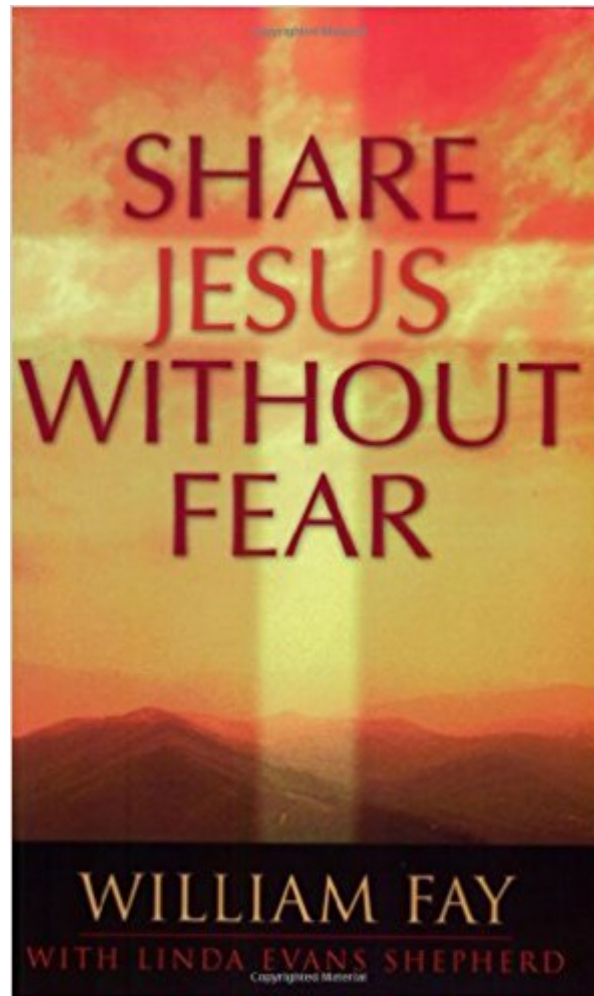




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Share Jesus Without Fear



Synopsis

In recent years, the Share Jesus without Fear book and its growing family of ancillary products have sparked a faith-sharing movement that continues to gain momentum. It began with the jaw-dropping story of William Fay, once a money-driven businessman with Mafia ties who ran a house of prostitution until it was raided by police. Facing the threat of jail time, Fay turned to Jesus Christ for redemption and ever since has been turning others to Him as well. Now featuring a fresh new cover design, Share Jesus without Fear relays Fay's passionate, effective instructions on how to share the love of Christ with anyone--without feeling intimidated on either side of the conversation. Bold and joyful, the outreach movement continues without fear.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

William Fay graduated from Denver Seminary with a degree in leadership and has taken up the mantle of an evangelist. Fay is a chaplain with the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency, host of the internationally syndicated radio show, "Let's Go," and his booklet "How to Share Your Faith Without an Argument" has more than five million copies in print. He travels frequently around the globe sharing the Share Jesus Without Fear message and resides with his family in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Bibliographical Entry Fay, William and Linda Evans Shepherd. Share Jesus Without Fear. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 1999.
Author Information William (Bill) Fay was once the CEO of a large corporation with ties to organized crime before life-changing events turned him towards Jesus

Christ. Fay once owned a house of prostitution and other illegal businesses. To say that Fay was hostile towards Christianity would be mildly stating his former view of the faith. Fay is a graduate of Denver Seminary and has personally witnessed to thousands of people. Today, a changed man, Fay is an evangelist, author, and radio personality traveling the United States sharing his testimony. Fay and his wife currently reside in Englewood, Colorado. Linda Evans Shepherd is an author of over 30 books, a nationally known Christian speaker, and television host in Denver, Colorado. She is also president of Right to the Heart Ministries. Shepherd and her family reside in Longmont, Colorado.

Content Summary Fay begins his book as one would expect by calling attention to the woeful state of evangelism in churches today. In the brief first two chapters, Fay explains that Christians cannot fail if they will share their faith. It is the sharing itself that is our success, not the outcome (p. 3). Without the clarity that fundamental understanding brings, the rest of Fay's book might fail to communicate his message that everyone is an evangelist. Sadly, the vast majority of Christians are guilty of committing what Fay calls the sin of silence. Christians should be excited about sharing their faith (p. 7)! And that sharing should be contagious. Fay recounts a story of a woman in adultery who surrendered her life to Christ and went back to her husband asking for forgiveness. Two days later the woman's husband contact Fay to tell him something was different about his wife and he wanted what she now had (p. 10-11). Mindful that not everyone will receive Christ, Fay tells his readers that the average nonbeliever must hear the gospel 7.6 times before accepting Christ. Fay also informs that the Institute of American Church Growth conducted a survey that shows 75 - 90% of new believers come to know Christ through a friend or acquaintance (p. 11 - 12). Before moving into the more instructive section of his book, Fay spends a chapter discussing the need to overcome the fear of evangelism. Here Fay tells his readers that evangelism is the job of every follower of Christ. While emphasizing the command to evangelize, Fay is quick to remind readers that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that does the real work and not the person sharing the gospel (p. 16). Fay then moves into six very practical reasons people give for not sharing their faith. They are fear of rejection (p. 17 - 19), fear of the opinion of friends (p. 19 - 21), fear of sharing with coworkers (p. 21 - 22), lack of knowledge (p.23 - 24), fear of losing friends and/or relatives (p. 24 - 25), and simply not knowing how to share (p. 26). After so many pages devoted to the excuses people give for not sharing their faith, Fay then disarms them all in a single paragraph (p. 27). Having laid the groundwork, Fay then moves to the first step of his proves for sharing one's faith in Jesus. This simple first step involves asking five "Share Jesus" questions designed to get people talking. Fay recognizes that most people have opinions and love to share those opinions. By asking questions designed to get people to share those opinions freely, Fay is able to steer the

conversation towards Jesus Christ. The next step in Fay's evangelism approach is taking the person being evangelized through selected passages of Scripture. Fay's key in this part of his approach is to have the other person read the passages and have them briefly explain what each passage means (p. 45 - 51). The person reading the Scripture passage is hearing the words and the Holy Spirit is using their own voice to speak to their heart. If the person does not correctly explain what the passage means, then Fay says to have them read it again and again until they do. God will work through His word and there is no need for us to try and do the work from Him. Fay's third step in his process is to bring the person being evangelized to a point of making a decision. The whole point of sharing faith in Jesus is to lead others to Him that they might also have a relationship with the Risen Savior. Here Fay explains his "Commitment Questions" (p. 61). The questions culminate in the asking someone if they are ready to ask Jesus to come into their heart and then remaining silent. There are only two answers someone can give: yes or no. So what comes after someone accepts Christ? Fay provides the answer in chapter 7. As one may have come to expect during the reading of Fay's book, this next step involves asking the new believer yet more questions. These are designed to ensure that the new believer has a proper understanding of what has just taken place in their life and to be certain they will get into a Bible-based church. Fay takes the next 31 pages discussing the most common objections to accepting Christ and how to overcome those objections. Fay then moves into a brief discussion of keeping non-Christian friends. An excellent point is made in that Christ died for them and loves them too (p. 113)! The concluding two chapters have Fay discussing praying for the lost and his commission for his readers to go. Christians are to be obedient to the Great Commission. Fay gently tells the story of the farmer who broken no ground and then asks if he should be angry at God for the lack of a harvest (p. 141). God is not going to make the first move. It is incumbent upon Christians to share their faith with others.

Evaluation Fay approaches the subject of evangelism with an enthusiasm that is refreshing. It is one thing to encourage people to share their faith. It is quite another to do so yourself. By all accounts, Fay actively is using the method his book describes to win people to Christ. As an evangelistic system, Fay has certainly developed an approach that is simple to learn and simple to use for all believers regardless of where an individual is in their walk with the Lord. Fay's approach is Scripture focused approach adds to the power of his method. Fay's book describes the successes he has had in his ministry. In fact, there are very few mentions of instances where Fay or someone using his approach to evangelism was not successful. This is a shame. Fay is very careful to mention some statistics about the success of the Gospel message and state emphatically that success is in the obedience to the Great Commission. Numbers are not the important thing Fay

states. With the responsibility for salvation placed squarely with the Holy Spirit, the believer is free to share their faith with nonbelievers and let God and His word do the work on the unrepentant heart. Yet with those statements having been made, Fay repeatedly recounts instances where he successfully led people to Christ. The impression the reader is left with is that the approach is the key to success rather than the working of the Holy Spirit. Inclusion of the inevitable failures to win someone to Christ would certainly add some depth to Fay's story that is missing in the telling. It would also add a dimension of realism to Fay's book that is painfully missing. Any Christian who has shared their faith knows the many rejections that come with doing so. Fay's main assertion in his book is that all are called to share their faith and that doing so is no difficult. Fay's positions on these points are well supported with Scripture. This does not come as a surprise given Fay's seminary training. In keeping with his training at Denver Seminary, Fay's theological interpretations are quite conservative making his book easily recommended for ministers, lay leaders, and others desiring to improve their evangelism skills. Fay's book sets out to remind his readers that all Christians are called to share their faith with the lost and to provide a simple, repeatable way of doing so. Fay easily accomplishes this goal. The book has a very readable style with personal stories that draw the reader in and make one feel almost as if they are present when the events being described are taking place. This is a major strength of the book. For the reader serious about finding a way of improving their evangelism skills, Fay's method is a good approach. Fay's method is a little different from other authors who have written on the same subject in recent years. Nick Pollard's *Evangelism Made Slightly Less Difficult*, Ray Comfort's *The Way of the Master*, and more recently David Platt's *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream* all are slightly different takes on evangelism in the church today. Still, Fay's book has the advantage of an incredible conversion story at the core which certainly serves Fay's book well. God remains in the miracle business as Fay can attest. The bottom line is that it is up to Christians to share their faith with the lost. We are called to do so and committing the sin of silence is unacceptable. Fay outlines a clear method one can use to reach the lost. It is up to the reader to put Fay's teaching into practice.

I am currently a student at Liberty University Online in their Seminary program, "Master's of Divinity". This book was required for a personal evangelism class and a book critique was requested. The following is my critique;Content SummaryFay and Shepherd show in their book, *Share Jesus without Fear*, a system of personal evangelism which includes; a strong framework, a good theological basis of evangelism, and a list of arguments for the Gospel, that everyone can use in the God given command for everyone to "go forth and make disciples of all nations". Fay has

shared the theology behind his system of personal evangelism, the framework for how he leads up to sharing the Gospel, and then goes into details about how to bring someone to a commitment and finally, what to do after the person has made the commitment. This section of this paper will examine each area briefly. Fay begins the book by sharing his testimony on how he came to know Christ and by sharing a simple truth; that there are no "failed attempts" in evangelism. There is only obedience to sharing the Gospel and disobedience through what Fay calls, "The Sin of Silence". He then points out that everyone is commanded to evangelize and gives rebuttals to the most common reasons why many refuse to evangelize. With this theology in place, Fay then begins to address the framework as to how to use his system. He begins with five questions, which lead to an opportunity for the evangelist to determine the degree to which the person will be responsive to the Gospel. This does not seem to indicate that Fay intends for the Gospel not to be shared, but rather to give the evangelist a strategic plan on how and when to share. Fay then discusses seven different key verses with which one can use to guide someone to an understanding of the Gospel. He then discusses questions that can lead to a commitment, rebuttals that can be offered when arguments arise, and practical suggestions for what to do after one has been used to bring someone to a commitment to the Gospel. The first place Fay starts, makes sense. It is important that the evangelist foster good listening skills when approaching someone with the Good News, and the first five questions Fay uses, force the evangelist to listen to where the person being evangelized to, is at spiritually. These questions are, in order, as follows: "Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?", "To you, who is Jesus?", "Do you think there is a heaven or a hell?", "If you died tonight, where would you go? If heaven, why?", "By the way, if what you are believing is not true, would you want to know?" Once the last question has been asked to an unbeliever, the evangelist uses the answer to the last question as the determining factor as to whether or not to proceed to the next stage of sharing the seven Bible passages. If the answer "no" is given the evangelist then is expected to end this line of discussion and to feel free to leave. If the answer "yes" is given, then the evangelist leads into sharing the seven passages that explain the Gospel. The seven verses Fay recommends using are: Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23; Joh 3:3; Joh 14:6; Rom. 10:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:15; and Rev. 3:20. Each of these passages has an important theological piece of the puzzle to the gospel, thus each should be shared. Depending on the person's response to each of these passages, the evangelist is then given the responsibility to follow up with the five closing questions that can lead to a commitment. Once these steps have been followed, and someone accepts Christ, Fay gives recommendations as to what to do when someone does actually make a commitment. These include praying with them, asking the new Christian a series of questions that confirm that the

person has understood what they have committed to, and connecting them with a local church. He (Fay), gives reasons for each of these. If one ends up this far, one has not only been successful in the call to obedience, but one has successfully been used to lead another person to Christ. What a privilege!

Evaluation William Fay does a fantastic job of developing this book into a tool for personal evangelism. Not only does he convince the reader of his beliefs, but his theology is accurate and his approach is winsome and fun. He encourages the body of Christ to yearn to share rather than fear sharing. It is best, however, to be thorough in reviewing the book for the positive, the negative, and the "after-thoughts" or the over-all response to the book. First, the bad news of this book shall be presented. While reading through the text, and while reviewing the text for this paper, this author found little to be criticized. Fay's approach is solid. However, there were a few things that were borderline positive and negatives. Fay occasionally hints at his extensive experience, which could border on pride, but more likely is to build credibility with his audience. The other issue found with this book is that the whole premise of the book is some what flawed. As long as someone is in a sin-filled world, there is almost always likely to be a sense of "fear" when sharing the Gospel. This is because we know we will face persecution, we know the world will hate us, and so we know that eventually our experiences in sharing will end up in us getting into an undesirable circumstance (in so far as it will likely bring the effects of the fall on us; fear, pain, suffering, injury, ect.) (2 Tim. 3:12; Joh. 15:18). Fay's premise and examples almost border on the promise of, "Nothing bad will happen to you". However, this author does not believe this was done intentionally. It is believed that it was done in such a way that it would encourage others to share regardless of this promise and truth. It would have been good to have seen more stories of when sharing the Gospel did not turn out so well for Fay. There were many "positive" things about this book. Fay does a good job of getting at the heart of evangelism. He shows how it is more from a desire to obey our Lord than it is an attempt to save the lost. With this being the first reason Fay emphasizes for evangelism, he then goes on to add that it IS to save the lost that we evangelize, but not on our own power. Beyond showing the "why" of evangelism, he then addresses the "who" by pointing out that all are meant to evangelize. The majority of the rest of the book is addressed to the "how" of evangelism. He does a fantastic job of explaining this part himself; however, there are a few things worth mentioning that stood out in his approach. One of the things that was a new outlook was the emphasis on making sure that Christians do not just stop at trying to live out the Gospel, but instead make sure that they verbally share it as well. This is something that affected the author of this paper quite thoroughly. It is an issue that likely plagues many in the church and that Fay addresses this problem is appreciated. Another emphasis Fay takes is his emphasis on prayer. As already stated, Fay places

the emphasis of the work of justification on the Holy Spirit where it rightly belongs. With this emphasis, the logical conclusion is that one must join God's work, not do our own work. This requires prayer and Fay points that out and emphasizes it. Fay's emphasis on allowing the scriptures to speak is another thing worth mentioning. This is in line with the last observation regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in saving the lost. However, this brings in a new element. He points to scripture and expresses his belief in the power of scripture and that faith comes by hearing. While this passage is expounded upon in the denomination of this author, its practical implications were rarely, if ever discussed. Fay, however, does that here. Finally, Fay seeks to provide a comprehensive, though not exhaustive list of objections that people are likely to give to the Gospel. These are not meant to be a chance to argue pointlessly, but rather to allow an evangelist to knowingly and intelligently discern when it is appropriate to share these and when not to. The approach is direct and well thought out. These make a great tool when sharing with someone less certain of where they stand but willing to listen. Overall, this book was a fantastic book! It is simple, encouraging, and effective. This author enjoyed it so much, a bookmark was created with the principles of this book on it so that it could be carried around at all times along with purchasing the pocket Bible to go along with it, and is seeking to teach an evangelism class at the local church attended using some of these principles.

What a great little book for anyone who is the least bit apprehensive about how to begin sharing their faith. The approach is very natural, very organic.

This purchase was for a friend who loves the book and wanted her own copy. Thank you for the pleasure.

Excellent and easy way to witness, it takes all of the pressure and anxiety off of you. I highly recommend this and the I phone app.

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