

# CONTENTS

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Preface	iii
Introduction	v
Chapter 1	
<b>Myths That Can Keep You From Witnessing</b>	1
Chapter 2	
<b>Defining Basics</b>	9
Chapter 3	
<b>Basic Judaism</b>	19
Chapter 4	
<b>Understanding Sensitivities</b>	27
Chapter 5	
<b>Be Encouraged to Witness—     Jews Are Coming to Christ!</b>	33
Chapter 6	
<b>The Fence of Offense</b>	47
Chapter 7	
<b>You Think It's True, But . . .</b>	57
Chapter 8	
<b>Where Is the Jewish Community?</b>	65
Chapter 9	
<b>Get Motivated</b>	71
Chapter 10	
<b>Witnessing On the Way</b>	81
Chapter 11	
<b>Get in Starting Position</b>	89
Chapter 12	
<b>Practical Witnessing</b>	99

Chapter 13	
<b>Building a Case by Constructive Argument</b>	109
Chapter 14	
<b>Tell It Like It Is</b>	115
Chapter 15	
<b>How To Do Things by the Book</b>	123
Chapter 16	
<b>John’s Gospel and the Apostles’ Creed     as Teaching Tools</b>	133
Chapter 17	
<b>Objections—Doors To Be Opened</b>	143
Chapter 18	
<b>Prayer, Your Secret Weapon</b>	153
Chapter 19	
<b>Breaking the Church Barrier</b>	159
Chapter 20	
<b>How To Be a Spiritual Midwife</b>	165
Chapter 21	
<b>New Jewish Believers     and Church Membership</b>	173
Conclusion	
<b>The Four B’s</b>	179
Appendix I	
<b>Sample Conversations</b>	183
Appendix II	
<b>Old Testament References     &amp; Their New Testament Fulfillments</b>	201
Recommended Reading	205

# PREFACE

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by David Brickner

Jewish evangelism is difficult. Those who choose to obey the Lord and bring the gospel to the Jews will not get much encouragement from anyone but God and just a few people who care.

The sincere Christian faces many perplexing problems, and sharing the love of Jesus with Jewish people can be one of the most bewildering. Many long to tell their Jewish friends about the Savior's love but don't know where to begin. Faced with the opportunity to tell their Jewish friends about Christ, some Christians choose to remain silent for fear of offending them.

Some perplexities will remain a mystery until we see Christ face to face, but witnessing to Jews need not be one of them—as you are about to discover for yourself in this book! As you explore the ways and means of telling your Jewish friends about the love of Jesus, you are in very capable hands.

The author, Moishe Rosen, is a trainer of missionaries. Most of the current missionaries to the Jews in North America were instructed either by Moishe Rosen or by someone he trained. When it comes to methods and materials, Moishe is the foremost expert in the field of Jewish evangelism. Nevertheless, this is not a book for the professional missionary to the Jews. The techniques used by a professional missionary-evangelist are different.

Witnessing to Jews is written for ordinary Christians of ordinary dedication. It delivers the most comprehensive and practical guide available for Christians who love Jesus, love the Jews and long for

their Jewish friends to love Jesus, too.

You are holding in your hands the wisdom distilled from decades of personal witnessing to Jews. A Jewish Christian himself, Moishe Rosen has led hundreds, if not thousands, to faith in Christ. As founder of the Jews for Jesus ministry, he is the genius behind one of the most exciting and effective missions to the Jews the world has ever seen.

Moishe Rosen has equipped and inspired an entire generation of evangelists to the Jews. Yet he knows the difference between professional missions strategies and the kind of personal witnessing tips that will help lay people in their everyday encounters. This book concentrates on the day-in and day-out, face-to-face interactions that Christians might have with Jewish people at school, in the office or in the neighborhood.

Moishe combines the practical wisdom of a sage with the pastoral motivation of a minister of the gospel. You will finish this book knowing that **YOU CAN DO IT!**

It is fitting that Moishe has written this most important publication with his wife, Ceil, who has been editing Moishe's writing for about 25 years. It was through her witness that Moishe came to faith in Christ in 1953. The Rosens have teamed up to produce a book that may well equip an entire new generation with the tools to share the love of Jesus with Jewish people—but not only Jews! If you learn how to witness to Jews, who are so gospel-resistant, you can witness to anyone.

It is my prayer that you are one of countless thousands of Christians who will spend a few hours with Moishe and Ceil Rosen to the end that tens of thousands of Jews—and others—will spend eternity in heaven adoring Jesus Christ, our Lord. Yet even if you alone were to read this book, it would make an everlasting difference if it gave you confidence to sow the gospel seed in at least one heart.

## CHAPTER 1

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# MYTHS THAT CAN KEEP YOU FROM WITNESSING

**Y**ou love the Lord. You know from Scripture that God wants you to tell everyone you can about salvation in Jesus, and that includes Jewish people. Yet you approach witnessing with at least some degree of fear and uncertainty. You feel vulnerable and somewhat uncertain.

You fear creating an unpleasant situation—that your Jewish friends will misconstrue your efforts at communicating the Good News as aggression against their religion, and that may destroy your friendship. You are intimidated by the possibility that if the person to whom you witness is not in the “friend” category, it may engender a hostile reaction from a stranger.

Besides feeling vulnerable, you may also fear ineffectiveness: You don’t know where or how to begin. You feel awkward and doubt that you can initiate a testimony in a respectable, effective manner. You worry that you can never bring such a witness to its desired end—leading someone to a saving faith commitment.

Because of such basic feelings of vulnerability and inadequacy, many Christians find a multitude of reasons to delay witnessing or even not to witness at all. This stockpile of excuses becomes a shelter of myths under which they can retreat any time they feel uneasy about speaking out and want a reason not to do it.

If you are serious about wanting to witness, let's unravel some of those myths:

**Myth Number One:**

*If a person doesn't respond to my witness, it must be because I haven't presented the gospel properly.*

People do not naturally give their lives to Christ. They hold on to the reins as long as possible. Therefore, we should expect resistance. Sometimes we can present the gospel in exactly the right way but still have it rejected. Other times we can fumble through our words and forget a Scripture verse or two, yet find that in spite of our mistakes, the person wants to accept Christ as Savior.

There really is no "right" or "wrong" way to present the gospel. Some methods may work better than others, and certainly, doctrinal knowledge helps. Yet God approaches each person as an individual. We must also do this when we witness. What might have been right in witnessing to one person may not be right in witnessing to the next.

**Myth Number Two:**

*It takes a long time for someone to discover the truth of the gospel.*

Sometimes it takes a person a long time to come to faith, but usually it doesn't. An individual often realizes his or her need for a savior after taking a personal

inventory. This happens because the Holy Spirit has touched that person's heart. Someone else may have planted the gospel seed long before you came along—maybe someone who thought that he or she had failed.

**Myth Number Three:**

*All Jews have a deep, scholarly knowledge of the Old Testament. I feel inadequate in handling the Scriptures. If I am to be effective in evangelism, especially Jewish evangelism, I must know the Bible very well.*

Certainly Bible knowledge helps in witnessing, but God doesn't require that you have a certain number of verses memorized before you can witness. If you are faithful in trying, He will direct what you say. In fact, often you will find that you know more than the person to whom you are speaking. Few Jewish people today are well versed in even the Old Testament portion of the Scriptures, and just the basic knowledge that led you to become a Christian probably surpasses what most Jews know about the Bible. In witnessing, you will find that you know more than you thought you did. Furthermore, you will usually end up learning much about Christ as you tell others about Him. The section in this book on how to use the Gospel of John provides enough direction for you to get started.

**Myth Number Four:**

*I am not very good with words. It would be easier and more effective if I just prayed for the person.*

You ought to pray. Yet if you want only to pray, how do you explain Romans 10:14: "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And

how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

How does the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-16 apply to us? "And He said to them [His disciples], 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

It is our responsibility to tell others about Jesus whether we speak eloquently or not. Some of the most powerful witnesses make terrible spokespeople. Yet God chooses them.

### **Myth Number Five:**

*Instead of witnessing, I can invite people to church. They will hear a sermon on sin and repentance there. After all, it is the pastor's responsibility to be an evangelist.*

The pastor may be a good evangelist; however, the Great Commission doesn't call upon us "to go into all the world and invite people to church." It calls upon us to proclaim that Jesus Christ wants to be everyone's Lord and Savior.

The Bible says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." Your personal testimony adds much to your witness. It shows what God can do in a person's life.

### **Myth Number Six:**

*The person will probably ask questions that I can't answer. That will prevent me from being a good witness.*

No, it won't. Too many Christians fear not knowing all the answers, but remember that only God knows everything! Never be afraid to say, "I don't know" or



“I’m not sure.” Just say, “If you’re really interested, I will look that up and tell you the next time we talk.” The person will respect your honesty.

**Myth Number Seven:**

*Since God knows who will and will not accept Him, it is all predestined. I can’t really make a difference.*

Some teach that God predetermines salvation; others say He does not. Either way, you should witness. If, indeed, God does predestine a person’s eternal destiny, He not only predestines the end, but selects the means by which that person will hear the gospel. If God does not predestine salvation, people must still hear the gospel from someone. You have the privilege of being obedient to the Lord, and perhaps being part of someone’s eternal destiny whether or not God predetermined it.

**Myth Number Eight:**

*I should only witness when the Holy Spirit leads me to witness.*

He has already led you to witness. Jesus said, “Go into all the world.” He said “Go to every creature” (Mark 16:15, cf Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8). So what are you waiting for—a special revelation? Just believe and obey what Jesus has already said in the Bible.

**Myth Number Nine:**

*My testimony is rather dull. I know God loves me and has saved me, but nothing very dramatic has happened in my life. Will anyone really want to have what I have?*

Does God not answer prayer? Do you not love Him? Has He not made a difference in how you live? Then should you not be willing to tell others of your love for Him, the prayers He has answered and how real He is? What makes your testimony valid is not necessarily that it is dramatic enough for publication in a book or magazine, but that it comes from your heart.

**Myth Number Ten:**

*I need to wait until I have been a long-time friend of unbelievers in my life before witnessing to them. I will let them see Jesus in me. Then, when they show an interest, I will witness.*

We should become friends with unbelievers or at least behave in a friendly, non-threatening manner toward them. However, with what is sometimes called “friendship evangelism,” we end up waiting for the other person to initiate a conversation about God, and too often, they never ask. We may well find openings to evangelism when we become friends with unbelievers. However, there is a potential pitfall. Unbelievers may or may not notice a difference in us. They may notice that we don’t swear, cheat and lie, and hopefully they will also notice a degree of cheerfulness, compassion and love that they don’t see elsewhere. Nevertheless, though they may notice these attributes, it doesn’t necessarily mean that they want them or understand them. Even if they do desire something we have, it doesn’t mean that they have the nerve to seek it, especially if it means giving up some sin they truly enjoy.

Jewish comedian Sam Levinson was right when he observed, “People don’t look for God any more than a hooky-player looks for a truant officer.” Most unbelievers don’t seek salvation. We must tell them about it. If we

don't do that for fear of offending them, they may well end up without Jesus and lost for all eternity!

**Myth Number Eleven:**

*I am responsible for the eternal destiny of the person to whom I am witnessing.*

While we might never admit it aloud, subconsciously many of us carry blame and shame. We feel that somehow if we just say the right words, the person will believe. Worse yet, we feel that because we didn't say the right words, didn't witness soon enough or didn't pray hard enough, we have failed. We accept the shame of a person's rejecting Christ and the blame for the possibility of their spending eternity in hell.

We must leave the "blame baggage" at Calvary where the crucifixion heaped all the shame of sin on Y'shua. Yes, we will make mistakes in witnessing. Therefore, even in evangelism, we must learn to accept the forgiveness provided through the Resurrection, where the stain of our sin was removed. Only as we accept this free gift in all areas of our lives can we become effective in showing others how they, too, can obtain forgiveness.

Having dispelled some of these myths, we still must recognize that no procedure, technique or human effort can bring a person to salvation. We merely go and tell others the gospel, but God is the One who convicts and converts the unsaved. Only when His Spirit directs (Zechariah 4:6), can we be sure of the outcome of our witnessing efforts. Then the correct and basic witnessing methods, adapted to our own personality and situation, will bear fruit.