

**Prepared to Give an Answer  
December 29-30, 2012**

- I. "Unbroken": The Louis Zamperini Story  
**RELATIONSHIP + PRAYER + GOD'S TRUTH + HOLY SPIRIT =  
DRAWS PEOPLE TO FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**
- II. The Status of Faith in America
  - A. Pew Research Results
  - B. Current Perspectives on Christians and Church
    - 87 percent believe the church is judgmental
    - 85 percent believe the church is hypocritical
    - 86 percent believe Christianity is phony and unreal.
  - C. Most will never darken the door of a church on their own
  - D. That leaves.....you and me
- III. Ambassador Who?  
Ambassadors of Reconciliation (Our job description)  
All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." II Cor. 5:18-21 (ESV)
- IV. Where the Wheels Come Off
  - A. Misconceptions about what Evangelism looks like  
"One beggar telling another beggar where to find a crust of bread"  
Pastor Emerson Eggerichs
  - B. Fear, Guilt and Doubt in Our Own Ability (Matt. 10:19-20; Eph. 3:20)
  - C. Not Formulas, but Relationships  
"More people have been brought into the church by the kindness of real Christian love than by all the theological arguments in the world."  
Theologian William Barclay
  - D. Grace Before Truth
  - E. Not a One-Time Event, But a Journey  
I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.  
I Cor. 3:6
  - F. Need for Prayer and Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's Work Around Us
    - God is always at work around us.
    - God invites us to become involved with Him in His work.  
Henry Blackaby: Two of the Seven Realities of Experiencing God
  - G. Crisis as an Opportunity to Minister Truth and Love (II Cor. 1:3-5)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

"In our postmodern Christian society the most important evangelistic skill is listening." People used to listen their way into the Kingdom. Today, people are more apt to observe and talk their way into it."

Todd Hunter

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.  
II Chronicles 16:9

- V. Being Prepared to Give an Answer
  - A. Always Prepared  
But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. I Peter 3:15-16
  - B. Guard Your Testimony: Walk the Talk (Col. 1:9-10)  
"Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." Phil. 1:27
  - C. The Power of God's Word in Your Heart
  - D. Pray Out Ahead (John 6:44; II Cor. 10:3-5)  
"Your prayers will never do anything except release God's power for God's purposes. On the other hand, your prayers will always release God's power for God's purposes."  
Jennifer Kennedy  
Dean, Live a Praying Life  
No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws Him.  
John 6:44
  - E. Spiritual Warfare  
For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ. II Cor. 10:3-5
  - F. Be Alert and Prepared for Small Opportunities
- VI. Crossing the Bridge: How to Lead Someone to Faith in Jesus Christ

### **Prayer is the Game-Changer**

"I feel like prayer is the difference between the best you can do and the best God can do. So if we're not praying, then the best we can do is the best we can do, and that's not good enough. When we get on our knees, the Holy Spirit does the heavy lifting. Prayer creates the culture and gives people a heart for evangelism, because when you get into God's presence, you start to get His heartbeat. If you want God to do something new, you can't keep doing the same old thing. You have to do something different, and I think prayer is the difference between you fighting for God and God fighting for you." Mark Batterson, *When the Church Stops Praying*

### **Not-Yet-Christians are NOT the Enemy**

"We need to remember that not-yet-Christians are not the enemy; they're victims of the enemy. We are called to move into culture with compassion and check our "onward, Christian soldiers" mind-sets at the door." Doug Pollock, *God Space*, p. 32

### **Truth + Relationship = The Whole Gospel**

"Our first-century forbears would be unsatisfied with both modernism, which exalts truth but minimizes relationships, and postmodernism, which minimizes truth and exalts relationships. Truth without relationships is modernism. Relationships without truth is postmodernism. The world we live in—the great host of people all around us—is desperate for truth that is firmly grasped, grounded, and communicated in the context of relationships. [The whole gospel is] truth in the context of relationship."

Josh McDowell, "A Fresh Apologetic: Relationships That Transform," in *Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God*, by Sean McDowell

### **Following Through With the Whole Gospel**

"If our good deeds create a road for our good news to travel, let's finish the trip. The church's purpose isn't to train up experts in social work. As bad as they are, poverty, injustice, world hunger, and poor health are not life's biggest issues. Where one spends eternity is! This is why we must bring the whole gospel to the whole person." Doug Pollock, *God Space*, p. 48

### **The Power of God's Word**

"There is no substitute for God's Word. When we get people into the Bible, something supernatural happens. One penetrating Scripture that connects with a heart can be worth more than a lifetime of sermons."

Doug Pollock, *God Space*, p. 91

### **Recommended Reading**

*Unbroken: A WWII Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption*, by Laura Hillenbrand

*God Space: Where Spiritual Conversations Happen Naturally*, by Doug Pollock

*Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels

*Evangelism: How to Share the Gospel Faithfully*, by John MacArthur

*On Guard: Defending Your Faith With Reason and Precision*, by William Lane Craig

*Live A Praying Life: Open Your Life to God's Power and Provision*, by Jennifer Kennedy Dean

*Apologetics for a New Generation: A Biblical and Culturally Relevant Approach to Talking About God*, by Sean McDowell

*The Fight: A Practical Handbook for Christian Living*, by John White

*UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity and Why It Matters*, by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons

*You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith*, by David Kinnaman

*Power Evangelism*, by John Wimber

*The Normal Christian Life*, by Watchman Lee

*More Ready Than You Realize*, by Brian McLaren

*Multiply: Disciples Making Disciples*, by Francis Chan

*A New Kind of Christian: Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey*, Brian McLaren

*Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids*, by Dr. Kara Powell and Dr. Chap Clark

*The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Dr. Francis S. Collins

[www.allaboutgod.com](http://www.allaboutgod.com) Answers to commonly asked questions by not-yet-believers