

HOW TO BUILD A GODLY LIFE
ADD THE CHARACTER TRAIT OF “INFLUENCING FAITH” TO YOUR LIFE

I. WHAT IS INFLUENCING FAITH? IT IS PERSUADING OTHERS TO FOLLOW GOD'S WAYS.

Why is this important? Several reasons.

Parents want to influence their children to do what is right and to follow the Lord. Influencing Faith will help them do that. People have relatives and friends they want to see saved and go to Heaven when they die. Influencing Faith will help them get their relatives and friends saved. The Lord has commanded us to “get people saved.” In order to obey Him, we need an Influencing Faith. This is why adding the character trait of “Influencing Faith” is so important.

A. It is the responsibility of the people who are saved to try to get other people saved.

The last request of Jesus before He ascended back to Heaven was:

Matt. 28:19-20, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (KJV)

B. A Godly life will be concerned about people hearing the Gospel and will have what we are calling today “An Influencing Faith.”

1. God wants people to follow him; therefore, if we are living a godly life, we will be influencing (persuading) people to follow Him by our actions and words.

II. INFLUENCING FAITH IS IMPORTANT.

A. God's primary purpose for every believer is to be a witness for Him.

III. HOW TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE INFLUENCING FAITH.

A. You must be living a Godly life.

1. We influence more people (our children, our relatives, our friends) by our lifestyle than we do by what we say.

B. You need to have a clear conscience.

C. You need to have a knowledge of the Scriptures.

D. You need to use your personal testimony.

E. You need to appeal to the conscience.

1. When we talk to people, they tend to have two questions in their minds:

a. Why is this important for me to hear?

b. How can I apply it to my life?

F. You need to use gracious words.

1. We can try to win the argument, but lose the war.

IV. HOW INFLUENCING IS YOUR LIFE?

A. Here is a self-evaluation.

1. Do you influence others to believe in Jesus Christ?

2. Do you influence others to reject wrong decisions?

3. Do you influence Christian friends to join you in volunteering to do ministry work like being an usher, greeter, Sunday School worker, bus worker, and other ministries of the church?

V. PRACTICAL HELPS TO HAVE AN INFLUENCING FAITH.

A. How to open the conversation to influence a person to consider getting saved.

One of the ways to do this is to use the F.O.R.M. METHOD by asking questions.

1. F stands for Family: Ask questions about their family. How long have they lived in Alaska? Where they moved from? Whether or not that's their hometown? Where do they consider home? How many children they have? What kind of recreation they enjoy, etc.?

2. O stands for Occupation: Find out what type of work they are in. What exactly do they do? Does their spouse work outside the home?

3. R stands for Religious Background: Usually, your first question here would be, "Did you have a home church in Texas where you came from?" If the answer is yes or no you can lead into the next question, which is "What type of Religious background or upbringing do you have?" After they have shared their background with you, you gain a pretty good idea of whether or not they are saved. This takes you right into the last and most important part of your conversation - the message.

4. M stands for Message: by asking , "When did you receive Christ as your personal Savior?" will lead you to rejoice with them about being saved or allow you to share with them how to be saved.

B. How to influence people to see that God and His church can help them with their problems.

1. Your personal testimony is one of the most powerful influencing aspect of your life.

**HOWEVER, THE MOST POWERFUL INFLUENCING ASPECT OF YOU LIFE IS
LIVING A GODLY LIFE.**