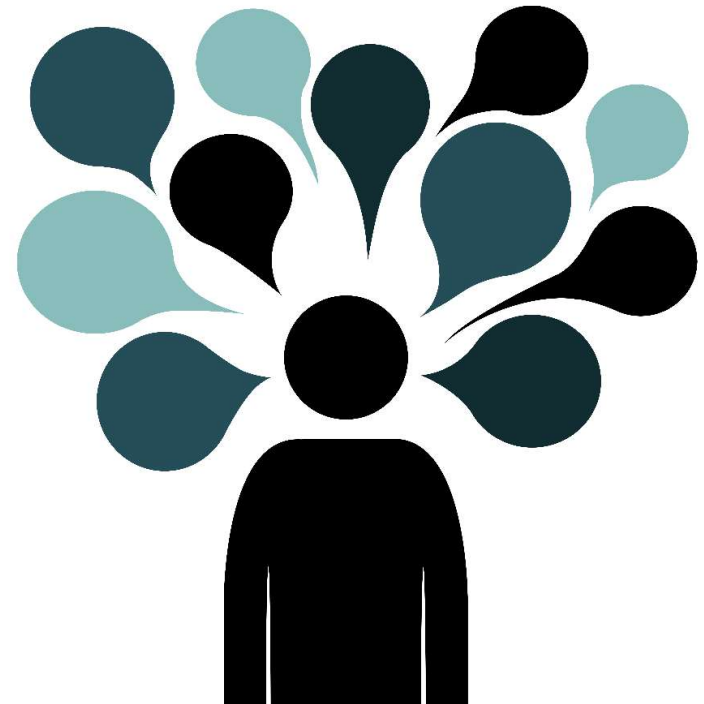




# EVANGELIES

Confronting the Lies that Keep Christians Quiet



At Always Going, we don't teach tips and tricks, but an outward-focused worldview that will excite you to join God's mission and have you looking for gospel conversations with anyone, at any time, and anywhere.

Visit the website or reach out to learn more or get involved!



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## What About You?

Like shadows at sunrise, the lies of the enemy evaporate in the face of God’s Word. The excuses, fears, and beliefs that once kept us silent now propel us toward those who need to hear the gospel.

These won’t be the only lies you encounter, nor will this be the last time these seven rear their ugly heads, but the key to everyday evangelism is aligning our minds and hearts to God’s truth daily.

As Paul says in Philippians 4:8-9

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

May the God of peace guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus, reminding you of His goodness each and every day, and protecting you from the *Evangelies* of the enemy.

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## If Necessary, Use Words

*“I don’t have to share the gospel if I live like Jesus.”*

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Some lies come disguised as truth. They sound okay and make things easier for us, so we let them in. One such lie is the idea that a Christlike lifestyle is a sufficient substitute for evangelism.

You may have been told, like I was as a young man, *“Live like Jesus and people will ask what makes you so different. Then you can share the gospel!”* What appears, at first, to be an airtight evangelism opportunity can subtly convince us that the lost should approach us and ask to hear the good news!

The gospel is a message that must be verbalized. Otherwise, a sinner saved by grace just looks like a good person. And if my neighbor only sees a good person but never hears *why* I can love my enemies and serve with humility, they’re left with two options.

- 1) Try to be as good as me... without the help of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Give up immediately, thinking, “I could never be that good.”

Our actions play a huge role in evangelism. They are observable evidence of a transformed heart, but actions alone are no substitute for the life-changing message that God loved us so much, He sent His Son to pay for our sin by dying on the cross— raising Him to life, defeating death, and calling us to follow Him.

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### Additional Reading

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John 3:1-21

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 Corinthians 1:17

How do actions and words work together  
when it comes to sharing the gospel?

Why is it unwise to expect the lost to approach us about faith?

## Introduction

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It all began with a lie: “Did God *really* say...?” Since that day, the consequences of sin have taken a toll on the hearts and minds of humanity, separating us from God and causing confusion where there was once clarity.

Some lies *feel* harmless, others are intended to cause suffering. There are manipulative lies, cruel lies, entitled lies, defensive lies, and flippant lies. We believe some lies because they help us sleep at night and others because we put our trust in the wrong people.

Jesus describes the “father of lies” in John 8:44 while confronting a group of hardheaded religious leaders.

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Despite what many believers would like to think, non-Christians don’t have a monopoly on lies. One subtle way that many Christians are paralyzed and rendered useless in God’s mission is through the lies, half-truths, fibs, and exaggerations we believe about evangelism.

These lies come in many shapes and sizes—attacking things like our value, usefulness, or view of God. Others convince us that comfort and security should be our highest priority. But whatever the underlying message, each lie wraps its way around our hearts and minds—hindering us from joining God’s mission, “Go make disciples.”

In this booklet, we’ll take a look at seven common lies we believe about evangelism and how to combat them with the truth of God’s Word. When we learn to confront the enemy’s deception head-on, we can boldly and confidently reach the lost with the gospel.

## Only Me

*“I’m the only Christian who struggles to share the gospel.”*

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This is an insidious yet brilliant lie. Rather than simply attacking what we believe, it isolates us from our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we feel alone in our struggle, it’s easy to become paralyzed into inaction—full of guilt, shame, and the belief that we’re bad at sharing the gospel.

*“Go ahead and believe the gospel... Just know that all the good Christians judge you for not sharing it more”* says the enemy.

Isolation leads to unhealthy comparison—not to reality but to our *perception* of others. We see other believers as more confident and capable, not realizing that many are struggling with the same fears. All of this leads us to excuse ourselves from God’s mission.

The truth is, most Christians find it challenging to boldly and naturally talk about their faith. Overcoming this struggle takes transparency, honesty, intentionality, and practice. The first step to silencing this lie is to tell someone you’re struggling. By being honest with others, we invite them to support us, encourage us, and protect us against this isolating lie.

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### Additional Reading

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Hebrews 12:1-3

Philippians 1:6

Hebrews 10:24

How does being honest about our struggles help us grow?

How does it help *others* grow?

Who can you reach out to this week  
to share your struggles with evangelism?

## Mission Accomplished

*“This is America! Hasn’t everyone already heard the gospel?”*

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America is often described as a “Christian nation,” but despite this moniker, the reality is that we live in an ever-drifting culture. Nearly every statistic about Christian faith in America reveals a decline with each new generation. Once-common Bible stories like David and Goliath are now met with confused, blank stares.

Don’t get caught believing the lie that just because church buildings litter our communities, every American has heard the gospel *clearly, fully, and lovingly*.

Some people have never heard the gospel, others have but don’t understand it. Still others have created their own ideas about Christ based on TV shows or social media. The need for good news that is clear, complete, and said in love has never been greater.

The gospel is not a just a one-time message for non-believers, however, but a daily necessity for all people. Look at Paul’s words in Galatians 1:6 as he calls *believers* to return to the true gospel.

*I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel...*

Just because Americans have *access* to the gospel doesn’t mean they’ve heard it. Let’s combat this lie by boldly and naturally sharing the gospel with anyone, at any time, and anywhere.

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### Additional Reading

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Matthew 9:35-38

Romans 3:9-26

Revelation 3:1-6

Who, in your life, needs to lovingly hear the clear, complete gospel?

How might people’s “access” to the gospel keep us from sharing it?

## Why Bother?

*“I know people won’t listen to me, so why even try?”*

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This lie is a two-headed serpent of judgment and convenience. It’s easy to begin rendering unspoken verdicts, freeing ourselves from any responsibility to pursue others with the good news of Jesus.

Assuming that the sinful actions of sinful people somehow prevent the gospel from penetrating their hearts is pretty bold. Whether we like it or not, we don’t decide if someone is *worth* saving, and we certainly don’t know *how* God is going to use us.

Consider Paul the Apostle. His story, found in Acts 7:54-8:3 and Acts 9:1-31, is a perfect example of God’s ability to transform those we deem “too far gone.”

Whether we *believe* someone can be saved or even *want* them to be saved is irrelevant. The essence of the gospel is that we were *all* separated from God.

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8*

If God could change a heart like *mine*, surely no one is off limits. We’re called to share this good news with anyone who will listen.

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### Additional Reading

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1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Colossians 1:21-22  
Acts 20:17-32

How would your life be different if others never shared the gospel with you?

Have you ever struggled to *believe* that someone could be saved or even to *want* them to be saved?

## Closing the Deal

*“Every gospel conversation must end in salvation.”*

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It’s easy to measure gospel-sharing success by hands raised and prayers prayed, but what about conversations that end in anger, awkwardness, or discomfort? How can we feel like anything *but* failures when conversations end with antagonism and rejection.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, the Apostle Paul describes three parts of one redemptive process.

*“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”*

Evangelistic success is measured by obedience, not by our ability to convince, bribe, scare, or trick others—faithful conversations, not immediate conversions. When we believe the lie that real success means “closing the deal,” we risk compromising the gospel for the sake of our own validation. We might even go as far as compromising the gospel to make it more appealing to the lost.

Focusing on faithfulness over metrics and trusting God to change hearts is the only way to combat this devious, results-driven lie.

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### Additional Reading

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John 4:35-38  
2 Timothy 4:1-8  
Acts 6:8-7:60

How have you defined evangelistic success in the past?  
How does God define it?

Have you ever been discouraged after a gospel conversation? Why?

## Invitation to Salvation

*“Inviting someone to church is the same as sharing the gospel.”*

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This unspoken lie might sound absurd at first, but it’s alarmingly prevalent in American Christianity. As believers, we know people need to hear the gospel, but we are often tempted to find an easy way out. Comfort, security, and social safety stifle our boldness. This combination causes us to look to a third party: the church.

To combat this lie, we must first understand some distinctions. The Church is not a specific place; it’s a people—believers who have fully surrendered to Christ. “Going to church” is better said, “going to *be with* the Church.” And whenever believers gather, the gospel will likely be preached. So yes, a non-believer should hear the gospel in any solid local church.

However, the real issue behind this lie is not logic, but *motivation*. The priority of each gathering is to strengthen and send *the* Church to reach the world with the gospel. Treating these as evangelistic off-ramps rather than a training ground for disciple-makers reinforces the idea that Jesus’ commission was to an institution rather than each individual believer.

Only when we understand our call to *go out* rather than *delegate* can we excitedly *invite* new believers to *be the Church* with us.

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### Additional Reading

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Romans 10:14-15  
Acts 1:8  
Colossians 1:1-14

How do you understand the purpose of the Church?

What’s the difference between a church that says, “just bring them here” and one that says, “bring the gospel to them”?

## Joyless Job

*“My only purpose as a Christian is to tell others about Jesus.”*

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One of the enemy’s favorite tactics is stealing our joy, and nothing kills joy quite like obligation. Jesus was spot on when He said:

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. – John 10:10*

Many Christians view evangelism as a task to accomplish *for* God, seeing their relationship with Him like an employee and their boss. We feel like God is watching over our shoulder, making sure we do what we’re told. He told us to make disciples, so we better do it. Or else! Pretty soon, our entire Christian life is about reaching the lost so we can keep God happy. Obligation kills joy.

However, Scripture tells us that our purpose is not to *perform* for God. We were created to know God intimately. Then, *because* we’re experiencing His goodness, we can’t help but tell others.

We’ve been commissioned to “go make disciples,” but let’s not forget that through Christ, God is already pleased with us. We don’t have to earn His love. We are called to be in relationship with God, living lives wholly dependent upon Him. Lives that will inevitably shine His light to those who need it.

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### Additional Reading

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John 15:1-17  
Psalm 63:1-8  
Matthew 22:36-40

How does prioritizing intimacy over accomplishment change the dynamic between us and God?

What are some ways you can develop deeper intimacy with God that leads to “overflowing faith”?