

PART EIGHT - SHARING FAITH THE FAITH IN A CHANGED WORLD

The new-normal, or now-normal, the post-pandemic world – we, the people of Jesus Christ, have unprecedented opportunity to reach a uniquely scared, scarred, and traumatized world.

The Great Commission to take the reality of the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus and God's love, to all people in all places has never been more important.

The non-faith people around us, our co-workers, neighbors, friends, tennis buddies, felt the same fear and uncertainty we felt, experienced similar trauma to us, but they did not have a community of faith to lean on, nor did they have the spirit of God giving them strength, and all the power, position and money in the world could not make the pandemic go away. These people just might be open to the Good News.

But, the Good News needs to be, well, good – or it will not be welcome news. Call it witnessing, or sharing our faith, or evangelism – and also call it a major fail for the church historically.

Think back to how many of us were taught to witness: Roman Road; 4 Spiritual Laws; Evangelism Explosion; W.I.N. – each featured two pre-dominant words: Sin and Hell, or eternal separation from God.

I was taught to knock on a door – or say to a person on a plane: “Sir, Mam, if you died tonight would you go to heaven or hell? Are you ready to confess your sins and be washed in the blood of the Lamb?”

Think about it? Death, like “dying tonight” death, sin, sinner, eternal damnation, dead, bloody lambs... I am certain we can frame the Good News in more positive ways. Jesus did. And can we be effective by making people feel even worse about themselves than they already feel?

What if evangelism was overtly positive?

What if our faith-sharing built people up and majored on hope?

What if we skipped the eternal part and focused on being loved by God in the here and now?

What if we love people into a relationship with God rather than scaring them?

We, you, and me, us, we could change the world, so let us discuss it.