

THE SIMPLE STORY

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Hey, have you ever been so excited about something that you just couldn't keep it to yourself?

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

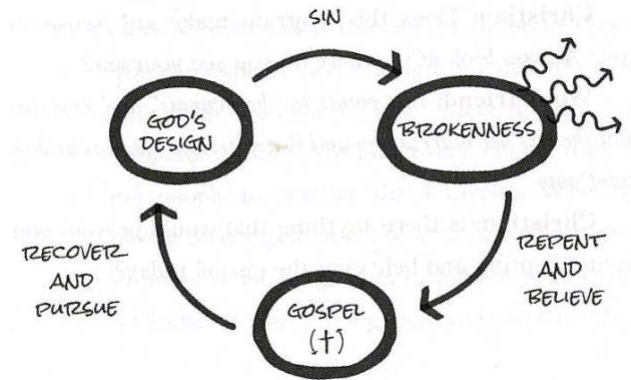
"Come back to God!"

Sometimes FEAR stops of us from sharing what it is we are excited about . . .

1. Fear of rejection
2. Fear of not knowing how to share what we are excited about.

When someone shares a difficulty, a challenge, a struggle they are in you can simply say something like, *"I haven't been through the exact situation you are facing but I often find that God helps me through such times."* That may be all you are able to say. But it is a great seed to plant. If the circumstances are such that you can go deeper because you are grabbing a coffee at Tim's or in their home or out on their deck or sitting at their desk or lunch table at work and so on, then you may be able to take it further than that.

The step further might sound like this. *"I haven't been through the exact situation you are facing but I have had similar experiences. Can I share something with you that has really helped me?"*



Gospel means good news.

Repent means a change of mind that's followed by a change in direction.

Believe means that we trust that Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are what make us right with God.

Repenting and believing doesn't fix everything, but it does allow us to experience and therefore know God's forgiveness of everything.

- The person might respond by saying NO. That is okay. We have shared the good news. It is up to them to respond to it. This is in God's territory at this point.
- They might say NOT NOW. That's okay. Ask if you can be of help. Ask what they need to decide.
- They might say YES.

A person could express their faith through a prayer like this . . .

"God, I know I'm a sinner and I'm broken. I believe that you forgive me through what Jesus has done for me. I am asking you to come into my life and help me recover and pursue Your design for my life."