

The Greatest Gift

I have lived through many evangelistic fads:

- Tract Era
- Televangelist Era
- Bus Ministry Era
- The 4 Spiritual Laws Era

Jesus had some things to say about evangelism:

"(v.7) It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (v.8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:7-8

The Scripture informs us

- ✓ God alone is the ***time***--keeper of history. (v.7)
Listen to no one else!
- ✓ Christ followers will receive ***power*** when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. (v.8)
I am completely convinced THAT the absolute highest value in personal evangelism is staying tuned to and cooperative with the Holy Spirit. That is the most important element in sharing our faith. Let the Holy Spirit lead!
- ✓ And we shall ***all*** be Christ's witnesses from Jerusalem to the every part of the earth. (v.8)
- ✓ Jesus puts it in unmistakable language= "You will be ***my*** witnesses in" (v.8b)
We are Christ's witnesses not fbc's's,
nor any staff member's,
not any denominational leader's,
not anybody's witness—save Christ's!

Why?

Because only Jesus is the Savior of all humanity.
Only Jesus gave the greatest gift.

A metaphorical walk.

-The highest and finest work of personal evangelism began
with a walk across a "room"—a gigantic room.

It's the walk Jesus took.

"Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.
He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself
that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter
what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges
of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having
become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process.
He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient
life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death
at that: a crucifixion."

Philippians 2:6-8

(The Message)

He walked across the universe for you and me and every single human being!

Christ left the marvelous fellowship of the Trinity.

He walked away from the worship and adoration of the angels.

He walked across the universe in order to stretch out a hand
to people like you and me—many of whom were right in the middle of
wrecking their lives. He stepped across time and space to rescue us.

Jesus took a big step to die for rebellious and sin-scarred people
and declared amnesty for *everyone!*

Walk across the room

Reach out

Share the gift of Christ.

"Walk across the Room" #2

4.26.09; RJB