

CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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A Creative Way to Share Your Testimony

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What is the best method to initiate a spiritual conversation with the unsaved?

- a. Give them a gospel tract.
- b. Share your personal salvation testimony.
- c. Discuss important verses about sin and Christ.
- d. Tell how much you gave to your church last year.

Did you do a double take on the final option? Most people would. You may be thinking, “Tract? Yes! Testimony? Yes! Bible verses? Yes! But what in the world does my giving have to do with my Christian testimony?” I’m glad you asked!

Many people believe that finances are simply a way to fund ministry. Not true. Finances are a way to worship God. Listen to the Apostle Paul correct the thinking of the Corinthian church.

“For the ministry of this service (giving) is not only fully supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing through many thanksgivings to God. Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all” (2 Cor 9:12-13, NASB).

When we give, God is thanked. When we give, God is glorified. When we give, we confess the gospel of Christ.

You may say, “I would willingly share a tract, my testimony, or some Bible verses with someone. But my giving...that’s different. That’s personal!” Yes, it is. And that is why it must be shared. In a society that loves possessions, what makes Christians distinctive? You guessed it – not loving possessions. In a society that takes, Christians should be givers. In a society

that focuses on earthly kingdoms, Christians should be well known for focusing on the heavenly kingdom.

Do the unsaved really want to be won to a religion that cannot bring about life change? I did not grow up in the church and had a radical conversion to Christ. From personal experience, I can tell you that the unsaved are looking for transparency and authenticity. Martin Luther once said, “It is easier for God to rescue a man’s soul from hell, than to rescue his hand from his wallet.” The average Christian gives 2.5% annually to the Lord’s work. Your stewardship may be speaking louder than your words.

You may say, “But stewardship principles can’t save someone. Only accepting Jesus as your Savior can do that. That’s why I share tracts, my testimony, and verses.” I agree. We must preach Christ. We must share Scripture with people and tell them of our personal spiritual journey.

But on a human level, are non-Christians unaware of who the born-again Christians are around them or are they unimpressed with us? That is a stinging question to ponder. Does our stewardship invite them to Christ (because it is distinctively God-centered) or keep them away (because we believe in a religion that does not change our lives)?

Live your stewardship, and let others know you are doing so. For starters, increase your giving and decrease your debt. God will be glorified, and you will show others that Jesus Christ changes lives.

BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: bbcfoundation.org; e-mail: info@bbcfoundation.org