

What is Friendship Evangelism?

Description: Using her insight as a Pastor, Anne Christiansen shares her journey of overcoming fear and learning to see everyone in her path as one who is in need of Jesus. Her rich, yet practical advice will help you overcome any personal obstacle that seeks to hold you back. Jesus wants you to follow Him and be a fisher of men. He doesn't leave you alone in the process. He will help you every step of the way.

Meet the Evangelist: <https://healing-ministries.org/people/anne-christiansen/> Anne Christiansen and her husband Stephan are the senior pastors of the Jesus Church in Oslo, Norway. They are the founders of the evangelization movement Jesus Revolution.

Key Scriptures: 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 10:9-14; John 1:12; John 4; Mark 16:5; Mark 16:20

Key Points:

- We know that God has the desire to reach all men. That means every single person I meet; God desires to save.
- As believers, all of us can pray. Maybe, at first, we are not comfortable with sharing the Gospel with everyone. But as we make up our minds and pray, "Lord take me into personal evangelism. I want to walk in that personal evangelism that was upon You. I want it in my life," He will answer that prayer.
- When we move into personal evangelism—friendship evangelism—we don't walk alone. We walk with the Holy Spirit.
- What did Jesus say? He said, "Follow me and I will make you what fishers of men." My job is to follow Him. But if I do that, He will make me a fisher of men. I will find myself starting to be interested in people, listen to people, listen to their stories, get comfortable with people around me because Jesus is in action in my life.
- Personal evangelism is actually the ministry of every believer. This is what all of us can do every single day of our lives.

Notes:

To overcome the fear of man—of sharing your faith—start praying for everyone you know. The love of God will begin to change you. You will become more aware of people who need Jesus instead of your own fears and concerns.

Once you begin to pray for everyone you know, then begin to thank God for them. God will work in you the ability to see them as He sees them.

The next step is befriending people who are not naturally in your circle of friends, people in your neighborhood, in your family, amongst your relatives.

The question to ask when we talk about friendship evangelism is, "How many people does that include?" It includes everyone you encounter.

Jesus was fully human. He was fully God. He became thirsty. He became tired. We see that in John chapter four. As Jesus rested, He started a conversation with a woman at the well in a very personal way.

That's the challenge for you and I. Jesus didn't have a long standing friendship with this woman. He had just met her. But that was enough.

We need all kinds of evangelism. We need the Gospel to go forth and experience the power of God in operation in a mass crusade. But we need the Holy Spirit in just the same way when we go out to do friendship evangelism.

If you tend to be fearful, tell yourself that you are stepping out of that fear. Determine that you are not going to be quiet and will not be held back. It all starts with prayer, but it's followed by obedience. God blesses obedience.

Only one time in the Bible is there an example of doing evangelism without using words. That is when a believer is married to an unbeliever. Yes, people need to see our good deeds, but our lives should be backed up by our words.

Romans 10:14 (NKJV) says, “...*And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard and how shall they hear without a preacher.*” God needs preachers. Do you volunteer? You have already volunteered if you say I'm going to follow you Jesus. He will make us fishers of men. You are one of the preachers on the earth today. Whether you use your screen, talk to your neighbor, or befriend your fellow student.

Listen friends, we have to ask people, “Do you want to receive Jesus?” Don't assume they will let you know when they are ready. And when they are ready to receive Jesus, we need to know how to lead them to Him.

Mark 16:20 says that the disciples preached Jesus everywhere they went—and the Lord worked through them. This is the same for us. Share Jesus everywhere you go, and the Holy Spirit will give you all the help you need.

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