

Gary Rohrmayer on Engaging in More Spiritual Conversations

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Gary Rohrmayer has written a helpful little book (76 pages) called *Spiritual Conversations: Creating and Sustaining Them without Being a Jerk*. In it, he provides a lot of practical helps to engaging unbelievers and overcoming evangelistic entropy. Below are five ideas for increasing spiritual conversations with people in your life (from chapter 7):

1. Make It a Priority

It is important for mission ally minded followers of Jesus to think strategically about their conversations throughout the week. If you don't plan it or make room for it, the likelihood is that it is not going to get done. . . . If leaders are going to be serious about connecting with people, they need to uncover at least 5 new contacts a day, equaling about 35 a week, which will lead to 3 "sit-downs" for a meaningful conversation.

2. Pray for Opportunities

Include in your praying . . .

- * that God draws them to Himself (John 6:44)
- * that they seek to know God (Acts 17:27)
- * that they believe the Scriptures (1 Thessalonians 1:4-7)
- * that Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth (Matthew 13:19)
- * that the Holy Spirit works in them (John 16:8-13)
- * that God sends someone to lead them to Christ (Matthew 9:37-38)
- * that they believe in Christ as Savior (John 5:24)
- * that they turn from sin (Acts 17:30-31; Acts 3:19)
- * that they confess Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-10)
- * that they yield all to follow Christ (2 Corinthians 5:15)
- * that they take root and grow in Christ (Colossians 2:6-7)

3. Get Out and Into Your Community

Look at your calendar and see what fills your week. I encourage spiritual leaders to think about titheing their time to community service and interaction (about six hours a week). . . . Networking is more about join in than it is about just hanging out in coffee shops, bookstores, and restaurants.

4. Establish Routines and Cultivate Relationships

Beyond the tithe of your time in your community I encourage leaders to establish routines and patterns so that you build a relational presence with business owners and servers. Think strategically about all your interactions and pray that you can be a redemptive influence within that social network. A couple of telltale signs of this are, "Do people know your name?" or "Do you know people's names?"

5. Be Available to Those Around You

As pastors and leaders we need to be spiritually sensitive to those Divine opportunities where God can use us in His redemptive plan. . . . There are times when we need to push beyond weariness and busyness and allow God to interrupt our agendas and schedules.

Questions to consider:

- * How many contacts does it take for you to get a meaningful sit-down with a person?
- * When is the last time you asked God to open new doors of opportunity for you?
- * If you were to tithe to community service and interaction what would your work week look like?
- * What relational commitments are you making in your community?
- * What places do you frequent in your community?
- * How do you overcome spiritual insensitivity created by your weariness and busyness?

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