

## Tactful and Tactical in Giving the Gospel NYC 2022

You will be encouraged and equipped [**hopefully given some tools or reminded of those you already have**] to graciously navigate conversations with unbelievers that can lead to an opportunity to effectively witness for Christ.

### **Tact:**

Merriam-Webster- a keen sense of what to do or say in order to maintain good relations with others or avoid [PERSONAL] offense.

**Just make sure it's God's truth that offends and not you, that your beliefs cause the dispute and not your behavior.**

**Tactics by Gregory Koukl.** <https://www.str.org>

Tactics, literally “**the art of arranging.**”

Tactics can help because they offer techniques of maneuvering in what otherwise might be difficult conversations. They guide you in arranging your own resources in an artful way.

They suggest approaches that anyone can use to be more persuasive, in part because they help you be **more reasonable and thoughtful— instead of emotional—** about your convictions as a follower of Christ.

The tactical approach requires as much careful listening as thoughtful response.

This method resembles **one- on- one basketball** more than a game of chess. There are plans being played out, but there is constant motion and adjustment.

1. For one thing, sincere questions are friendly. “When you ask a question, you are **displaying interest** in the person asked.”
2. Questions immediately **engage the nonbeliever** (or the believer, if the difference of opinion is an in-house theological one) in an interactive way.
3. You'll get an education- gather information. They help you know what a person is thinking. There are two reasons this is important: You don't want to **misunderstand** him, and you don't want to **misrepresent** him.
4. Questions allow you to make **progress on a point** without being pushy. to **reverse the burden of proof,**
5. Carefully placed questions **put you in the driver's seat-** to lead the conversation in a specific direction.
6. Questions backed by **compassion can bring conviction.**

Don't be surprised, then, when your question “What do you mean by that?” is met with a blank stare.

Be sure to pay attention to the response to your questions. If the meaning is still unclear, follow up with more queries. Say, “Let me see if I understand you on this.” Then feed back the view to make sure you got it right.

Sometimes the reason you are confused about another person's meaning is because she is confused, too. She objects to Christianity for reasons she hasn't thought through. The objection flourishes because no one has challenged the lack of clarity that led to the muddled thinking in the first place.

### **What about when time is limited?**

I encourage you to consider the strategy I use when God opens a door of opportunity for me. I pray quickly for wisdom, then ask myself this: What one thing can I say in this circumstance, what one question can I ask, what seed can I plant that will get the other person thinking? Then I simply try to put a stone in the person's shoe.

**The Directional Question:** [Any question that helps you turn the conversation to spiritual matters]

### **Share Jesus Without Fear Questions:**

1. Do you have any kind of spiritual beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus Christ?
3. Do you believe in Heaven or Hell?
4. If you died today, where would you go?
5. If what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?

### **Other Directional Questions:**

- "Do you have a church that you normally attend?"
- "Would you agree with me that where you will spend eternity is more important than where you go to church?"
- "Have you ever thought about how you can be certain about your eternal destiny (where you will go when you die)?"
- "You know, I was raised in church, but I used to really wonder how I could really know for sure that I was on my way to Heaven. Have you ever found yourself wondering that same thing?"
- "How much have you studied other religions to compare the details and find a common theme? Why would the similarities be more important than the differences? I'm curious, what do you think Jesus' own attitude was on this issue? Did he think all religions were basically equal?"

[This takes a lot of pressure off me, because when I ask a question, the ball is back in their court. It also protects me from jumping to conclusions and unwittingly distorting their meaning.]

- "Can I share with you some of the questions I had about life and about life after death?"
- "What do you think you must do to receive forgiveness of sins and have eternal life in Heaven? (Anything else?)"

### **The Key Questions:**

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure that all of your sins are forgiven and that you have eternal life?

"Would you mind if I took a few minutes to explain the answer to that important question?"

Use I John 5.13 at this point.

**Here are 4 truths you should seriously consider:**

1. The **problem** of your sin separates you from God and disqualifies you from Heaven (Romans 3:23).
2. The **penalty** of your sin is Hell (Romans 6:23).
3. The **payment** for your sin has already been made once and for all by Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and His bodily resurrection from the tomb (Romans 5:8; 10:4, 9).
4. The **promise** of salvation is offered to "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord" (Romans 10:13).

One decision: You must understand, agree, and depend on the Lord Jesus Christ alone to save you from sin.