

**PEOPLE IN PROCESS**  
**Why God Came To Earth, Part 1**  
November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The word "evangelism" causes us stress

This causes stress for us and for those we talk to who aren't Christians

We measure success in evangelism by 2 things: 1. Did you share? 2. Did they pray the prayer

Often our methods aren't found in Scripture; in fact, they often contradict what is taught and modeled for us in Scripture

Salvation is an event; evangelism is a process

Many of you are involved in the process of evangelism but may not even know it

Matthew 13:3-11 & Matthew 13:18-23

In the story the sower is the same; the seed is the same; the only difference is the soil where the seed fell

Jesus is teaching it's not the messenger or the message that determines productivity but how prepared the soil is

Evangelism is a process and success hinges on whether the soil (person's heart) has been prepared

The perfect seed (good news of Christ) with the perfect presentation, put in the wrong soil will not bear fruit; the opposite is also true

*Stages A Person Normally Goes Through In The Process Of Becoming A Christian*

1. Awareness of a messenger – meet a Christian
2. Like the messenger
3. Develop an awareness of the Bible's Relevance
4. Develop a positive attitude toward Scripture
5. Hear & begin to understand the gospel, the good news about Christ
6. Recognize a personal need, need what the messenger has & has been talking about

7. Put their faith in Christ, become a Christian

This doesn't mean:

- All we have to do is keep telling people the gospel all the time
- All we have to do is live a good life and others will eventually figure it out

What we must do:

- Become sensitive of where people are in this process, on this continuum
- Make a commitment to help them move to the next step or stage on the continuum

As you hear a person's story, you hear the process of how God brought people in and out of their life at specific times as they progressed in this process

The process of evangelism involves lots of people along the way

When people seem cold to the gospel, don't quit; ask God to help you understand where they are and use you to help get them to the next stage

You are surrounded by people who fall all over this continuum

Remember this process takes time

If you are relating regularly with a non-Christian and doing your best to model Christianity, be encouraged - you are involved in evangelism

You may not be the person who is there when they pray to receive Christ, but you are just as important in this process as the person who is there at that time

One of the greatest ways to demonstrate you care for someone is to show & share Christ

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- God, help me become aware of where the non-Christians You have placed in my life are on the continuum
- God, use me to help move them to the next step or stage on the continuum