

Jesus called out, “Come follow me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men.” (Matthew 4:19, LB)

- Following and _____ go together!
- We are to be _____, not salesmen.
- We are to be _____, not hunters.

HUNTING	FISHING
Aggressive	More gentle
Based on confrontation	Based on attraction
Go out there and shoot them	Get them to nibble on the bait
Uses one-size-fits-all bullets	Allows you to try different lures
Take your best shot – it’s over	Requires give and take to reel it in
Scares animal away if you miss	You get more than one chance
The animal has no choice	The fish gets a choice
Must be a skilled shot	Anyone can put bait in water

THREE KEYS TO SPIRITUAL FISHING

1. Identify your _____.

MY FISHING POND		
ACTS 1:8	MY CHURCH	MYSELF
Jerusalem		
Judea		
Samaria		
The World		

2. Learn about the _____ of fish in your pond.
 3. Remember fish get _____ at different times.
- **It is impossible to build an Apostolic church without _____ – that’s why God saved you!**

I Will Build My Church



First United Pentecostal Church
PART 3 – JUNE 20, 2001

Matthew 16:18-19 (KJV) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.



PRINCIPLE # 6: _____

Acts 3:6 (NLT) But Peter said, “I don’t have any money for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!”

Acts 4:13 (NLT) The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men who had had no special training. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

1. Peter and John are already in the habit of _____ and _____, setting the stage for everything that follows.
2. The lame man expects to receive help with his _____ need before he even thinks about his _____ need.
3. Peter and John are willing to give _____.
4. God’s miraculous work in one man’s life affects _____.
5. Peter uses the opportunity to _____.
6. Jesus didn’t do anything for the crippled man until _____ reached out to him!
7. This encounter coupled with prayer brings more _____ to witness.

- **A PERSONAL TESTIMONY IS STILL THE MOST _____ MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!**

FOUR PARTS OF MY TESTIMONY

1. **What my life was like _____ I met Christ.**
2. **How I realized I _____ Christ.**
3. **How I _____ my life to Christ.**
4. **The _____ Christ has made in my life.**

- If you became a Christian AS AN ADULT, use the four basic steps to compose your testimony.
- If you became a Christian AT AN EARLY AGE BUT WALKED AWAY, use the same four steps but start with the time just prior to your recommitment.
- If you became a Christian AT AN EARLY AGE AND NEVER STRAYED, use the same four steps but point out some deep need or common problem that others struggle with, and explain why you never had to experience it.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREPARING

- Pray and ask God to give you the right words.
- Keep it short and to the point. Avoid excessive, unnecessary details.
- Refer to experiences most people have in common.
- Don't imply that all of your problems ended at conversion.
- Spend the most time on the difference Christ has made in your life.
- Emphasize **WHY** you received Christ (the benefits of doing it).
- Mention the benefit of being certain of your destiny when you die.
- Don't exaggerate or brag about pre-conversion sins.
- Don't make negative remarks about other religions or people.
- Don't quote a lot of Scripture (a maximum of one or two verses).
- Don't answer questions they haven't asked.
- The more specific you are, the more dynamic it will be.
- Avoid using dates, names and ages. It doesn't matter to them.
- Speak casually and informally, in a matter-of-fact tone.
- Don't dramatize or embellish your story.
- Don't share mystical experiences. Share on **THEIR** level, not yours.
- Don't talk down to people. Don't sound "preachy."
- Use humor – it reduces tension and relaxes people. Smile!
- Choose a central theme for your testimony.

POSSIBLE TESTIMONY THEMES

<u>HOW JESUS HAS HELPED ME DEAL WITH</u>	<u>HOW TRUSTING JESUS HAS GIVEN ME</u>
Worries / Anxiety	Inner peace
Guilt / Shame	Forgiveness and a fresh start
Anger / Temper	Patience and love
Emptiness / Lack of purpose	Purpose and meaning in life
Grief	Comfort and joy
Stress / Burnout	New energy and power for living
Low self-esteem	Significance (I'm valuable to God!)
Poor health	Healing or strength to go on
Disappointment	Trust in God's good plans
Insecurity	Confidence and sense of security
Regrets	A second chance at life
Discontent / Frantic activity	Contentment and peace
Fears	Faith to face my fears
Loneliness	Assurance God's always with me
Lack of emotional support	A church family that supports me
Addictions / Habits	Freedom and power to change
Self-centeredness	Love for other people
Despair / Depression	Hope
Cheap thrills	Real and lasting happiness
Boredom with my life	Adventure with God
Fear of death	Assurance of heaven
Feeling something was missing	A sense of fulfillment
Bitterness and resentment	The ability to be free from my past
Pain of rejection	God's unconditional love
Marriage problems	Positive changes in my marriage
Financial problems	Positive changes in my finances
Business problems	Positive changes in my business

- Remember that you have _____ testimony!
- The Bible never tells us to share our **FAITH**, but to share our **HOPE**. Faith is what you _____, while hope is the _____ of what you believe.
Let's share the hope!