

God's Power in Our Weakness: It's O.K. To Be Human

The Bible calls the Gospel Good News, Joy News, the most wonderful news that has ever graced our planet. Why then are most believers, even empowered with strong apologetics, still so fearful about witnessing? Our effectiveness in witness doesn't come learning new methods but from understanding the message. It is our *theology* that impacts our *methodology*. Yet, our greatest struggle in evangelism is that we do not understand what it means to be human. What then is our motivation, our model and our means for witness?

Becky Pippert is an internationally recognized speaker, author and evangelist. She and her husband Dick founded Salt Shaker Ministries, an evangelism training ministry for churches and University students. A Senior Advisor for Global Evangelism for the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism, Becky & Dick have travelled globally training churches in evangelism. For the past 4 years they have focused their ministry in the U.K. and Europe, training both churches & University students. Pippert is the author of nine books, including *Out of the Salt Shaker*, which was named by *Christianity Today* as one of the books that has most influenced Christian thought in the past 50 years. Some of her books include *A Heart for God* and *Hope Has Its Reasons* – which Tim Keller cited as having deeply shaped his understanding of how to minister to the most secular and the most skeptical people. She has a B.A. & M.A. with high honors in English Literature from the Univ of Illinois. She did advanced study at the University of Barcelona, Spain, and Harvard University in Boston, MA.

I. Our Motivation for Witness: The Character of God

What does Christ's coming from Heaven to Earth reveal about God's nature?

A. God is loving

B. God is Inviting

II. Our Model for Witness: Jesus

“As the Father sent me so I send you.”

How did the Father send the Son?: His birth, life and ministry, death, resurrection and ascension.

What does Jesus teach us about what it means to be human?

A. Jesus' Birth Reveals: The profound relationship between our human weakness and God's power.

B. Jesus' Life Reveals:

1. He shared our human affections

2. He shared our emotions

3. He shared our faculty of choice

4. He shared our intellect

5. He shared our human body

6. He shared our spiritual dependence upon God the Father

C. How are we to live?

We have been created to be God-dependent not self-sufficient

The 1st qualification of being used by God is celebrating our inadequacy! Our weakness is no hindrance to God being able to use us.

III. Our Means for Witness: The Holy Spirit

A. Accepting our smallness leads us to depend upon the Power of the Holy Spirit

B. Learn to Abide in Christ by Practicing the Presence of Jesus:

C. Develop the Spiritual Habit: Remember – Rejoice – Request

D. God has always used the weak to accomplish his purposes!