

November 24, 2024

# Receiving and Sharing Christ

Undergraduate Yean Li had concerns about sharing the gospel with friends and family members. She worried she wouldn't know the answers to their questions or what to say to keep the conversation going. After praying, she realized that the outcome of evangelism is up to God, but it's up to her to "open [her] eyes to opportunities." Li says when people ask her how she can stay calm and joyful during adversity, she leans into those opportunities to share with them the hope she has in Christ. "Though these windows might seem small and easy to miss, I believe that they are of great importance."<sup>1</sup>

The student book author writes, "Evangelism in our current culture seems to be going the way of fasting. It isn't comfortable, we don't feel its necessity, and we don't teach or promote it in our churches. . . . Christians, from their inception, have been an outreaching, converting, persuading, and evangelizing people. . . . For John Wesley and Methodists across time and cultures, relational evangelism has been one of the central purposes that defines our identity and unites us in purpose. Faith sharing at home, in community, and around the world is the best way we can offer Christ to others."<sup>2</sup>

In 2 Timothy 2:1-16, the apostle Paul encourages Timothy to spread the gospel effectively. Paul emphasized the importance of receiving Christ's teachings and actively sharing them with others. This passage discusses how Christians can receive strength from their faith and pass it on in meaningful ways to others.

Paul also taught that receiving and sharing faith involves passing on teachings to others who can teach. He advised Timothy, "Take the things you heard me say in front of many other witnesses and pass them on to faithful people who are also capable of teaching others" (2 Timothy 2:2). This strategy for discipleship demonstrates a ripple effect, where each believer becomes a student and a teacher of the gospel. This principle speaks to the importance of mentorship within the Christian community, where learning and sharing happen simultaneously. By investing in others and encouraging them to share what they've learned, each believer can help spread Christ's message across generations and cultures.

1. What moments in your daily life might you be overlooking as opportunities to share the hope you have in Christ? How can you become more aware and prepared to engage in these moments?
2. How can building relationships enhance your ability to share your faith authentically?
3. Who are the people in your life who have shared their faith with you, and how can you, in turn, pass on what you've learned to others to create a lasting impact?

<sup>1</sup>From "Evangelism as a Lifestyle: Ordinary Christians, Extraordinary Stories: Seizing Windows of Opportunities," by Yean Li, *Thirst* (July 29, 2022).

<sup>2</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2024, by Dan R. Dick (Cokesbury, 2024).