

CLARITY TRUMPET

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For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.

-First Corinthians 14:8, 9-

How to Share the Gospel Effectively (In Simple Outline Form)

Be Sure Your Message is Biblically Sound

1. God's Demand: Perfection

Revelation 21:27: *But there shall by no means enter it (the New Heavenly Jerusalem) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* (cp. Psalm 5:4; and Habakkuk 1:13).

2. Man's Condition: He is Sinful, Not Perfect

Isaiah 64:6: *But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses (the best we can do) are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.* (cp. Romans 3:10, 22b, 23; James 2:10; Ecclesiastes 7:20).

3. God's Provision: The Lord Jesus Christ

Isaiah 53:6: *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him (Jesus Christ) the iniquity of us all.*

I Corinthians 5:21: *For He (the Father) made Him who knew no sin (Christ) to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

I John 2:2: *And He Himself (Christ) is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.* (cp. Romans 6:23; I Peter 3:18).

4. Man's Response: Believe* in Christ

Romans 4:5: *But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.*

Ephesians 2:8, 9: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that (being saved) not of yourselves; it (being saved) is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.* (cp. John 3:18; 3:36; 20:31; Acts 13:38, 39).

* **Note:** To "believe" in or on Christ means to trust Him as you might "believe in" your best friend or your spouse. It is not merely believing certain truths

about Him; it means you are depending upon Him to do what He has promised to do, to give eternal life to those who do believe in Him.

5. God's Guarantee: Eternal Life

I John 5:11-13: *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.* (cp. John 5:24; 6:47; 10:28, 29)

The above is simply the Gospel presented in such a way that if you commit these **five major points** to memory, with a verse or two under each point, you will never lack being able to explain the way of salvation to others.

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing

Virtually every time you witness the real issue will be: *Are we saved by grace or by works?* Some feel that "although works cannot save by themselves, good works certainly do help." When it comes to salvation, however, works cannot save, and by inserting good works into the salvation formula the true Biblical Gospel is so corrupted it becomes a false gospel that does not save.

Consider just three key passages:

Ephesians 2:8,9: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

Romans 4:5: *But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies (declares righteous) the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.*

Romans 11:6: *And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.*

MARK IT DOWN. NEVER FORGET IT:

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. It is never by works, nor can one achieve it by a combination of grace and works. **This is the heart of the true Gospel.** You will not be effective in winning others if you pollute the Gospel of grace by the addition of man's good deeds. Good works are planned

by God for those who are His children AFTER they are in His family by faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:10:** *For we (believers) are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for (not **by** or **because of**) good works, which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* God always calls for good works after one has salvation, *never* as a means of achieving it.

Give the Message Clearly

By *clearly* I mean *using Bible words and phrases with Bible definitions*—refusing to add to God’s Word things that simply are not there.

Jeremiah 23:28, 29: *The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; and he who has My word, let him **speak My word faithfully**. What is the chaff to the wheat, says the LORD. Is not My word like a fire? says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?(cp. Isaiah 8:19, 20; II Corinthians 3:12).*

Be Simple

By *simple* I mean that as you express the clear Gospel of God’s grace you do it *in words that anyone may understand*. You may be Biblically clear in your doctrine, yet not be simple; and you may be simple (easily understood), yet fail to be Scripturally clear. **First Corinthians 14:8,9:** *For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle? So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue **words easy to understand**, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.* (cp. I Cor. 2:1-5; II Cor. 11:3).

Be Loving, Yet Give the Gospel with Boldness

Ephesians 4:15: *Speaking the truth in love, [you] may grow up in all things into Him who is the Head -- Christ.*

Romans 1:16: *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (compare II Corinthians 5:14; Acts 1:8; 4:13, 29; Colossians 4:5, 6).*

Be Faithful (Consistent) in Sharing Christ

I Corinthians 4:2: *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.* (cp. Ecclesiastes 11:1, 4, 6; Luke 16:10; I Thessalonians 2:4).

Know the Gospel Thoroughly

I Peter 3:15: *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready** to give a defense to everyone who asks*

you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear. (cp. I Corinthians 15:1-4; II Timothy 2:15, 23-26).

Make Sure Your Life Enhances the Gospel

Philippians 2:27: *Only let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.* (cp. Romans 12:1, 2; Ephesians 2:10; I Corinthians 6:19, 20; I Thessalonians 2:1-13; 4:1-8).

Use the Bible When You Witness

Romans 10:17: *So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God**.* (cp. Luke 24:27, 32, 44, 45; Matthew 24:35; Acts 17:2-4; II Timothy 3:16, 17; Hebrews 4:12).

Depend Upon the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8: *But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* (cp. John 15:26, 27; 16:7-11, 13, 14; Acts 4:8, 31; 13:9ff; Galatians 5:16, 22-26; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18).

Be Prayerful—Before, During and After You Witness to Someone

John 15:7: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.* (cp. Romans 10:1; I Timothy 2:1-4; I John 5:14, 15).

Memorize Scripture Relating to Salvation, Assurance and Beginning the Christian Life

Psalms 119:11: *Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You* (cp. Psalm 1:1-3; 119:89; 105; Hebrews 4:12).

He who converts a soul draws water from a fountain, but he who trains a "soul winner" digs a well from which thousands may drink to eternal life.

-Charles H. Spurgeon-

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