



**Personal Evangelism:
Evangelism to Recoilers, Rebels and
Drifters.**

11-12-17

Philippians 1:6... *that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ*

Today's message is a hard topic to discuss. More than likely, we'll be talking about people you know and love. Friends and family that have walked away from a strong relationship with Christ and the church. A common word has been used to describe these folks; backsliders. I'd rather call them friends and loved ones, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters. But for today's message, we'll call them as Recoilers, Rebels, and Drifters.

Recoilers; are people who have left Christianity because of the emotional pain they've endured and associated with God and the church somehow. They may have been abused because of their faith in Christ, abused by a professing Christian or victimized by Christians who committed sins such as gossip, greed, or false teaching. Actions that hurt them as a result.

[Philippians 2:12-13](#), tells us to *continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his purpose*. Recoilers must understand, Christians are messy people trying to work out our salvation together in obedience. Therefore, grace and understanding must flow freely.

Our response to Recoilers: reach out but dispense with arguments. Focus on listening to their stories of their suffering and how they feel about it. Empathize with their pain, work to earn their trust, help them think biblically about their pain and then, outline the difference between God and the people who hurt them in God's name.

Rebels; 1 Timothy 4:1 tells us; *The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons*. Rebels are people who leave Christianity because they find sinful pursuits more appealing than following the faith's moral standards.

Our response to Rebels: they need a compelling cause to motivate them to grow spiritually. Show them that faith is an adventure. Help them discover God's purposes for their lives especially during times when their sinful lifestyles create crisis.

Drifters; are people who have allowed themselves to become dulled to God's Word. They've allowed their human nature to tear them away from God. They do not pursue fellowship with believers.

Drifters need to embrace Hebrews 10:24-25; *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*.

Our response to Drifters; invite them to new opportunities and new places, where they can be around believers who are growing. Hopefully, just being with other believers will help them rekindle their faith. Be a friend.

One of the greatest roles of evangelism is befriending, sharing our faith and encouraging the Recoilers, Rebels and Drifters. Helping our fellow Christians rekindle their faith and remain strong in the Lord.

Our greatest weapon in God's arsenal, available to all His soldiers, is prayer! During battle, we must be on our knees talking with God about those we love.

Notes: