

THE CREED

THE THIRD ARTICLE (PART 1)

READERS THEATER

Characters: Reader 1 (female) and Reader 2 (male or female)

FYI: Having a conversation about a friend who does not know Jesus

1: I'm really worried.

2: Worried about what?

1: Hailey spent the night at my house after the game last Saturday, and we were talking about going to church the next morning.

2: And?

1: And she doesn't go to church. I mean, she doesn't have even have a church!

2: A lot of people don't go to church, which I think is kind of sad.

1: But this is worse. Not only does she not go to church, I don't think she's ever been, except for when we took her on Sunday morning.

2: Was that her *first time*?

1: It was! She's never even opened a Bible before.

2: Never?

1: We started talking about church and stuff, and then we started talking about Jesus.

2: And?

1: Well, Hailey had lots of questions. I don't know if I said the right thing or not. I just wished she believed like we do. She asked if I thought there was a heaven and hell. And then she asked if I thought she was going to hell because she didn't believe in Jesus.

2: What did you say?

1: I told her it's not up to me to judge whether someone is going to hell. I didn't really want to talk about that. I remember my pastor told me to turn the conversation to what Jesus has done for us and what His death and resurrection mean for us.

2: So you gave her a religion instruction class?

1: No. I shared what Jesus does for me and how He saved me and that I'll live with Him for eternity. I know she was listening, especially when I told her how confident I am that if I would die today, I'm going to heaven. I just can't think of someone like her not being in heaven one day.

2: One thing is for sure—you can't sell Jesus to her.

1: I don't think I was trying to sell my faith or Jesus.

2: Good, because He's not for sale. I guess what I mean is that you can't convert a single soul—not Hailey's, not anyone's.

1: Uh, gee, thanks. That's really comforting.

2: You can't do it, but God can. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. If Hailey is going to have faith, it's going to come through the Holy Spirit.

1: Well, I hope He gets busy really soon!

2: He already has! I have no doubt He put you in Hailey's life at just the right time to share the faith He's given you with her.

1: I guess so.

2: Definitely so! The next best thing you can do is pray for her, and let her know you're praying for her. And, of course, keep inviting her to church. Do you remember that Bible study last week? I think the Bible passage went something like "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

1: I guess that takes the load off a little. Saving faith is going to come through the Holy Spirit.

2: Right. That doesn't mean He won't use you though. Just remember who's responsible for what.

1: You're right. I'll keep praying for Hailey.

2: And always be ready to share your faith. She'll have even more questions.

1: I just hope God gives me the right thing to say.

2: He will.

1: Would you pray for Hailey too?

2: I will.

DISCUSSION

How does someone become a believer in Jesus? A person comes to faith by the working of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.

What is the role of the believer in helping to bring an unbelieving person to faith? The believer witnesses the power of the Spirit in his or her life in word and action, but the Holy Spirit does the converting.