



Witnessing to the Wealthy, Worldly,
and Well Educated

David Kim - GYC 2013

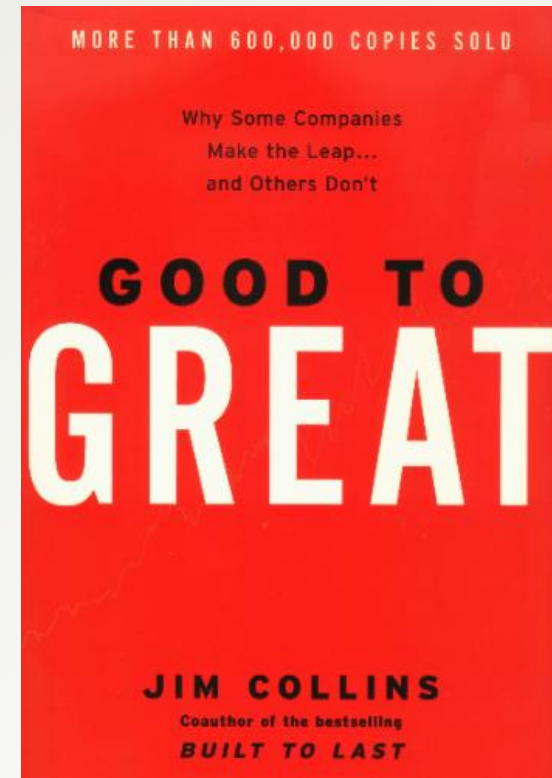
Agenda

- The need

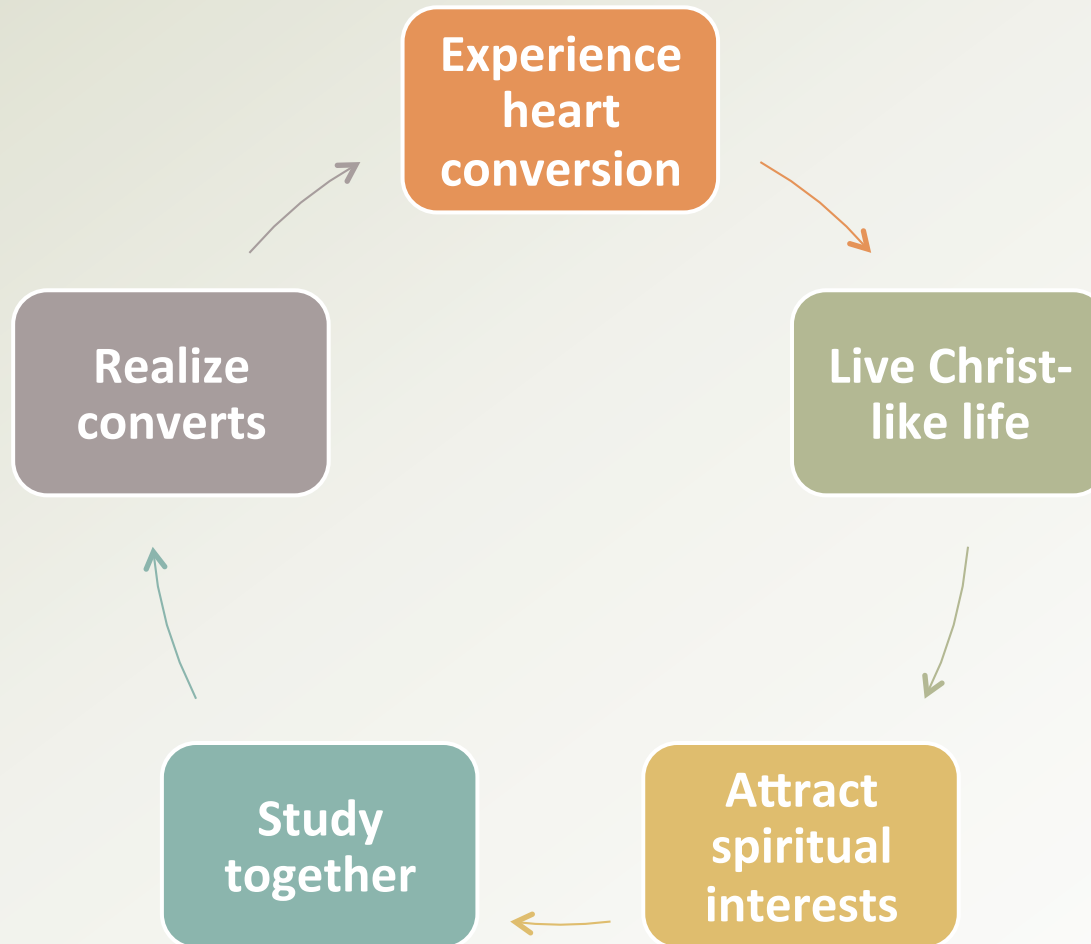
- The method

- The experience

What is a “flywheel”?



Being a witness drives the Christian's "Flywheel"



Are you a witness or just witnessing?



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES.



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It all starts with your heart conversion

- “You must be born again...of the Spirit” (Jn 3:5-8)
- The Spirit will make you a witness (Acts 1:8)
- Implications:
 - ▣ If you are heart converted, you will be a witness
 - ▣ If you are not a witness, you are not heart converted

Your witness is a barometer of your salvation

Heart conversion gives confidence



Angie's List
Reviews

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3 star:	(702)
2 star:	(374)
1 star:	(653)

Most Helpful Customer Reviews
18,653 of 18,810 people found the following review helpful



Heart conversion provokes a sense of urgency



Christ will transform your life...if only you let Him

- **Develop a daily devotional walk with God**
 - ▣ Prayer (“ACTS”)
 - ▣ Reading scripture
 - ▣ Even when you don’t feel like it
- **Gain victory over sin**
 - ▣ Confess specific sins
 - ▣ Pray for the Fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor 13:4-8; Galatians 5:22-23)
 - ▣ Ask God to change you
- **Pray for the salvation of people in your life**
 - ▣ Family, friends, church members, co-workers, bosses, direct reports, neighbors, classmates, professors, etc.
- **Serve others in your church and community**

Attracting spiritual interests



NOT THIS!!!



Another metaphor...



NOT THIS!!!



Attracting interests – “How To Guide”

- **Build personal credibility → PURPOSEFULLY**
- **Have spiritual experiences → REGULARLY**
- **Engage spiritual conversations → NATURALLY**

Build personal credibility purposefully

- Be excellent and do your best (Daniel 1:17-21)
- Get along with others (Daniel 2:13-15, 24-25; Acts 26:24-26; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23)
- BUT don't compromise your principles (Daniel 1:8-14; Genesis 39:7-10)

Have spiritual experiences regularly

- Church attendance and related activities
 - ▣ Sermons, Sabbath School, guest speakers, service activities, youth programs, etc.
- Personal devotional life
- Bible studies
 - ▣ Given and received
- Spiritual conversations with others
- Events and trips
 - ▣ LEADS, ASI, GYC, Camp meeting, Church retreats, etc.
- Media consumption
 - ▣ Music, videos, books, audio, websites, etc.

Engage spiritual conversations naturally

- ❑ What's up for/How was the weekend?
- ❑ Any vacation plans?
- ❑ How did you meet your wife?
- ❑ Do you still play the cello?
- ❑ What do you do for fun?
- ❑ How are you guys settling into the area?
- ❑ Why do you homeschool? How do your kids get socialization?
- ❑ How do you manage your ambition vs. your desire for work/life balance?
- ❑ Do you have any advice for how to be successful at work?
- ❑ Weddings, funerals, holidays, other events

Tips for studying together

- ❑ Start where they're interested
- ❑ Don't assume prior knowledge, and find out what they know
- ❑ Be authentic
- ❑ Take a factual tone
- ❑ Stay attuned to their reactions
- ❑ Make statements in the form of questions
- ❑ Assume they'll fact check so prepare for it
- ❑ Don't argue, just make observations
- ❑ Manage your time
- ❑ "I don't know, good question, I'll look into that"
- ❑ "That's a whole another study...we'll get there"
- ❑ Remember, you're not the Holy Spirit

1. Pascal's Wager – The Logical Case for God

Introduction:

- Belief in God does require faith, but faith need not be “blind”; there are many lines of reasoning and evidence which attest to the reasonableness of belief in the God of the Bible
- Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer, and philosopher proposed one of the most well-known logical frameworks for belief in God; it is known as “Pascal’s Wager”
 - Major contributions to mathematics include: geometry (Pascal’s Triangle), physics (Pascal’s Law), and probability
 - Exposed to Christianity at age 23 when father was being treated for a broken hip; subsequently fell away from faith, but later at age 31 had a re-conversion experience after a surviving a brush with death
 - From that point on, became a powerful apologist for the Christian faith; his best known work is called “Pensees” (“Thoughts”)

Summary of Pascal’s Wager (from “Pensees”):

"God either exists or He doesn't. Based on the testimony, both general revelation (nature) and special revelation (Scriptures/Bible), it is safe to assume that God does in fact exist. It is abundantly fair to conceive, that there is at least 50 percent chance that the Christian Creator God does in fact exist. Therefore, since we stand to gain eternity, and thus infinity, the wise and safe choice is to live as though God does exist. If we are right, we gain everything, and lose nothing. If we are wrong, we lose nothing and gain nothing. Therefore, based on simple mathematics, only the fool would choose to live a Godless life. Let us see. Since you must choose, let us see which interests you least. You have nothing to lose. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing. Wager, then, without hesitation that He is."

Commentary on Pascal’s Wager:

- *"God either exists or He doesn't"*
 - These are the only two choices, there is not a third option
 - There is an objective reality that will ultimately come to pass
 - **Matthew 12:30** – Christ’s challenge to the Pharisees
- *"Based on the testimony, both general revelation (nature) and special revelation (Scriptures/Bible), it is safe to assume that God does in fact exist."*
 - Ultimately belief or unbelief in God’s existence is a matter of choice and faith; even after nearly 350 years since Pascal’s death, nobody has conclusively proved, nor disproved, God’s existence
 - God provides evidence of His existence, and he invites us to *"Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD" (Isaiah 1:18)*
- *"Since you must choose..."*
 - **1 Kings 18:21** – Elijah’s challenge to Israel
- *"Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing."*

- Expected Value: (Size of the prize * Probability of winning) – (Size of loss * Probability of losing)

	God exists	God does not exist
Believe in God	+ ∞ = Eternal life (Heaven)	+ Moral benefits
Do not believe in God	- ∞ = Eternal destruction (Hell)	- Immoral consequences

- Smallest probability * Infinite benefit = Infinite benefit (inherent nature of Infinity)
 - Smallest probability * Infinite loss = Infinite loss
 - **John 3:16** – God has told us that if we believe, our chance of “winning” is 100%; conversely, in **Romans 6:23** we know that without God, the wages of sin is a 100% chance of eternal death
- The only way that not believing makes mathematical sense, is if instead of finite moral benefits and finite immoral consequences, a moral, godly life would inflict infinite cost and an immoral life provided infinite benefits
 - The Bible testifies to the blessings of a personal relationship with God (**Psalm 34:8**)
 - Personal testimonies and experiences of believers vs. non-believers and decay of society without God at the center
- *"Wager, then, without hesitation that He is."*
 - Believe – Worst case scenario, you die having lived a full life; Best case scenario you inherit eternal life and happiness with God
 - Non-belief – Best case scenario you live your life on earth, and die; Worst case scenario, you lose eternal life and happiness

Conclusion:

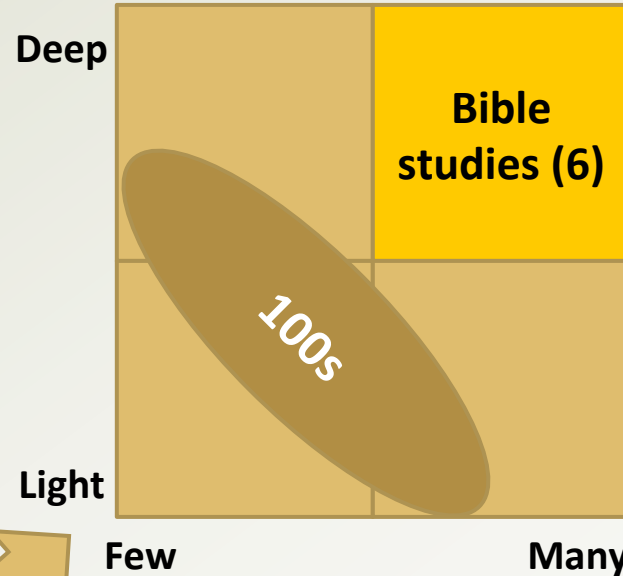
- The logic of Pascal’s Wager is compelling, yet “hedging one’s bets” may seem an overly utilitarian way to consider the question of belief
- The point of Pascal’s Wager, however, is not primarily to convince unbelievers to belief, but rather to highlight a few critical realizations:
 - There is an ultimate reality which will become known
 - The upside is infinite joy, but that the downside is infinite loss
 - There is a choice to be made
 - True belief is a combination of reason, logic, AND faith, and that God desires for us to use all of our faculties in order to know Him
- Questions for consideration:
 - Is it clear that the “expected value” of belief vastly outweighs that of disbelief?
 - Which side of the “wager” will you take?

Progress over time (last 5 years)



Converts (2)

Spiritual Conversations



People you know (1000s)



For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:18-19