

The gospel is the power of God.

The gospel is the message of a Savior, of redeeming blood, and a "so great" salvation coupled with an invitation to believe on him and be saved.

Go into all the world and preach it.

Go issue the summons. Call the world to the Savior. Don't skip anybody. And while you call them, deliver them from harm, feed them, clothe them, shelter them, teach them, love them, effect policy change in government, but always in the hopes of getting lost people saved.

Go get people saved and love them as you do it.

If we don't, and Jesus comes today, they won't be ready. They'll be left behind.

~ from Chaos, by Bill Giovannetti

I. INVITATION PART ONE - THE PRAYER OF SALVATION

A. Technically, prayer is not a requirement of salvation.

1. Prayer is, however, a very simple way for a person to **express their faith in Christ to God.**
2. They can tell God that they are believing in Jesus and receiving him as their Savior.
3. A prayer of salvation can make faith intentional and focused.
4. A prayer can solidify that moment in the new believer's heart and mind.

B. The timing of salvation is NOW, ready or not.

1. "For He says: "IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME I HAVE HEARD YOU, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION I HAVE HELPED YOU." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)
2. A listener might not be READY to receive Jesus. But they don't need to be "ready." They just need to be WILLING.
 - a) "And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires [WILLS], let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17)

C. PRAYER OF SALVATION

1. **TRANSITION.** Explain what you are doing and why. Explain that this is what you told them was about to happen.
2. **SHORT EXPLANATION.** Say that you will lead in a prayer of salvation. You will say one line at a time. You will pause after each line. In that

pause, your listener can repeat that prayer to God, silently in their heart, because God hears our silent prayers.

3. **QUIETNESS:** Ask everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes. Explain that we do this to create a QUIET PLACE and privacy for each one to think about God.
4. **PRAYER:** Lead a short prayer of faith, line by line.
 - a) **CUSTOMIZE:** Customize the prayer to reflect your talk.
 - b) **ONE LINE AT A TIME:** Pause after each line.
 - c) **DO NOT SAY AMEN.** Instead finish by having your audience say, That is my prayer.
5. **RESPONSE:** Ask your audience to keep their heads bowed and eyes closed. Move into the **RESPONSE.**

II. INVITATION PART TWO - SAMPLE PRAYER

A. From a sermon *The Valley of Dry Bones*

1. The Choice
 - a) You find in your heart a valley of dry bones. You ask, can these dry bones live again?
 - b) Jesus says yes. I died on the cross for you. When that happened, I cleared away the guilt and shame for you.
 - c) And right now, you can be brought from a condition of death to life.
 - d) You can be forgiven and cleansed, and given life with God in heaven forever.
 - e) You say what do I have to do?
 - f) God says, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.
2. Prayer
 - a) **ADMIT:** God, I admit today that I need you. There is a place inside me that is as dead and hopeless as those dead bones so long ago. My heart is far from your heart, and my life is far from your standards. I am a sinner and I need a Savior.
 - b) **BELIEVE:** God, I believe that Jesus is that Savior. Today I make him my Savior. Not my works, but your Son. Not my efforts, but his great sacrifice. I believe he is your Son. I believe he died on the Cross. I believe he rose again. I don't get how it all works, but I believe that Jesus is my way to you. He is my only way. He is the perfect way. I believe.

- c) CHOOSE: Right now, I choose to receive Jesus as my personal Savior. I flee to him for refuge. I'm asking you to breathe into my heart the supernatural life only you can give. Right now, I'm asking you, because of Jesus, please save me.

B. From a Christmas Sermon: Christ The Savior

1. Invitation

- a) A man went to his pastor, and said, I am ready to stand before God on my own two feet. I want to stand before God on my own merits, show him my own goodness, and claim my rights before his throne.
 - (1) The pastor assured the man that that would be like standing within a mile of the sun.
 - (2) He would be blinded by the dazzling brilliance, and consumed by the blazing heat.
- b) So the Bible asks,
 - (1) "Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?" (1 Samuel 6:20, NKJV).
 - (2) And the answer is only the person who has been outfitted by Bethlehem's Savior.
- c) The time has come. Let's do this right now.
 - (1) Now, it's about you. You personally. You and God.
 - (2) You can join the ranks of the eighth wonder of the cosmos right now.

2. Prayer

- a) I'm going to ask you to bow your head, and to close your eyes. We do this to create a quiet space for you, and to extend that courtesy to the people sitting around you.
- b) For our prayer today, I'm going to use the words of a famous Christmas carol, called O Little Town of Bethlehem. The last verse is a prayer and it goes like this:
 - (1) O holy Child of Bethlehem
 Descend to me, I pray
 Cast out my sin and enter in
 Be born to me today
 O come to me, abide with me
 My Lord Emmanuel
- c) And let's just add this final ABC prayer:

- (1) ADMIT. God, I admit I need you there is a gap between me and you. I am not yet equipped for heaven. I cannot outfit myself. I feel it in my heart. I am fallen. I am sinful. I admit I need you today.
- (2) BELIEVE. But I believe that on Christmas day, you sent Jesus into the world. I believe he is your son. I believe he died for my sins. I believe he rose again. God, I don't get how all this works, but I'm telling you as best as I can, that I believe in Jesus.
- (3) CHOOSE. So right now God, I choose to trust in Jesus as Savior. I believe him as my Only Hope. God, please cleanse me. Please clothe me with your perfections. Please grant me life and immortality with you. I'm asking you God, please save me. And please make this Christmas my first Christmas as your child forever.

3. From an Easter Sermon: The Door

a) Invitation

- (1) I could go on, but it's time to call for the decision.
- (2) You see, the sad truth is that we all start life on the wrong side of the door. But there comes a decisive moment when we get to step through to God.
- (3) This is your decisive moment. I'm going to talk you through the steps, right now.
- (4) I won't embarrass you. No coming forward. I won't single you out.
- (5) It's just a silent prayer.
- (6) God loves you. Christ died for you. Christ rose again for you. He is alive reaching out to you right now. Let us go right into the presence of God –
 - (a) Right into a new forgiveness of sins.
 - (b) Right into a new freedom from guilt and shame.
 - (c) Right into a new power to live the life you were created for.
 - (d) Right into a new certainty of heaven and everlasting life.
- (7) If you believe Jesus can do those things for you, it's time to step through the door.
- (8) I'm going ask you to bow your head and to close your eyes. The reason I ask this is to create a quiet space for yourself. And to extend that courtesy to the people sitting around you.

b) Prayer

- (1) ADMIT: God, I admit I'm on the wrong side of the door. I've been here longer than I should be. I need you. I have let you down. I have not followed your ways. I have created a barrier to you by my sins. I admit it.
- (2) BELIEVE: But God I believe you sent Jesus to fix all this. I believe he is your son. I believe he died on the Cross for me. I believe he rose again for me. I believe he is alive right now, calling out to me. He shattered the barrier. He opened the door. God, I don't get how all this works, but I'm telling you as best as I can that I believe in Jesus.
- (3) CHOOSE: So God, right now, I choose to step through the door. I choose to trust in Jesus as my only hope. I'm asking you as best as I can, because of Jesus, please save me. Please forgive me. Please make me your child forever.