

## Sharing the Roman Road to Salvation

### 1. Introduction

A. **Salvation is not a religion** through which we continually reach up to find God. Salvation is a relationship where God reached down to man through His Son Jesus Christ. Thousands of years ago God created man in His image so that man might know, love, and worship Him. It is in that love relationship of knowing Him that God intended (and still intends) to bless man and empower him to experience the purpose for which he was created. You might call it reaching your maximum potential. However, it can only happen within the context of a salvation relationship with our creator God and Heavenly Father. That means that knowing and experiencing God's love and presence is THE MOST IMPORTANT factor in any person's life, both now and eternally.

B. The Apostle Paul asked this question in Romans 10:14, 15, & 17, ***"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And, how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching (proclaiming, speaking forth the truth)? And, how are they to preach (speak forth) unless they are sent? As it is written, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who preach (speak forth) the Good News.' . . . So faith comes by hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."*** - ESV

When lost people hear the Word of God proclaimed, He uses the Word to work in their hearts to produce conviction and repentance, so they will put their faith in Jesus for forgiveness and salvation.

C. God has given us some powerful tools that He works through when we use them to share our faith. Remember it is God who does the "saving." We are only the "tellers of the Good News. When we use these tools in sharing our faith, we can know that we are always in the center of God's will and can expect His blessing.

### 2. Essential Tools for Sharing My Faith

#### A. The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 speaks to the power of the Word of God in witnessing. ***"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*** - ESV

## B. The Holy Spirit

- 1) Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's role in helping the believer when He said, ***"I tell you the truth: it is for your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. And, when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."*** -John 16:7-8, ESV (See also John 15:26, 16:13).

What does this verse say to you? What is your role in witnessing? What is the Holy Spirit's function? What does He do?

- 2) Our responsibility as followers of Jesus is to faithfully tell the Gospel story. It is the Holy Spirit's role to convict people of their sin and their need for forgiveness and salvation.

It is the Holy Spirit Who give life to lost people. Our fleshly efforts can accomplish nothing unless the Holy Spirit takes our efforts and blesses them by His power. We simply and faithfully share the Word, and the Holy Spirit does the work. The Apostle John said it this way, ***"It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh is no help at all. . ."*** – John 6:63, ESV (See also John 6:44).

## C. Prayer

Two important verses tell us how important prayer is to the sharing of your faith. In both cases Jesus is speaking to us.

- 1) First is **John 14:12-14**, ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."*** – ESV

What is Jesus saying to you in these verses? What work did Jesus do? How will we do greater works than He did? ***"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*** – Luke 19:10, ESV

- 2) The second verse is **John 15:7**, ***"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit. . ."*** – ESV

Jesus' heart burns with passion to use you to share His Good news and win the lost to Him. He promises that as you pray for the lost,

walk with Him, and faithfully tell your faith story, He will use you to bear much fruit.

#### D. Your Personal Story of Faith

- 1) Your personal relationship and continual fellowship with Jesus is the key to everything important in your life. It is through this continual “abiding in Christ” that you experience the abundant life of God’s presence and spiritual blessings. Your personal story is real and powerful. And, people will relate to it because you share similar experiences with them. Tell them what God has done for you! God will take your words and bless them.
- 2) Jesus said in *John 15:5, 8*, **“I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. . . By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”** - ESV

What does it mean to abide in Christ? What happens when we abide in Christ according to John 15?

- 3) Whenever you have an opportunity shares your personal story of faith. Use your story as a way to initiate spiritual conversations with others. **“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”** I Peter 3:15, ESV

### 3. Using the Roman Road in Sharing Your Faith

- A. **The Roman Road method of sharing the Gospel** uses verses in the book of Romans. When Paul wrote Romans under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, one of God’s purposes was to provide a clear and thorough presentation of His plan of salvation. The use of some key verses on salvation from Romans is a very effective way to share what the Bible (and God) says about salvation.

Most Roman Road presentations suggest that you mark key pages and verses of a New Testament in the book of Romans. You can then simply open your New Testament to the first scripture passage. You would ask a person to read the passage and ask them what they think it says. You would then explain and/or expand on what the verse means. After you do that, you would turn to the next underlined or highlighted verse as marked on the page of your New Testament and repeat your previous

action. This is a simple but very effective way of sharing the plan of salvation because it uses the words of the Bible to present the gospel truth and everything is written down for you.

Different *Roman Road* presentations use different scripture passages. The presentation that follows is one of several effective outlines.

**B. Marking the Roman Road Map to Salvation in your Bible**

The following verses should be underlined or highlighted in your New Testament. In addition to underlining the verse, you should make a notation of the page number corresponding to the next verse that you will share. Please note the example below using the page numbers of my ESV Bible.

- 1) **Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”** On the top margin write: *“God’s power can make us secure and give us hope.”* (Write your next page number on the current page.)
- 2) **Romans 3:10, “There is none righteous, no, not one.”** Ask them what God is saying in the verse. Explain the verse to them. (Write your next page number on the current page.)
- 3) **Romans 3:23 “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** On the top margin write: *Sin makes change necessary.* Ask them what God is saying in the verse. Explain the verse to them. (Write your next page number on the current page.)
- 4) **Romans 5:8, “but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** On the top margin write: *“God still loves us.”* Ask them what God is saying in the verse. Explain the verse to them. (Write your next page number on the current page.)
- 5) **Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** On the top margin write: *“Sin earns death, but God gives life.”* Ask them what God is saying in the verse. Explain the verse to them. (Write your next page number on the current page.)

- 6) **Romans 10:9-10, 13, “because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. . . For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”** On the top margin write: “Confess, repent, believe, call.” At the bottom of your NT page write: “Turn to back page.” Then, on the top of the back page write: “A Prayer of Salvation.” Then copy this prayer:

*“Dear God, I know that Jesus is Your Son and that He died and was raised from the dead. Because I have sinned and need forgiveness, I ask Jesus to save me. I am willing to change the direction of my life by turning from sin and self, and turning to trust Jesus and my Savior and Lord. Thank you for giving me forgiveness, eternal life, and hope. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”*

At the bottom of the page write: See Romans 8:16-17, 38-39.

- 7) **Romans 8:16-17, 38-39, “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God’s, and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** In the top margin write: “We now have hope.” (These verses are verses of assurance of salvation and eternal life. Once we become God’s child, we will always be His because of His power).

### C. **Making the Roman Road Presentation**

Once you have marked your New Testament, you are ready to use it to share the gospel with those God has put in your life. Below is a suggested outline of how the presentation might be made.

- 1) Share your personal story of faith as you have the opportunity. The opportunity may come when a person is sharing a personal problem, family difficulties, work related issues, financial problems, etc. Be looking for ways that you can say, “I can relate to you. Let me tell you about . . .” Making your personal story of faith relate to others is easy and effective, especially if you have

prayed and ask God to prepare your heart and mind and give you opportunities.

- 2) Ask questions like:
  - “If you were to die today do you know for certain that you would spend eternity in heaven with God”?
  - “If you were to stand before God and He asked you, ‘why should I let you into My heaven, what do you think you would say”?
  - “In your personal opinion, what do you understand it takes for a person to go to heaven”?
  - Then, make the statement, I’d like to share with you what the Bible says about salvation and eternity if that’s ok.”
  - 
  - Or ask the question, “Would you like to know what God says about how you can have your sins forgiven and be assured of eternal life in Heaven?”
- 3) Begin your Roman Road presentation using your marked New Testament. Proceed through each point, asking the person to read each verse and then asking them, “What is God saying to you in these verses in the Bible?” If they are not sure, ask them to read the verse again and then ask them the same question over again. We are trying to get them to discover for themselves what God says in His Word about sin, Jesus, forgiveness of sin, repentance, salvation, and eternal life. So, let them read each verse and tell you what it says.
- 4) When you reach point # 6) and after they read the verse and they explain what God is saying, be sure to explain clearly that trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord means that we are not just sorry for our sins but that we confess Jesus as our only Savior and Lord, repent or turn from sin and ourselves to trust Jesus and live for Him only, believe that God raised Him from the dead, and then call on Him, in prayer to save us.

**Romans 10:9-10, 13, “because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is**

***saved. . . For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."***

- 5) Ask this question: *"Understanding everything that these verses have said about salvation and eternal life, would you like to put your faith in Jesus to be your Lord and Savior"*? If the person says "yes" turn to the back page of your New Testament and lead them in the sinner's prayer you have copied there. Once you led them in the prayer, turn to Romans 8 as you have noted at the bottom of your page. These verses give assurance of salvation for the new believer.
- 6) If the person says "no" to the question,
  - Ask them if they have any questions about the verses you have read together. Deal with them as necessary.
  - Tell them that you are available to talk with them in the future if they wish to talk.
  - Pray with them before you leave them.
- 7) Lastly, Read **Romans 12:1-2** to them. ***"I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will."***

Explain that God wants them to live for Him now so that they can experience the abundant life that He has planned for them. That happens when we give Jesus control and obey Him and His Word. Encourage and invite them to attend church and get involved in a Bible-believing church, profess Jesus Christ publically and follow Him in believer's baptism.