

# Episode 111

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*When they heard him speaking in their own language, the silence was even greater.*

- Acts 22.2

What languages do you speak?

I once walked behind a couple who were discussing whether or not they should buy a Mac or PC. I found myself wanting to interrupt and share my opinion, gently guiding them in the biblical wisdom of denying PCs to follow Mac, when I began to wonder why this came more naturally to me than sharing my faith?

This has bothered me for a while because it has always felt forced and a little contrived walking up to a stranger and drowning them in bible verses. So when Wally Gerstmeier spent a few days at 3Ci, I asked him for some help in this regard. In case you don't know, Wally planted a church in Cape Town, and when he handed it over to begin a work outside of the city, he said almost every one of the hundreds of members had given their lives to Jesus as a result of him sharing his faith. No church hoppers, or window-shoppers, just new, radical believers.

Wally shared how he had seen a remarkable truthfulness in sharing the gospel, by sticking to Jesus' call for us to be S.A.L.T.

S is for 'Start a conversation.' Just like Paul speaking to the people in their own language, we have a language of our own. Maybe you're a Mac fan, or love to ride, or garden, or raise kids, or trade bitcoin Whatever it is, you have oceans of interesting info and insight you can share and use to engage even the strangest of strangers, as you simply start a conversation.

A is for 'Ask questions.' This helps make sure you aren't that guy who just doesn't shut up. Also, as a self-obsessed generation, we feel safe and valued when others spend time listening to us talk about ourselves. It's weird, worrying, but true. Asking questions makes sure the right person is doing the talking.

L is for 'Listen.' Here's the gold. Somewhere in there, you will hear their heart. Whether it's the fear of bitcoin being banned, the struggle of raising kids on their own, the possible shame of their friends finding out they own a PC, a loved one they lost to Covid - when we listen with intent, we will discover where we can share hope.

T is for 'Tell your story.' Having heard their story, trust that the Holy Spirit will highlight something in their lives that is crying out for help, and 'speak their language' as you simply and gently tell your story. Without condemning or condescending, share how your Heavenly Father has rescued you, how he has loved you through your brokenness and pain. Avoid the judgemental undertones of wanting to rescue them. Rather, introduce them to the One who can.

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