pray for them.
14. When rejected, don't take it personally; just keep going and remember Jesus' words (Luke 10:16; Mat. 5:11,12). Try to respond in a way that will make it easier for the next Christian who comes after you. Even when they reject your message, they will read your reaction. Remember, hurting people hurt people! And don't take your mistakes too seriously.
15. Questions about other religions and denominations: begin with something positive, but stress the main differences and return to focus on repentance and surrender to Christ.
16. Be careful about negative comments during and after witnessing.
17. Remember, we learn to witness by witnessing. Examples: riding bike, swimming, parenting, driving.
18. Get started...start small...keep going...take someone along...don't quit...do it regularly! "It is always too soon to quit."
19. Remember, "Success in witnessing is... taking the initiative to share the Gospel in the power of the Spirit and leaving (trusting) the results with God." --Bill Bright

20. An answer for any hard question: “That is a great question. I am not 100% sure how to answer you. May I have a week to research it, then get back with you with the answer?” Take down their contact information.
21. Don’t look for the ideal opportunity to witness. Be faithful with the little opportunities that often come at inconvenient times and God will give you more.
22. We only have today to witness for Christ. There will be no opportunities to win souls for Him in heaven.
23. Do you need/want a personal revival? Then witness for Christ and you will be revived. (Philemon 6 NIV)
24. Find a natural way to transition into spiritual topics, such as: “Did you get one of these?” (offer a tract, DVD, etc.) or “Do you have some religious background?” or “Do you think it is possible to have a personal relationship with God?”
25. Don’t wait to do something until you know everything about witnessing. Do what you can with what you’ve got and you will get more. Use it—or lose it.
26. God doesn’t need experts as much as He needs servants.
27. Many opportunities for witness come disguised as interruptions. Life is not merely getting work done...it is about loving, serving and witnessing to people.
28. People love stories. Learn to tell your story (Before > How > After > Verse > Invite) and Jesus’ stories (parables) with an evangelistic “twist.”
29. Take a deep breath, say a quick prayer, open your mouth...and go for it! Faith is taking a calculated risk. If we are silent, we decide for people. If we share, then they can decide for themselves.
30. God will give us more boldness if we ask for it. (Psa. 138:2; Acts 4:29-31)
31. Ask God to do signs and miracles to confirm our message. (Mk. 16:19-20; Acts 4:30)
32. God really loves to use weak people (II Cor. 12:7-10; I Cor. 2:1-5). Maybe that is why there are so many of us!
33. Beware of judging people by externals (clothes, face, tattoos, rejection, etc.). Neither Mary Magdalene, the woman at the well, the Gadarene demoniac nor Paul appeared to be promising candidates for the Kingdom.
34. When we stop praying for people or witnessing to them, it is as if we have made up our minds for them.
35. Don’t let what you think you can’t do stop you from doing what you know you can and should do.
36. Don’t try to be like someone else; just be yourself and learn to follow the Spirit’s direction.
37. My discomfort in witnessing is not nearly as important as their eternal destiny.
38. Many people are just a few good answers away from taking Christ seriously.
39. We don’t have to be preachers to make an eternal difference in the lives of others; just ordinary willing people with an extraordinary message backed by an extraordinary God.
40. We are better equipped to witness than we realize or feel: we have God’s Holy Spirit to counsel and empower us, the Word of God which cannot return empty, and a living relationship with the One Who has all authority in heaven and earth.
41. The better equipped we are, the more God seems to use us.
42. The Bible is a mix of bad news and good news. People need to see they are lost before they will see they need to be saved. First Law, then Gospel. --Ray Comfort
43. When we witness we are never working alone. God is always working behind the scenes to draw people to Himself.

44. Time is our most precious treasure. When we generously share it with others, we are telling them they really do matter to us.
45. Good fishermen get good at fishing by spending time fishing, whether they catch or not. So, “waste time” with sinners. Jesus was known as “the friend of sinners.”
46. Just reach out to another person. We don’t have to reach multitudes. We have little idea of the awesome potential of one person.
47. People matter to God, therefore they should matter to us.
48. Adventure involves risk which produces nervousness. Witnessing is “God-directed risk.”
49. Don’t know how to start or what to say? Ask questions. Get them talking. People love to hear two sounds: the sound of their own name and the sound of their own voice (giving their opinions and experiences)!
50. If we are going to reach people for Christ, it is going to be inconvenient.
51. Evangelism is an opportunity to risk something for Christ, because we love Him.
52. Witnessing is an expression of our love for God and of our love for people: the more we love God, the more we will love people, and the more we love people the more we will want to share God’s love with them.
53. Christians must *be* good news in order to effectively *share* Good News.
54. When I introduce someone to Christ as Lord and Savior, God is giving me the privilege of opening the door to him/her to live in His presence for all eternity!
55. The Gospel is good news...only if it gets there in time.
56. If we don’t pray for opportunities to share the Gospel, should we be surprised when we don’t see any?
57. Just think: you and I might be the closest Christians to a particular unbeliever!
58. Evangelism may not be my gift, but it is certainly my duty and my privilege.
59. “We share the gospel because we love people. And we don’t share the gospel because we don’t love people. Instead, we wrongly fear them.” --Mark Dever, *The Gospel & Personal Evangelism*.
60. “We protect our pride at the cost of their [unbelievers’] souls. In the name of not wanting to look weird, we are content to be complicit in their being lost.” --MD
61. “When we don’t share the gospel, we are essentially refusing to live in the fear of the Lord.” --MD
62. “We must be willing to risk in order to evangelize.” --MD, p. 26.
63. “If we would evangelize more, we would love people more.” --MD, p. 27.
64. “If you will realize that conversion always accompanies proclaiming the gospel and the Spirit’s work, then you will stop trying to do the Spirit’s work, and you will give yourself to proclaiming the gospel. Just because we don’t know everything doesn’t mean we don’t know anything!” --MD, p. 28.
65. Consider that when we do not gossip about God’s goodness and the gospel, we engage in a conspiracy of silence and reveal that we are cold to God’s glory. --MD, p. 28,29.
66. Loving my neighbor as myself requires that what I want for myself, I want for him also. But if I am not loving my neighbor as myself if I am not trying to persuade him toward the greatest and best aspect of my own life—my reconciled relationship with God. --MD, p. 49.
67. A gospel that in no way offends the sinner has not been understood. --MD, p. 64.

68. Our words alone are not a sufficient witness—we must speak; we have *news*. Our lives are the confirming echo of our witness. –MD, p. 67.
69. Evangelism is simply telling the good news. It’s not making sure the other person responds to it correctly. – MD, p. 70.
70. An account of a changed life is a wonderful and inspiring thing, but it’s the Gospel of Jesus Christ that explains what it’s all about and how it happened. And it’s the gospel that turns sharing a testimony into evangelism. --MD, p. 73.
71. Being involved in mercy ministries may help to *commend* the gospel...but such actions are not evangelism. They commend the gospel, but they share it with no one. To be *evangelism*, the gospel must be clearly communicated, whether in written or oral form. –MD. p. 75.
72. Converting people is not in our power...to evangelize...[is] simply to announce the good news, irrespective of the results. –MD, p. 79.
73. We don’t fail in our evangelism if we faithfully tell the gospel to someone who is not converted; we fail only if we don’t faithfully tell the gospel at all. –MD, p. 82.
74. Evangelism itself isn’t converting people; it’s telling them they need to be converted and telling them how they can be. –MD, p. 82.
75. “Have you no concern for the lost? Then you are not saved yourself, you can be sure of that.” --Charles Spurgeon
76. When we do not share the Gospel with others, we make the decision for them and join the devil in his work of hindering people from hearing the Gospel. –Nik Ripken, *The Insanity of Obedience*
77. The Gospel is not intuitive; it must be explained.
78. How to know if I should witness to a person or not? Accept as a rule of thumb: If I meet someone and their spiritual well-being crosses my mind, I will assume the Spirit is prompting me to try to speak to them about spiritual matters until He shows me otherwise.
79. “I will assume that every person I meet is lost but open to the Gospel until he proves himself otherwise.”
80. I will pray for opportunities to “bring Jesus into the conversation” that I have with people today.
81. Tools for witnessing are good...only if they are used. And the more we use them, the more skillful we become.
82. Paul declared that he was a debtor to all, ready to share the gospel, unashamed of the gospel, and convinced of the power of the gospel to save and justify anyone. I can become more like Paul by praying for these qualities.
83. Jesus told us not to take rejection personally; if they reject us, they are rejecting Him. Just keep moving...and talking about Him.
84. “The potential for any movement to grow is in direct proportion to its ability to mobilize its members to share its message.” --Source unknown.
85. “People cannot get saved by looking [at us]; they can only be saved by hearing...the Gospel.” --Henry Blank
86. “Awkwardness...is the gateway to many breakthroughs with people around you.” --Beau Crosetto, *Beyond Awkward, When Talking About Jesus Is Outside Your Comfort Zone*, p. 16.
87. “People who shrink back from bold moments get stuck in their discomfort and choose to believe that their feelings are the end of the story.” --BC, p. 28.
88. “God’s plan has been to use people, and there’s no backup plan. Jesus uses people to reach people. You won’t find a single person in the New Testament who came to faith in Jesus without hearing the gospel from another person.” --BC, p. 33.

89. "Awkwardness usually precedes God moving in a powerful way...If you want to see God move, then you need to enter into the awkwardness." --BC, p. 42,43.
90. "This is the single biggest reason most people do not see others come to faith. They wait for God to make everything clear before they act." --BC, p. 116.
91. "It is not the job of a witness to force things in order to make someone believe...God is the initiator, and he will make evangelistic encounters happen." --BC, p. 119.
92. "When God asks his people to step out, he will back them up." --BC, p. 133.
93. Never assume someone isn't ready to receive the Gospel; explore people's curiosity no matter how far from God they appear to be. --BC, p. 139.
94. As you meet people, assume God is up to something, and at the first sign of spiritual interest, press in and speak. --BC, 142.
95. "We don't avoid the awkward because of fear but because of lack of compassion for people." --BC, p. 144.
96. "It is the heavenly Father's responsibility to draw people to Jesus, not mine." --BC, p. 153.
97. "To think that we can act our way into helping people find Jesus is ridiculous. Our actions for Christ are signs to people at best...but there is no such thing as a self-interpreting sign." --BC, p. 155.
98. I am the person God will send. "Seekers are everywhere. You will run into them if you are looking." --BC, p. 161.
99. "Your job as a witness is to test people's openness to see if God is moving in them and if they are receptive and curious." --BC, p. 163.
100. "Being curious about people and learning about them is a loving thing to do. Ask God to give you more curiosity if you lack it." --BC, p. 166.
101. I will look for a handle to open the door of awkwardness. "A handle is a theme or struggle in a person's life that emerges in conversation...When I can't find a handle in the conversation, I keep asking questions." --BC, p. 171,173.
102. "I was put on this earth to help people connect to their loving Father in heaven." --BC, p. 190.
103. "Do not confuse patience with timidity." --BC, p. 196.
104. By withholding the Gospel from people, we are not loving them.
105. The more we talk about Jesus to others, the more we learn how wonderful He is and the more we love Him.
106. "If you were paid \$1,000 for every person with whom you shared the Gospel, would it make a difference in how often you share? If so, you would do for money what you are not willing to do for love of God and people." --Mark Cahill, *One Thing You Can't Do In Heaven*
107. Every "no" is one step closer to a "yes". --Jeremy Miller
108. Through evangelism we help to fulfill the heart cry of the Moravians, "May the Lamb receive the reward of His suffering!" and the vision of Apostle John, "...behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb...'" (Rev. 7:9-10)
109. "The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man.! --D. L. Moody
110. "The more the gospel takes hold of us, the more difficult it becomes to keep quiet about it." --Jim Petersen