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# SIMPLE EVANGELISM IS SAVING EVANGELISM

PSALM 4



Sometimes we make evangelism so complicated that it becomes dauntingly impossible for the ordinary Christian. Recently, a pastor told me that he was excited about a new book on evangelism. He bought it to teach his congregation how to evangelize. A month or so later, he told me the book was so complicated, even he couldn't understand it. It would be better just to study Psalm 4, as it simplifies evangelism for all.

## LEARNING

### EVANGELISM APPEALS TO GOD

**Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!** (1). The first lessons the Psalmist teaches us about evangelism is that it begins with God. God had been working in David, showing him the enormous need of the ungodly, so much so that it distressed him. God gave him a painful concern for the ungodly, God drew him to prayer for the ungodly, and God relieved his distress by sending him out to evangelize the ungodly.

APPEAL TO GOD FOR SINNERS  
THEN APPEAL TO SINNERS FOR GOD.

We start with prayer to God? What then?

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## EVANGELISM APPEALS TO THE UNGODLY

Having appealed to God, David then appeals to sinners, and does so by sharing with them God's perspective on their sin. **"O men, how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?"** (2).

Step one in evangelism is to share God's view of sin. As verse two reminds us, our sin is long, it is shameful, it is empty, it is false, and, above all, it is against God. He comes back to this theme in verse four when he urges them, **"Be angry (lit. 'be agitated'), and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent"** (4). He's hoping that their conviction of sin is so deep that they cannot sleep with anxiety about it.

Step two in evangelism is to encourage with the promises of the Gospel. God promises to answer our prayer (3). God promises to accept those who put their trust in the right sacrifice for sin (5). God promises to bless us with his goodness, by smiling on us, filling our hearts with the greatest joy in life and the deepest peace in death. **"Lift up the light of your face upon us, O Lord! You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety"** (6-8). Evangelism is so simple. Two simple steps. Sin and salvation! Sin and salvation! Sin and salvation!

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LOVING

One of the great blessings of evangelism is that it reminds the Christian of the Gospel and helps us to believe it all over again. We praise God that he sent prayerful evangelists into our lives, men and women who appealed to God for our souls and then appealed to us for our souls. They bravely pointed out our sins, lovingly pointed us to faith in Christ's sacrifice, and we entered into a life worth living and a death worth dying. Praise God for the Evangel and for Evangelists.

LIVING

Practice simple evangelism to produce saving evangelism.

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