

## SHARING YOUR FAITH, PART 2

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15, NASB)*

IT MAY HAVE BEEN SOME TIME AGO that you last learned a new shot. I find that it is more common for me now that shots just fall out of use. I play infrequently enough that I may not get an 80-yard-bunker shot very often. So when I do, it can be just like the first time I've tried a brand new shot in real play: scary.

Many people find their experience in sharing their faith to produce a similar feeling of discomfort or anxiety. *Just how do I do this? And when do I know for sure that I am ready?*

The hidden truth, of course, is that many people you open a conversation with about the faith are just as nervous as you are! They want to know a few things (though most are afraid to ask): *Do you really believe this stuff, or are you off your rocker? Is this a canned presentation, or do you really own it?* And maybe most importantly: *How long is this going to last?* Put an unbeliever in a room with someone who has never shared their faith before and there's fear and trembling all around.

So what does it take to reach out with the Gospel? Let's consider three things:

- First, we do well to know the Word of God. When we rely on our own words, we can stumble our way along. But when we have Scripture memorized and marked, we can cling to the Lord's exact phrasings and be confident in the truth they carry.
- Second, just as in golf, there's great value in practice. Sit down with another believing friend who will ask you questions that an unbeliever might ask. You may laugh over your poor efforts at first, but between the two of you, you'll find good ways to say things (in ways that come off your natural tongue, rather than sounding like you're trying to be Billy Graham in a golf shirt).
- Third, step out in faith. The first time you try a new shot on the course, you've got to trust that you're ready. When it comes to sharing your faith, though, your trust is in the Lord, that he will give you the right words for the right moment. You can do this, because he's doing it in you!

**Opening questions** What shot would you admit is the scariest for you on the golf course these days? • Which side of the spiritual conversation would you say you are on right now, giver or receiver?

**READING** Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:14-19; Mark 4:1-20

### Keeping the main thing the main thing (2 Timothy 2)

What are some examples of being sidetracked from the Gospel that Paul wrote to Timothy about? How do we maintain the centrality of our message when it comes time to talk to others about Jesus?

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### Active witnesses (Acts 1)

What assignment did Jesus give to the first disciples? Where did the power for this work come from? What "end of the earth" have you been given as a place of witness?

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### Reading the seeds (Mark 4)

How do the depictions of the types of seeds (people hearing the word of the Gospel) in this parable make you sensitive to those with whom you might share the Good News?

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Written by Jeff Hopper ©2016 Links Players International. You will find an introductory video for this study at <https://youtu.be/Se87fbJ8CtQ>.