

# Evangelism – Our Mission!

## Measuring Tape Illustration

Many studies can end up with each person becoming upset and agreeing the other is not willing to listen to reason. How can this be avoided? Once <sup>1</sup> they have their own faith in God and <sup>2</sup> that the Bible is from God then the next step is to establish that the Bible is to be the ONLY source of authority. Please, before you begin studying the Bible with someone you must have this agreement. His is one way. Grab an object that will be there for each study and have each person guess how long it is. Then you give a guess of something different. After all have guessed then tell them....

### 1. Sources of Authority

*I believe my answer is correct because...*

*... my parents told me it was that long.*

*... I had a vision last night that it was that long.*

*... My preacher told me it was that long.*

*... My church teaches that it is that long.*

*... Most everybody believes it to be that long and have believed it for 100's of years.*

*...I just feel it deep down in my heart and how can such intense feelings be wrong?*

*Besides, do you really want to know why I feel my answer is the correct? . . . . Because it is my answer!!!*

***You are not going to judge me and say I'm wrong are you?***

At this point they should be getting the general idea of where you are going with it. So ask...

*Is it possible for us to agree on just how long this is?* They will answer "**yes, by measuring it.**"

At that point you get out your measuring tape and measure it WITHOUT letting them see the answer.

### II. Showing need for their own faith

Tell them the answer, then ask them "*Do you believe it is that long?*"

If they say yes, then say "*so you are going to take my word for it now*"

At that point let them measure it and see for themselves.

Then ask them "*do you believe it is that long now, why*" They should answer because I have seen it for myself.

At that point have them read Romans 10:17 and explain how faith comes.

Then ask, "*can we have faith in God if you take someone else's word for what God's word says or will it be faith in them?*"

### III. Showing how authority of God's word is abused

Take tape measure and make your answer correct by letting tape stick over the object or not letting it reach the end. You can hide it with hand or arm and show the new measurement. After they see the new answer, show how you have misled them. After that uproar settles down ask "*do preachers and churches do things like that today with God's Word?*"

### IV. Show the need to be honest with what we see in God's Word

Proclaim: "*I don't care what the tape measure said I still believe it is \_\_\_\_ long!*" *What does that say about me?*

Pull as many answers out of them as possible. Examples: You are hard headed; You are dishonest.; You are crazy. Many more...

These answers will come back to haunt them when they find themselves not willing to accept what God's word says because all you have to do is reach for the object measured and say yeah I was not willing to say this was \_\_\_\_ wide. But that did not change the truth of the length of it, did it?

## AGREEMENT

Ask them, will you promise, from this point forward not to listen to a thing "I" have to say...if I do not answer your questions with **book, chapter, verse** and you **see it for yourself**, then will you promise to rebuke me and tell me, "***I do not want to hear what you have to say, SHOW ME!***" Will you promise to do that to me? Yes.

Then read Gal. 1:8-9 and explain the danger of not doing so.

**NOW, all is ready to have a good profitable Bible study.**