

EVANGELISM THE PRIME DIRECTIVE

This is a five-page document. It has a lot of helpful information. Please take the time to read it. It offers a different approach about how to share the Gospel and works alongside other time-honored methods. There is also the downloadable "[instruction sheet](#)" to help you. Do not hesitate to refer to it at any time. Krazostone evangelism is 100% "open book."

For most Christians, evangelism is difficult. Their efforts often prove to be ineffective. After a series of failures and rejections, many become spiritually demoralized, and they do not know why.

The problem is basically threefold; 1. Who is in charge? 2. Natural fear and shyness, especially following a pattern of rejection in the past. 3. How is success being defined? Let's look at each problem separately.

Problem #1 - Who is in charge?

When Jesus gave the "Great Commission" in Mt. 28:18-20, He gave it in the imperative mode which is a directive, not a suggestion! Christians have struggled valiantly to find the most effective approach to reach out gently and lovingly to a lost and dying world ever since. The result is a plethora of excellent tools to **"help" Christians do the impossible. Concerning salvation, Jesus said in Mt. 19:26, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."**

Krazostones do not replace the time-honored evangelistic approaches. However, they provide an alternative approach that will be helpful to those with little experience or who have perhaps had a negative encounter in the past and are reluctant to use more "traditional" methods. The krazostone offers an alternative "passive" form of evangelism by using the krazostone as a simple conversation piece. In Isaiah 55:11 concerning His Word, God himself promises that "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." In the krazostone approach, the Holy Spirit uses curiosity about a little stone engraved in Greek to open a door for you. The Holy Spirit does the work. He convicts of sin (Jn.16:8-9), teaches (Jn.14:26), guides into Truth (Jn. 16:13, 1 Co. 12:3) and makes the Gospel efficacious (1 Cor. 2:4-5, 1 Th. 1:5).

By placing the Holy Spirit in control, we find that Jesus' final command, the Great Commission and "our prime directive" in Mt 28:18-20, has become attainable. It can now be loosely paraphrased, "as you are going about your normal daily life, be willing and attentive for opportunities to share the Gospel, leading people into a saving faith in Jesus, to the point that they desire baptism and more teaching, as they are safely in the loving arms of our Savior."

Notice in Acts 8:26-40, Philip had no evangelism plan for the day. He was following the Holy Spirit with a heart ready to serve whenever called upon, and the Holy Spirit did the rest. God sovereignly led. Philip followed. This is a pattern we would do well to heed today.

The pattern is simple and straightforward. Use the rock to focus on Jesus' claim to be the only resurrection which He proved in the sight of many by raising Lazarus from the dead. Share as much of John 11 as you are able. Refer to the instruction sheet if required. Don't hesitate to show the instruction sheet. This is an "open book test." Share your personal testimony about when you were saved. Do not be ashamed of even feeble efforts at sharing the gospel, "because it is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:16).

YOU JUST WON FIRST PRIZE!

Problem #2 - Shyness or a natural fear of personal rejection.

Previous rejections of your personal faith can be a source of emotional and spiritual pain. This is especially true of Christians who were ill-prepared and sent on an evangelistic mission led by men and not God. Past experiences may have left you sensitive with low spiritual esteem.

Your krazostone provides you a measure of protection here. By having the stone as a conversation piece, if the Gospel is rejected outright, they have rejected God's message, not you personally. Your feelings of esteem are not hurt. Future doors of opportunity may remain open. Over time, after a series of more positive encounters, you will be bolder and better able to identify with Paul when he says in Romans 1:16, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Paul addresses this subject repeatedly. It was an obstacle then as much as it is an obstacle today (Philippians 1:19-21, 2 Tim. 1:7-9, 2 Tim. 2:15, 1 Peter 4:16). In Matthew 10:32-33, Jesus says "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will also disown him before my Father in heaven." These two verses take on a deep and powerful meaning when considered in the light of Romans 1:16. When you accepted Jesus as your Savior, you signed up to share the Gospel. Consider the attitude of the apostles in Acts 5:41-42, "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name" (of Jesus).

Problem #3 - How do we measure success?

In business, success is usually defined by numbers that allow for "tracking" and control of the production process. Human nature being what it is, Church leadership wants to find a gauge to help them understand how successful their evangelism outreach is progressing. Tragically, evangelism reports are reduced to the number of tracts handed out, cards signed, doors knocked on or face-to-face presentations of the Gospel. God measures success very differently. Lives are progressively molded until the right moment when the seed, planted years ago, watered and nurtured as the Holy Spirit wills, blossoms into a new life ready to be molded by the "Master's hand." Only 1 Cor. 3:6-7 defines the process correctly. "I (Paul) planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." Counting cards, handouts, doors knocked on, and face-to-face confrontations tells us nothing about God's nurturing system. Perhaps we should pay less attention to the numbers and let God keep the ledger. "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life" (Rev.20:12).

If we redefine success Biblically, the picture changes completely. Success in evangelism is NOT measured by numbers; rather it is measured in humility and obedience to God's leading. God has himself taken responsibility for the outcome. Leave that part to Him. Consider success to be when you "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1 Peter 3:15).

2 Tim 4:2 : "preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with great patience and instruction."

We rightly conclude that we are all co-workers in the household of God where each works toward a common goal in reverence and under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is often the contribution of several Christians over a period of years. Often they do not even know of the existence of the others.

**BY PARTICIPATING, YOU HAVE ALREADY WON.
YOU GOT FIRST PRIZE AGAIN IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

KRAZOSTONES BREAK THE CYCLE!

Krazostones offer a "passive" technique that avoids the pitfalls of confrontation where feelings are not involved and no barriers created that often push friends and family away. Passive evangelization loves them into salvation by letting the Holy Spirit do His job, that of convicting people of sin (John 16:8-9). Carrying your krazostone can give you a reminder and an encouragement that you are not alone in your desire to witness effectively. God Himself is with you, for salvation is of the Lord, replacing your fear with His power (1 Cor. 2:4-5, 1 Cor. 1:18, Romans 1:16, 2 Tim. 1:7).

Be friendly and try to relax. Jesus never once told the disciples to get in a hurry. God is on your side. The krazostones serve as "attention getters" and "conversation starters" for people who are shy or are uncomfortable with immediately sharing something so personal as their relationship to Jesus. They just need a little help to overcome the fear of personal rejection with the assurance that God will be with them. *Sin and Redemption through substitutionary death can and should be brought up in due time.* Be non-threatening! God will quickly show you whose heart the Holy Spirit has prepared, and whose He has not (at least "not today"). The difference will be easy enough to see. Their facial expression and body language will be God guiding you. Unless you have been pushy or abrasive, it will be God they reject, not you. Make every effort not to "preach" or talk down to them. Be thoughtful and considerate. Properly present **and correctly quote ALL of Jn. 11:25-27.** Make it clear that your message continues to focus on the subject of the resurrection as you continue. In all fairness, you owe them the same consideration by listening carefully to their opinion. Listen attentively to them, as "fair is fair," but do NOT let them dissuade or sidetrack you. A subtle way Satan undermines witnessing is with a question like "where did you get that stone?" Don't take the bait. "God made it" is answer enough. Get back to the resurrection, theirs and yours. If their opinion is on point and useful, don't hesitate to ask them about the source of their viewpoint. Keep returning to the subject of the resurrection.



Here is a krazostone "hard at work" in the workplace, waiting patiently for someone to walk by and ask, "What is that?"

WOW! They just invited you to explain the Gospel using John, Chapter 11, as the backdrop.



Be ready "in season and out of season" to quietly go to work. Keep a copy of your instruction sheet handy. Your stone can travel comfortably in the toe end of an old cotton sock. Display it openly on your table at a restaurant or other environment. Even with the briefest inquiry by a waitress or customer, you can show both sides of the krazostone. Write www.krazostones.com on a napkin and offer it to them. Such tiny matches can ignite a forest fire.

Remember that to represent our Lord properly, we must have an attitude of gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3:15). Also, remember to "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

Tips to sharing the Gospel

- ★ **Remember that you get the reward not because they accept your message; rather, you get the reward because you shared the Gospel faithfully!**
- ★ **Before using your krazostone, you will need to memorize John 11:25-27. If you don't, you could grind to a halt, and feel silly. We don't want that to happen!**

- ★ Read the "instruction sheet" and become familiar with a couple of points that you consider important to share.
- ★ Present your krazostone Greek letters up, oriented correctly, so they see the Greek letters "right side up."
- ★ Get directly to the point and focus on your message.

1. Point to the Greek text as you say, "said Jesus, I am the resurrection and the life." **Then continue quoting the remainder of John 11:25-27 by memory.**
2. Tie Jesus' claim directly to raising Lazarus from the tomb.
3. Discuss our resurrection, yours and theirs, if the Holy Spirit leads that way.

- ★ Remember that God does not want a slick polished presentation. *He wants your heart and obedience. Leave the saving part in God's hands!*
- ★ Do a couple of practice runs with a Christian friend to build confidence. Carry the krazostone around. Show it to friends at church and to co-workers.
- ★ You have already taken your first "baby step." Even this, with Christian behavior, honors God! I carry mine in the toe end of an old cotton sock to keep it clean.
- ★ Remember that only a tiny minority will be saved. Be faithful. A lack of response does not mean that you didn't make a difference. The Gideons lose many Bibles annually.

"Uh, but my co-workers don't know that I am a Christian." Well, don't you think that it's about time they found out!

This may mean that you are challenged to better public behavior as a child of the King! It may also mean that you have an opportunity now to share your personal witness. When sharing your own personal testimony, don't share someone else's, but when and how YOU came to be a Christian. Your personal description of when, where, how, and why you chose Jesus Christ as your Savior is your personal witness. **IT IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL! SHARING YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY IS THE DIRECT FULFILLMENT OF THE GREAT COMMISSION IN MT. 28:18-20. BELIEF IN JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR IS THE GUARANTEE OF A RESURRECTION UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.**

If you have been a "secret Christian," it's time to come out of the closet. Request public Baptism if you have neglected to do so.