

Foundations in Witnessing

The Psalmist writes, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”¹ This is especially true when witnessing to a lost world. Without the foundational truths of the Old Testament, the gospel will make no sense to them.

There are three essential foundations in the Old Testament. The first is creation. Creation reveals to every man that there is an awesome Creator. Without a Creator man is not accountable – he can do what he wants. However, our awe-inspiring creation testifies to every person that there is a wise and powerful Creator.

The second foundation is conscience. God has given every man a moral compass to know right versus wrong. Our conscience reveals that our Creator is a moral being. It also convicts us of sin and reveals our need for a Savior. God has given every man creation and conscience as evidence to His existence, power, and righteous character. As well, creation and conscience also reveal our complete dependence upon the Creator.

The third foundation is prophecy. If we respond to the light of creation and conscience, then it is prophecy that points us to God’s solution. Biblical prophecies prove that Jesus alone is the Creator and Savior.

Let’s now highlight simple, biblical ways to use these essential facts when witnessing.

Creation Evangelism

The famous 19th Psalm reminds us that: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.”²

From this verse we understand that every man has seen the glory of God through His visible creation. Here is a simple way to start a discussion using this truth. Point out any building and ask, “Do you believe that this building had a builder? When they agree, ask “Do you know the builder personally, have you ever met him or seen him?” When they respond “No” ask, “How do you know that it was built?” Of course the building is evidence of the builder. Then point out the complexity of the DNA molecule, or the intricacy of our vision system, or the integration of our biological systems. No human design compares to God’s handiwork. Then ask, “Would you agree that this amazing creation is evidence of Creator?”

I’ve begun a conversation using this approach many times. It causes people to think and leads to life changing conversations. One warning though, don’t get bogged down in arguments, simply have good creation resources on hand to support your words. Turning their attention to our awesome Creator is only the first step. Now let’s look at the most essential step when witnessing.

¹ Psalm 11:3; See also: Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:29-31 and 24:44; John 1:45 and 5:39-47; Acts 24:14 and 28:23; Romans 3:21

² Psalm 19:1-3

Conscience – Cutting the Heart

We are told in the Bible that after Adam and Eve sinned they knew both good and evil.³ They and their descendants now had an inward knowledge of right versus wrong. The Bible calls this – *conscience*, and explains that every person shows the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness.⁴

Conscience is a moral compass that God has given to every person. Here is a simple way to use conscience when witnessing. Ask someone “Do you consider yourself a good person?” The Bible tells us: “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,”⁵ so they usually say yes. Then ask if you can review a few of the Ten Commandments to determine their goodness. Ask them, “Have you ever told a lie – even a small one? Have you ever been greedy even once? Have you ever taken you’re Creator’s name in vain? Have you always put God and His Word first?” Once they confess to breaking God’s law, ask if they think God will let Liars, Covetors, Blasphemers, or Idolaters into heaven. Though they will be uncomfortable and may make excuses, this is critical. Only a person who knows he is hopelessly lost will seek the Savior.

We have produced a video called *The Good Test* that uses this approach. Watch it free on our website to get the idea, and then find a sinner a give it a try. The Ten Commandments are foundational, convicting, and lead to the Savior.⁶

The Law is Crucial

When I was first saved, I immersed myself in apologetics. The evidence for the Bible’s inspiration was irrefutable. So I figured that if I could prove that the Bible was God’s Word, thinking people would have to accept Christ. The irony is that it was not Biblical evidence that caused me to repent. Rather, it was the Holy Spirit’s conviction of my sin, and fear of the coming judgment.

Perhaps this example will clarify this biblical truth: Let’s say I’m on a plane that will soon crash. I know all about the law of gravity and its deadly consequences, but the man next to me knows nothing of gravity. If I try to reason with him to put on a parachute without first explaining gravity, he will think I’m insane. However, if I show him the deadly effects of violating the law of gravity, and then prove the plane is going to crash, he will strap on the parachute – eternally grateful. The same holds true when witnessing. We must first explain the requirements of God’s law, then explain the penalty for violating it, and then share the gospel. For example: Explain that lust is adultery, hatred is murder, and selfishness is idolatry. Then warn that those who break God’s commandments will end up in hell.

Sinners will tremble, their excuses will stop, and by God’s grace they will put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh. Remember it is conviction that causes conversion.

³ Genesis 3:22

⁴ Romans 2:15

⁵ Proverbs 21:2

⁶ Galatians 3:24

Prophecy Evangelism

Prophecy is another biblical foundation. Creation reveals our accountability to a powerful Creator. Conscience and the law reveal that the Creator is righteous and convicts us of our sin. And prophecy points us to the solution.

Jesus said “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”⁷ In the Book of Hebrews the eternal Son of God proclaims, “Behold, I have come – In the volume of the book it is written of Me – To do Your will, O God”⁸ And Revelation 19:10 states that “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Therefore the entire Bible – both the Old Testament prophecies anticipating the coming Messiah, and the New Testament prophecies pointing to His return – testify that Jesus alone is the Redeemer. The Bible is the only book that gives hundreds of specific prophecies which direct us to the Savior of the world. When witnessing, it is good to know a few powerful Messianic prophecies by heart. It is also helpful to keep on hand materials which establish Jesus as the Christ.

Bible prophecy will give the honest skeptic irrefutable proof to the Bible’s inspiration and establish the Messiah’s identity. Prophecy sets God’s Word apart from all other literature. No other book dares to establish its veracity by telling the future in advance. And no other book anticipates the life of a single person hundreds of years before His birth.

Here is any easy way to use prophecy when sharing the gospel. Once a person is convicted of their sin, explain that the Bible anticipated in advance our need for a Savior way back in Genesis.⁹ In fact, Jesus fulfilled dozens of specific biblical prophecies written centuries before His birth.

For example, Micah 5:2 specifies that the Messiah would be born in the little town of Bethlehem. Micah penned this prophecy 700 years before Christ was born. Now how do you get yourself born in the tiny town of Bethlehem unless you are God? Furthermore, Daniel 9:25 is a numerical prophecy that foretells the exact date that Jesus would present Himself as the Messiah.¹⁰ And Daniel 9:26 tells us that the Messiah would be killed prior to the city and the sanctuary being destroyed. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed in 70 A.D., which means the Messiah would have had to be born and die prior to 70 A.D. Finally, Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 give us graphic descriptions of the Messiah’s suffering and crucifixion centuries before Jesus was even born.

So by memorizing even a few prophecies and offering support resources, you can provide convincing evidence that confirms the Bible.

⁷ John 5:39

⁸ Hebrews 10:7

⁹ Genesis 3:15; Genesis 22:8; Genesis 22:18; Genesis 26:4; Genesis 49:10; etc.

¹⁰ Refer to Chuck Missler’s *Daniel’s 70 Weeks* from K-Kouse or Sir Robert Anderson’s book *The Coming Prince*.