

# SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM 100% OF THE TIME



**KEYS TO WITNESS WITH CONFIDENCE &  
OVERCOME YOUR FEARS**

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## Dedicated to

*A childhood friend, a leader's confidant,  
a stable presence, a generous consult,  
a beacon for Christ,*

Todd W. Dixon

## CHAPTER ONE

### YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN

*"...I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit –  
fruit that will last."*

JOHN 15:16

*"The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones  
that look like they cannot be done."*

ARNOLD PALMER

Aloha Stadium, Honolulu, Hawai'i. It is the place where many of the world's greatest athletes have competed, including Hall of Fame legends and college stars.



*Using an athletic term,  
God is in the process of  
"clearing the benches"  
and getting all His  
players in the game.*

I had been a spectator at other games. That day, I was an eight-year old boy playing in an exhibition game of tackle football at the Aloha Stadium for the first time. My teammates and I were in awe. Excitement, fear, uncertainty, and amazement all converged as a mixture of powerful emotions. No wonder I didn't hear my coach. I was in a daze. I was jolted back to reality when my coach raised his voice to get my attention, "Daniel, get in the game!" I felt proud knowing that I had been chosen by my coach to play in the

game. He called *my* name. He chose *me*. He wanted *me* in there. And I was on the playing field of the Aloha Stadium with my team.

Our Heavenly "Coach" is calling *your* name. You are chosen. Your playing field is far greater than the Aloha Stadium. You are called to actively invest in relationships with people that you influence and are part of your life.

You may feel content just being on the Christian team, but God doesn't want benchwarmers. He wants you to be actively involved. God is in the process of "clearing the benches" and getting *all* His players in the game. My teammates and I were made up of players of different shapes, sizes, and backgrounds. The same is true in a larger and more diversified way with you and every other Christ-follower. We are each unique, but *all* are called to be involved.

What activity are we all called to engage in? It is personal evangelism and it has a far greater impact than any game. We have the privilege of guiding individuals to the One who offers eternal hope, helping them experience a personal relationship with God. You can be used by God to turn someone's life around and bring them closer to Jesus.

Personal evangelism is a lot easier than you think. This book will help you gain confidence in evangelism by conquering fears that keep you from being actively involved. You can be successful in evangelism, 100% of the time, but you must be available for God to use you. As you do, you will change and God will use you to make an impact on people around you. Not just temporarily, but for eternity.

one way to scare people in the average church in America, is to stand in the pulpit and proclaim, "Evangelism!" What a bad rap this high calling has received.

Why is this? I suppose one of the main reasons has less to do with awkwardness than it has to do with guilt. Christians feel discomfort and an unspoken turmoil that is also conflicting. A true Christ-follower understands the love, mercy, and grace of God. Believers also comprehend the God-given directive to share the message of hope with others. However, tension comes in the attempt to reconcile this call with the reality of past negative experiences and less favorable associations.

Couple these emotions of discord with a constant call to engage in something tumultuous and the constant drumbeat goes from a pricking annoyance to flat out intolerable. A person feels as though they are being heckled. "Enough of this evangelism talk already! God still loves me. Besides even if I don't do it, the Lord can use someone else. After all, He is the Almighty. One person won't be missed. Just as life still goes on, so will God's will be done without me, at least in the realm of the "E" word."

#### **Evangelism is Easier Than You Think**

Harry Houdini was one of the most famous magicians and escape artists of all time. Houdini claimed that he could escape from any prison cell. A small town in England had just finished building a new prison from which they claimed no one could escape. Houdini arrived with great pomp. He entered the cell and the door was slammed shut. He hid a tiny metal object in his belt, which he used to pick the lock. After fifteen minutes, it wouldn't work. After thirty minutes he was sweating. Finally, after two hours, in complete exhaustion he collapsed, slumping against the prison door. To everyone's astonishment, the door swung open. It was never locked. All Houdini had to do was simply push the cell door open and it would have opened with

## **FACING EVANGELISTIC REALITY AND CHANGING IT**

*"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.  
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers  
into his harvest field."*

MATTHEW 9:37-38

*"If your Gospel isn't touching others, it hasn't touched you!"*

CURRY R. BLAKE

#### **The "E" Word that Strikes Fear and Guilty Feelings**

Recently, I received an invitation to speak at a conference for a mainline denominational group. When I inquired, "What



*Christians feel  
discomfort and an  
unspoken turmoil that  
is also conflicting.*

would you like me to speak on?" the minister issuing the invitation wrote, "Anything but evangelism." It struck me as somewhat bizarre, especially because my work is largely comprised of equipping people to do evangelism.

I have observed that the word "Evangelism" is associated with extreme levels of discomfort and embarrassment. In my seminars, I sometimes state that