

Chris Stein, Reflection

[April 6, 2021](#)

Whenever I read a passage like that first reading, I have to admit I can feel ashamed and humbled. We see that in the early Church Christianity was catching on in waves. Just in the first reading 3,000 people were baptized into Christianity.

Today however, we see the news about how so many have left religion or no longer find it relevant.

But for us who have encountered Jesus, we know that He is relevant, He gives life its very meaning. To love and to live for Christ is the very meaning of every human being is alive. It is the universal call.

So how do we get people to understand this? I don't have all of the answers but I would like to propose three things that I believe essential:

1. We must get back to proclaiming that sin exists and needs forgiven. In our hearts, in the human heart, all of us know that we are sinners who need healing and forgiveness. The reality is that we are not okay. We are sick and wounded. The Good News for us here, is that hopefully, we have all encountered that mercy of Christ, the ultimate love of the Savior. As a Church we must share this news of forgiveness with others.
2. It is essential we abandon our fear and courageously witness to the Gospel. How many of us find it awkward to have the dinner discussion about faith with family members who disagree? I know I do. But we have to realize that Christ is with us and the Holy Spirit will speak through us in ways we might not understand. Christians must again go to the periphery and provide charitable work.
3. Prayer. I know I say it again and again, but prayer is the most essential part of each day. And we all have time for prayer. I know in my own life, whenever I have tried to say I did not have time for prayer, all I had to do was go back and look at the usage time on my phone to see the time that was available. Prayer conforma us to God. It slows us down and teaches us to listen. And when we learn to listen, we will learn what to say and what to do.