

STEP 3 - THE CLOSE

THE CLOSE

1. **Are you a sinner?**
2. **Do you want forgiveness for your sins?**
3. **Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?**
4. **Are you willing to surrender yourself to Christ?**
5. **Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and into your life?**

This is the part that many of us fear most-- the call for a decision. Here's how to do it.

These final five questions are a recap of all the key verses you just guided the other person through.

1. *Are you a sinner?* This question points back to Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned." Earlier he saw that the "all" includes him.
2. *Do you want forgiveness of sins?* Romans 6:23 says that forgiveness is a gift provided by Jesus Christ. To have that free gift we must accept it for ourselves.
3. *Do you believe Jesus died on the cross for you and rose again?* In John 3, Christ explained that He would die for our sins and that we must put our trust in Him to be born again.

4. *Are you willing to surrender yourself to Christ?* John 14:6 says that the only way to be right with God is through Jesus Christ.

5. *Are you ready to invite Jesus into your heart and into your life?* Romans 10:9-10 states that we are saved when we personally accept the truth about Jesus and put our trust in Him.

When you ask this final question, be silent--and pray silently for the person. The Holy Spirit will be working on him. Thirty seconds of silence will feel like 20 minutes to him. This is the moment when somebody is making a decision about whether he wants to follow Christ or Satan. So whenever I ask that final question, I pray in my mind as hard as I can while I silently wait for his answer.

I once watched someone break out in beads of sweat. I didn't say a thing. I just maintained eye contact with him and prayed. Finally he said, "Yes." And I said, "Yes what?" He said, "I'm ready." I said, "Ready for what?" I wanted him to make a clear, personal decision. It had to be his choice, an expression of his heart's desire.

Be silent and pray, and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

A SUGGESTED PRAYER

When the person you are talking with says that he is ready to invite Jesus into his life, you may wish to guide him through a prayer like this one:

Father, thank You for the free gift of eternal life. I know I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I am sorry for my past sins, and I ask You to forgive me.

Jesus, I believe You died on the cross for my sins and arose from the dead. I now open the door of my heart and invite You to come into my life. I realize there is nothing I can do to earn my salvation, and I place my complete trust in You alone for eternal life. I choose to follow You as my Lord. Please make me the person You want me to be.

How Can I Share My Faith Without an Argument?

THE APPROACH

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you think there is a heaven and a hell?
4. If you died right now, where would you go?
5. If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?

THE BIBLE

1. Romans 3:23
2. Romans 6:23
3. John 3:3
4. John 14:6
5. Romans 10:9-11
6. Revelation 3:20

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