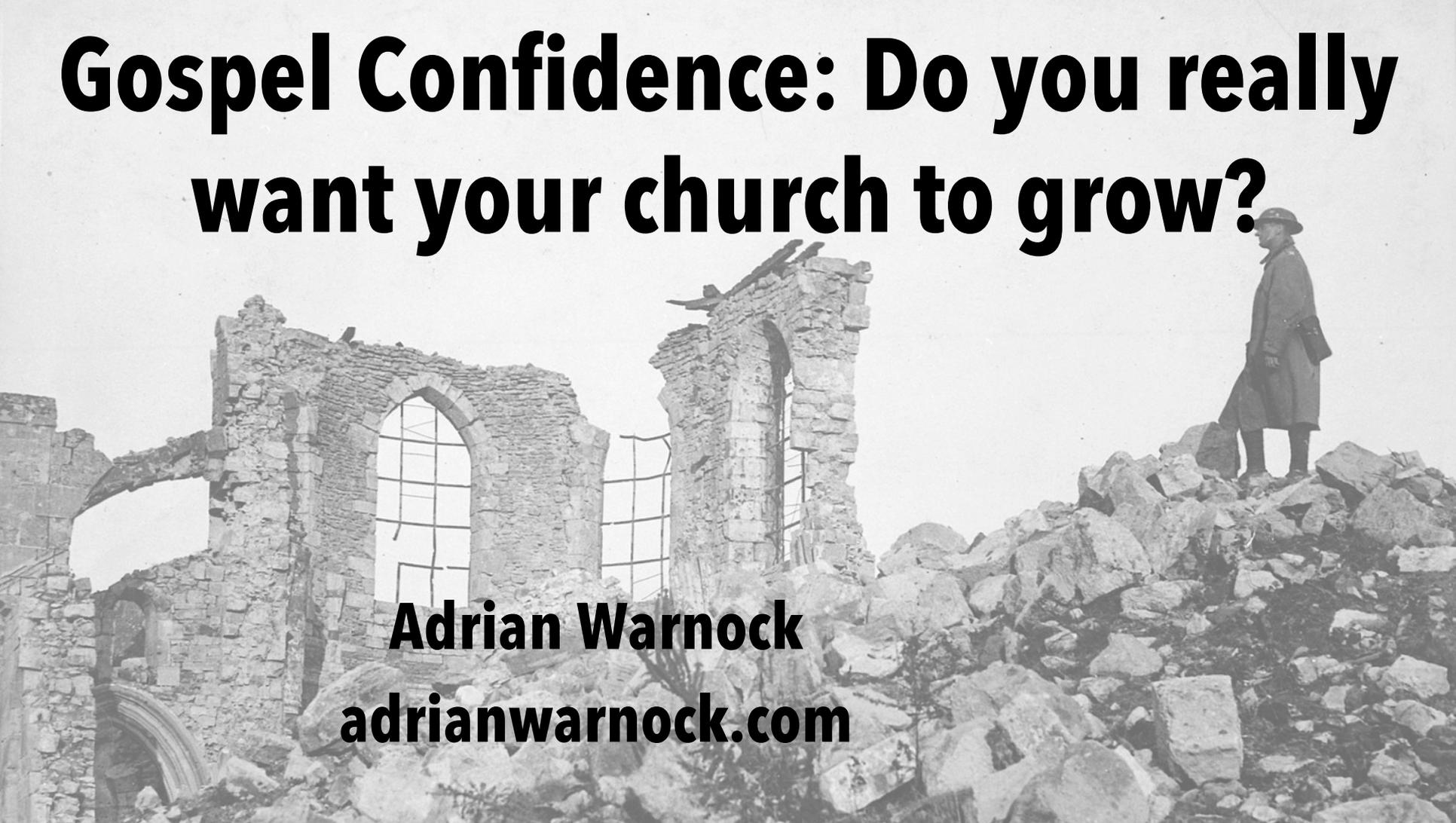


# **Gospel Confidence: Do you really want your church to grow?**

A black and white photograph showing a person standing on a large pile of rubble. The person is wearing a long coat and a hat, and is looking towards the left. In the background, there are the ruins of a stone building with several arched windows. The overall scene suggests a state of desolation or the aftermath of destruction.

**Adrian Warnock**  
**[adrianwarnock.com](http://adrianwarnock.com)**

"But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil." **1 Peter**

**3:14-17**

Jesus is calling each of us to play our part  
in the re-evangelization of this Nation

"You must also believe in the power of that message to save people. You may have heard the story of one of our first students, who came to me, and said, 'I have been preaching now for some months, and I do not think I have had a single conversion.' I said to him, 'And do you expect that the Lord is going to bless you and save souls every time you open your mouth?'

'No, sir,' he replied. 'Well, then,' I said, 'that is why you do not get souls saved. If you had believed, the Lord would have given the blessing.' I had caught him very nicely; but many others would have answered me in just the same way as he did. They tremblingly believe that it is possible, by some strange mysterious method, that once in a hundred sermons God might win a quarter of a soul.

They have hardly enough faith to keep them standing upright in their boots; how can they expect God to bless them? I like to go to the pulpit feeling, 'This is God's Word that I am going to deliver in His name; it cannot return to Him void; I have asked His blessing upon it, and He is bound to give it, and His purposes will be answered, whether my message is a savour of life unto life, or of death unto death to those who hear it.' **Spurgeon**

Spurgeon's ***The Souwinner*** should stop us accepting a form of Christianity where week after week no one gets saved in our churches

*“So pray and so preach that, if there are no conversions, you will be astonished, amazed, and broken-hearted. Look for the salvation of your hearers as much as the angel who will sound the last trump will look for the waking of the dead! Believe your own doctrine! Believe your own Saviour! Believe in the Holy Ghost who dwells in you! For thus shall you see your heart’s desire, and God shall be glorified.”*

– Charles H. Spurgeon, *An All-Round Ministry*, p. 187.

The preaching of the gospel, **done in the right way** and with the right **expectation** and **anointing** that has the power to save.

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"* **Romans 1:16**

"Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." **Acts 18:9-10**

"Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and **spoke in such a way** that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed." **Acts 14:1**

# **How should we speak so many will believe ?**

- Speak the actual gospel. Assume nothing.
- Use the words of the Bible.
- Tell the story

# **Bold AND Winsome**

- Believe and trust the Gospel fully
- Understand and explain the Gospel clearly
- Value and prize the Gospel passionately
- Care about the lost and want them to be saved

# **Bold AND Winsome**

- Recognize the results are not in our hands
- Some will reject some will accept
- Speak about grace with grace

# **Different ways to talk**

- Preaching
- Reasoning
- Dialogue
- Simple conversation

# One to One Evangelism

- Instead of talking at people
  - **S**TART A CONVERSATION
  - **A**SK QUESTIONS
  - **L**ISTEN
  - **T**ELL THE STORY

# The God Test

- A helpful tool and teaches useful principles
- Can use it with someone or simply memorize the questions

# Do you Believe in God? If "no"

- What are the main reasons you don't believe in God?
- Do you find any ultimate purpose or meaning in the universe?
- How do you account for the laws of nature?

- Does evil exist?
- What is the basis for your morality?
- Do you think human life is special compared to plant or animal life?

- How certain are you that God doesn't exist?
- How you ever explored what the Bible says about these questions?
- May I pray for you?

# **Do you Believe in God? If "yes"**

- How would you describe God?
- What does God expect of us?
- How are you meeting those expectations on a scale of 1 to 10?

- Do you believe in heaven?
- Does everyone go?
- Do you believe you will go to heaven?
- Why or why not?

- Would you like to know what the Bible says about these questions?
- Are you willing to follow Jesus and trust him with your life?

- [UCLA GodTest video](#)

# Learn to *Really* Listen

- Don't attack straw men, engage with what people really believe
- Think about how what we say will come across
  - E.g. "Did God have sex with Mary?"

# Build on Common Ground

- **Start with what we agree on**
  - e.g. What Muslims and Christians agree about Jesus
  - “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious....”
- **But be graciously clear where we disagree**
  - “What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

“Be encouraged that simply finding people interesting and caring about them is a beautiful pathway into their heart. Evangelism gets a bad reputation when we are not really interested in people and don’t seem to care about them.”

**John Piper**