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## Fishing For Souls

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.  
~1 Peter 3:15*

### Like Pop and Dad

A few days ago my family and I went fishing, just for family fun. While fishing a tiny mountain stream, I noticed that my son had traits of several great fishermen from my family. His posture and presentation of a lure was like my Grandfather. Pop was great, he knew how to read a stream and could present the lure better than anyone. Now here was my son looking like Pop. And, he fished like my Dad. Dad was also a great fisherman. I would fish a spot and then move on. I might fish 10, 15, even 20 holes before my Dad would go to his second. Yet he always caught the biggest and sometimes the most fish. Here was my son fishing my like Pop and Dad; working the spot perfectly and completely.

### Fishing or Shirt Evangelism?

OK, your saying, "that was a great moment for you, but what does this have to do with Shirt Evangelism?" Well, everything. Just like fishing for fish, we need to know how to "fish" for souls, and there is more than one way. Please note, Pop and Dad always caught fish, but so do I.

## Opportunities to Share the Gospel

Shirt Evangelism is wearing a Christian shirt with out overt references that it is Christian (such as scripture references). The shirt is designed to start conversations, usually with question like “What does your shirt mean?” This gives you an opportunity to tell them about the shirt and to share the Gospel. Sharing the Gospel is key to true evangelism.

## Working Till You're Successful

"Working a spot" is very important style of Shirt Evangelism. Instead of going from place to place, you work a location so a person or a group of people see your shirts on an ongoing basis. This might be a bus stop, a place you shop, or perhaps a place you regularly walk. In "working a spot" Shirt Evangelism, you return to your spot with a Christian shirt time after time. Sometimes this is with the same shirt, but often a different shirt works well. The key is to keep on presenting until you get a question.

Unfortunately some hindrances are only broken by repeated presentations. People get to know you a little, maybe by name, maybe not, but no longer as a total stranger; asking about your shirt becomes easier. At some point people just have to know about your shirt. You get questions such as, “I see you here all the time; I have wondered about your shirts, ‘What does this one mean?’” This method of Shirt Evangelism is very important; it breaks through even the toughest barriers.

Work to get the presentation of the lure (the shirt) just right, work it until you get a hit (a question). I often teased my Dad that when he fished, he would not take no for an answer. This style of Shirt Evangelism is like that, you work on these people, until they ask the question. You are not obnoxious, but you will not be deigned.

Remember the parable of the widow coming before a judge. She kept at the judge until he granted her plea, (see Luke 18). Will you just keep coming; presenting these people with opportunities?

## Fishing the Stream

We all need to work special places like that, but there is value in “fishing the stream” as well. In this method, Shirt Evangelism is covering a lot of territory, presenting a shirt to as many people as possible.

***How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"***

***~Romans 10:14-15***

Every day we pass by many people in our normal routine. We must give them an opportunity to hear the Gospel. How many people can we give a chance to ask about our shirt? For some today may be their “day of salvation”

***For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.  
~2 Corinthians 6:2***

While this method of Shirt evangelism seems rather random, when we cooperate with the Holy Spirit, He makes it very specific. When we allow Him to guide our steps, He brings across our path people who are primed and ready to hear and respond. Our daily journey becomes meetings with Holy Spirit prepared people. Asking about our shirt, they hear the Gospel, and the power of the Spirit reveals Jesus, who draws them to the Kingdom.

***But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."  
~John 12:32***

## **The Complete Fisherman**

Both methods are important and valuable. We need to become complete fishermen able to do both. When you find a good spot, work it for all it is worth. Work it until you have caught them all and then come back and work it some more. But, at times we also need to work a large area, like working a stream, how many people can I present my shirt to today? When more people that see my shirt, there are more opportunities for questions and opportunities for me to share the Gospel.

***But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.  
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,  
~1 Peter 3:15***

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