

Approaches to Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

OPTIONS:

- ❑ Option 1: **FRONTAL ASSAULT** – **STRENGTH:** no fooling around, gets right to their need and the solution; e.g. you're serving a Satanic false prophet, you need to get out, repent; John 3 says you must be born again; let's pray together so you can accept the Lord **WEAKNESS:** assumes a confrontational stance immediately; but bridge-building (identifying what you have in common) is the normal New Testament method, with both Jews or pagans

- ❑ Option 2: **DOCTRINAL or THEOLOGICAL** – **STRENGTH:** most Christians comfortable with this method, for it's the most commonly used and recommended (in churches) **WEAKNESS:** assumes JW can be dealt with as a Christian, but 1 Cor 2:14 tells us the carnal man (even with a Bible in hand) cannot understand things of the Spirit – how much more the deeper truths of Christianity, which sometimes took centuries to work out; we would never think to feed meat to an infant, but a Witness isn't even born yet!

- ❑ Option 3: **HISTORICAL or CREDIBILITY CHECK** – **STRENGTH:** gets to the real issue with all cultists – authority; this is the issue that must be addressed before any headway can normally be made in biblical understanding -- he must first take off the Watchtower "glasses" all JW's use in interpreting Scripture; the JW must lose faith in the Watchtower before his alienation brings him to an awareness of personal need – again, milk (gospel) before meat (doctrine) **WEAKNESS:** JW's are trained to watch out for 'apostates' (which has come to include Christians who know apostates, i.e. ex-JW's); therefore knowledge of historical background of Watchtower must be used with great discretion – best to introduce such information when the relationship has already developed, and then in the form of questions which reflect biblical principles – e.g. *Since you want me to trust the Watchtower exclusively, don't you think it should meet the standards we apply to others we trust completely: family, friends, even God? Don't even friends have to EARN our trust by a record of fidelity and faithfulness? Can you show me how the Watchtower has demonstrated that kind of trustworthiness?* (This will lay the foundation for future problems with Watchtower credibility – false predictions, sources, doctrinal double-reverses, cover-ups and much more)

- ❑ Option 4: **BIBLICAL** – **STRENGTH:** exhibits at least that YOU have strong Bible faith, thus undermining Watchtower propaganda re Christians; positive rather than negative in focus, building up faith in God through historical (esp. Old Testament) examples of God's attributes, especially His faithfulness, consistency and grace – thus applies to JW's specific needs the method of the apostles (e.g. Acts 14 & 17, where Paul preaches God's kindness and providence etc. before getting to the centre of the gospel, the person and resurrection of Christ) **WEAKNESS (?)**: takes time, patience, and a depth of knowledge most Christians may not (yet) have

CONCLUSION: *A combination of methods 3 and 4 will be ideally effective with most 'core' Witnesses, with emphasis – at least in early conversations – on putting a biblical foundation in place for any future criticisms you may have to make of 'mother' (the 'organization')*

CAUTION: *No matter what approach you decide to use, be sure you let the Witness do most of the talking. Never let the JW feel that you are the teacher. This will probably involve leading the JW in fruitful directions by well-considered questions – a favourite method of the Lord Himself! (e.g. Matt.16:3,8-11,13,15). The Witness will be less likely to feel HE is being taught if led to his 'own' conclusions by the right question.*