

PERSONAL EVANGELISM #1 - FOUR STATES OF THE SOUL

2 PETER 3:1-13

God does not will any to perish in Hell. So, knowing that this world tethers on the brink of eternity, how should we live?

I. SOULS IN IGNORANCE

- A. Ignorance can neither continue nor excuse ACTS 17:30
 - 1. Starting vs. staying without knowledge
 - a. General Revelation - Creation (PSALM 19:1)
 - b. Special Revelation - Bible (JOHN 1:1)
 - 2. The "simple" can become "wise" (PROV. 8:5)
 - 3. Fools can also become "scorners"
- B. God has taken away their every excuse ROM. 1:18-23
- C. Give them scripture not your opinion (ISA 55:11)

II. SOULS UNDER CONVICTION

- A. We must LIVE the Word and PREACH the Word 1 COR. 14:24
 - 1. Unsaved husband won by "her chaste conversation"
 - 2. Not "lifestyle evangelism" but we NEED BOTH
 - 3. The GOSPEL should flow out of us (PSALM 143:5)
- B. Negative Reactions to Conviction
 - 1. Festus rejects fearfully ACTS 26:22-25
 - 2. Agrippa rejects intellectually ACTS 26:26-28
- C. They have Scripture, give them testimony ACTS 26:2

III. SOULS THAT DOUBT

- A. Never take your eyes off the Savior MATT. 14:31
 - 1. Saved people can get caught up in cares and woe
 - 2. Saved people can also be bound by sin (GAL. 5:1)
- B. God gives peace beyond understanding (1 COR. 14:33)
- C. Give them counsel from the Word of God
 - 1. Backsliding happens when we tell God "No"
 - 2. Repent, confess, pray, and fast (1 JOHN 1:9)

IV. SOULS WITH ASSURANCE

- A. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! 1 JOHN 5:13
 - 1. This is relationship and fellowship! (ROM. 8:15)
 - 2. Adoption, ingrafting, called friends (JOHN 1:12)
- B. Strong cable (Relationship) / Thin thread (Fellowship)
 - 1. Keep that tie strong: AGREE WITH GOD (Amos 3:3)
 - 2. Get "RIGHT WITH" God (Bible reading / Prayer)
- C. Stay repentant, teachable, pastor-able, and sweet

PSALM 19:1 - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

JOHN 1:1 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

PROV. 8:5 - "O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart."

PROV. 24:9 - "The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men."

ISA. 55:11 - "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

PSALM 143:5 - "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands."

GAL. 5:1 - "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

1 COR. 14:33 - "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

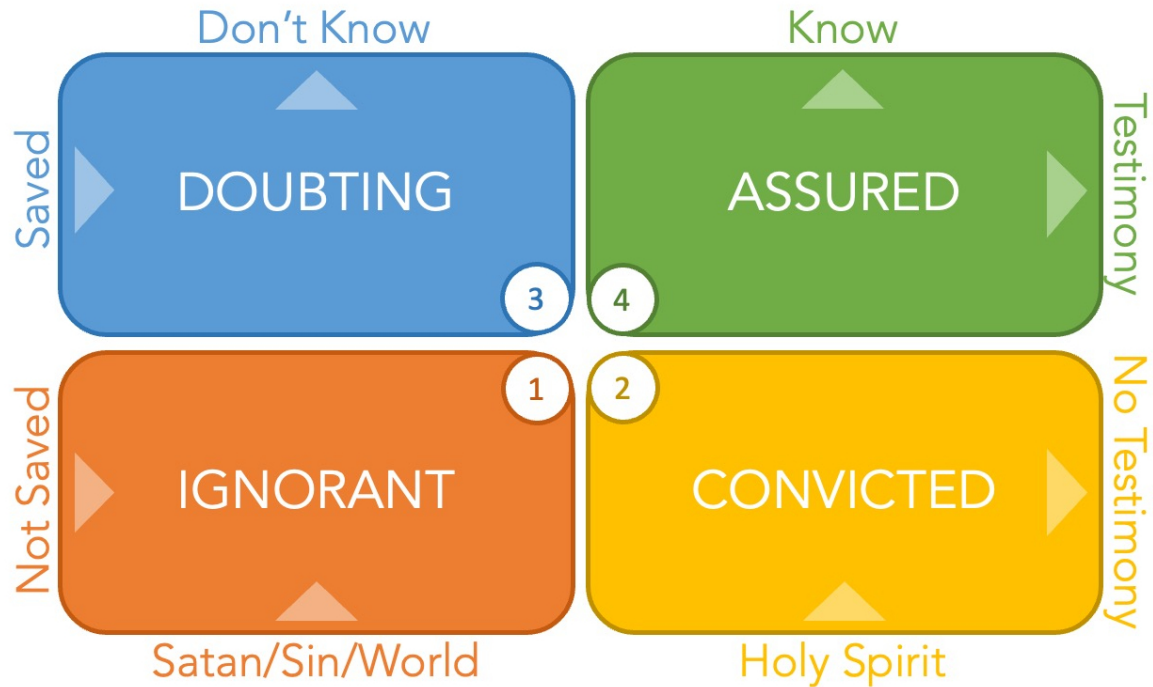
1 JOHN 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

ROM. 8:15 - "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

JOHN 1:12 - "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

AMOS 3:3 - "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

FOUR POSSIBLE STATES



1. **IGNORANT** – “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” (Acts 17:30)
2. **CONVICTED** – “But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:” (1 Cor. 14:24)
3. **DOUBTING** – “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matt. 14:31)
4. **ASSURED** – “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” (1 John 5:13)