

Influencing Others Evangelistically

Ponder: How can I influence others for Christ if I'm not yet equipped to teach?

Scripture: "Now therefore, we are all present before God to hear all the things commanded you by God" (Acts 10:33b, NKJV).

If souls are to be won to Christ, someone must teach them the gospel! "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14). But not every Christian is equipped to teach. No doubt many are perfectly capable of teaching, but offer a multitude of excuses for failing to do so – but that's another subject for another time. What if you truly are not yet equipped to teach? Is there anything else you can do besides setting a good example of Christ-like living? Indeed, there is!

Cornelius needed to hear the gospel and obey it in order to be saved. Even though he was "a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:2), he still was lost. He needed to hear "words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14). Yet, even before Cornelius became a Christian, he influenced others in an evangelistic way! He had sent messengers to bring Peter, and he believed what the holy angel said about Peter coming. Therefore, he "had called together his relatives and close friends" (10:24). These are the ones of whom Cornelius spoke to Peter: "Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God" (10:33b). Who knows just how many people converted to Christ that day because they accepted Cornelius' invitation to hear Peter preach the gospel?

The preacher where you assemble would probably be thrilled to have the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with your friends and relatives. Have you approached them about it? They are far more likely to accept your invitation than to be receptive to a "cold call" from the preacher. If Cornelius could do this before he himself had heard or obeyed the gospel, surely you who are already members of the body of Christ can follow Cornelius' example!