

*I have caused an unbelieving friend of mine to become irritated with me after repeatedly pointing him in the direction of the Word of God. His belief is that "the Christian God" doesn't resonate with him. He says that I'm being close-minded by not accepting his perspective. Part of me believes that I'm not creating space for him to come to God organically and that I'm being a "fixer" instead of empowering him to come to the faith on his own. How should I be thinking about this situation?*

A pearl is born when an oyster becomes irritated by a grain of sand. In the same way a Christian may be born again (Jn 3:3) when he is irritated by the word of God (Mt 13:45-46, 1 Co 1:18, 1 Pe 1:23, Jas 1:18). David Jeremiah said, "Sometimes we must comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

New birth comes from Jesus' message (Jas 1:18). Believers share the word in the hope that it might find a place in another (Jn 8:37) and grow (Mt 13:38).

Christians have been commissioned to share (Mk 16:15) God's message (Ro 10:14-15). The apostle John wrote: "Because as he is, so are we in this world (1 Jn 4:17)."

God's children must be: disciplined (1 Co 9:24-27), patient (Eccl 9:11) and remain steadfast in the faith (Ga 5:7). When the child of God grows in his own faith (1 Pe 2:2); others may ask him the reason for his hope (1 Pe 3:15-16).

Trust the word (Ps 119:42) and speak it (Jer 23:28) so that it can do what God intended for it to do (Is 55:11, Mt 4:19).