# VOLUME 1 EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP



'Send us around the world with the power of Your Word; and Your eternal plan for all mankind' [Psalm 67:2 / TLB]

www.gospeladdictsglobal.wordpress.com



# Volume 1 EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

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Volume 1 - Evangelism and Discipleship

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There's really no right and wrong way to do evangelism, as long as you make use of biblical foundations. In this book we will look at various ways that you can do evangelism; we hope you find some good methods you can make your own and become the soul winner you were born to be!

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#### FOREWORD

The aim of evangelism is restoration; bringing all people into the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ

This is the first and foremost call of a Christian The Ministry of Reconciliation

The first thing we must understand of evangelism is that it is a commandment. Jesus charged His disciples to 'GO' [Matt.28:19-20] into all the world [Act.1:8]; but not only to go and win souls, but also to train these new converts to do the same.

The early church, however, thought they would be able to reach the world from Jerusalem where they were comfortable, but persecution of the early church scattered believers; and only then the Gospel was taken to other parts of the world. Some went to Rome, Greece, Asia Minor, etc.. and eventually the Gospel speared to the greater Europe, Africa, Asia; and as we know it today, to majority of the world. If it was not for God allowing persecution on the early church, the Gospel would have stayed in Israel.

# **INTRODUCTION - Part 1**



It is of vital importance, that is, if we want to be effective soul winners, not to be judgmental –or- to come across as judgmental when we out evangelizing and winning souls. I have come across to many Christians who goes around telling people that they must turn from their sins and repent; and all it does is making it more difficult to win souls for Jesus. Christians, in a way, seem to try and copy John the Baptist who went around telling people to repent and be baptized – but they fail to understand that John was preaching to the sinful nation of Israel, not to the Pagans, Greeks, Romans, or other non-believers of the God Israel was serving.

When we look at Jesus and the Apostles of the New Testament, we see somehow a new approach to evangelism; one where the truth be revealed with an enormous free gift – the gift of salvation to all who will believe. The general assembly of the church has damaged the reputation of evangelist, to the point where the world looks at Christians as judgmental and hypocrites. John was send to prepare the way before Jesus for Jews to be saved, but Jesus came first to the Jews and also to the entire world.

Therefore, it is of vital importance that we learn how to be effective soul winners, to be the evangelist which were modeled by Jesus Himself and His Apostles who followed after Him. In all, we should never forget that at one time or another we also had some ignorant person approaching us in life, telling us that we are sinners and we ought to repent. Most people don't just hear about Jesus for the first time and say: 'Yes, I want your Jesus'; because most Christians approach is wrong. Don't ever forget that at one stage in your life you were also a lost soul; and it was a humble approach which led you to the Lord unto salvation, not a judgmental approach. Most folks who are lost in this world's systems of corruption and sin think that they are to dirty at heart [soul] to become a Christian. They feel the need to make some sort of effort to clean themselves up a bit before turning unto salvation; and this is exactly what satan wants. He uses this mentality to keep people from ever becoming born again and being saved. Therefore our approach in evangelism is vitally important if we are going to be effective in it.

We will look at various settings for evangelism, but the pattern of evangelism remains a foundation to build upon. Just as Jesus and the early church ministers recorded in the Bible, our approach to unbelievers must be out of genuine love and nothing less. With this said, I would like us to examine ourselves before we continue in this manual. Let's take a look at the core characteristics of love found in 1 Corinthians chapter 13:

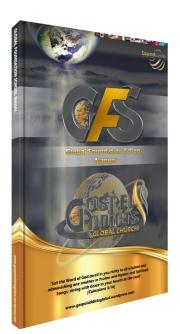
- [1] Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [charity here translates '**LOVE**'], I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
- [2] And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not LOVE, I am nothing.
- [3] And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor,* and though I give my body to be burned, and have not LOVE, it profiteth me nothing.
- [4] LOVE suffereth long, *and* is kind; LOVE envieth not; LOVE vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
- [5] Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
- [6] Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
- [7] Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- [8] LOVE never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease;

whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

- [9] For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
- [10] But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.
- [11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- [12] For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.
- [13] And now abideth **faith**, **hope**, **love**, these three; but the greatest of these *is* LOVE.

Study this chapter well and thoroughly, for this is the foundation of evangelism. The one who has not love will not be able to be an effective soul winner. The kind of love we need for the works of the Kingdom is the God-kind of love. This kind of love looks pass the flaws of men and women, it looks in hope unto the future of mankind, it acts in faith to minister to even to the worst, and it embrace in love to draw in the lost from the most darkest places.

We are send to recover the hidden treasures out of darkness.



Knowledge is essential for evangelism! You can download our <u>Foundation Manual HERE</u> which will give you great insights on the Word of God. The content of the Foundation Manual can be used at every level of Christianity and is a great self-study manual for equipping yourself with the knowledge and understanding of God's Word for evangelism.

# Individual Call Unto Evangelism



The first and foremost thing which all Christians must understand is: If you are a born again Christian, then you have been called to evangelize your sphere of contacts. No one Christian is exempt from fulfilling the call of evangelism in their personal life. In fact, as we study the Bible with understanding of the reality of Heaven and hell, we ought to be moved in love to reach the lost.

It is not solely your Pastor's, Leaders, or Evangelist responsibility to preach the Good News and heal the sick [Luke 9:2]. Over and above the office of an Evangelist in the Five-Fold Ministry [Eph.4:11], each Christian also has an evangelistic responsibility to fulfill as an individual – to answer the call of love for all people. Loving God is loving the people He brings before you. According to Matthew 28 and verse 19 and 20, we all have been charge with a common ground, direct instruction to evangelize our sphere of contacts where ever that might be. Let's look at these 2 verses in context:

- [19] "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Io, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen."

Jesus also said, if you love Him, then do His commandments; and what we see in Matthew 28:19-20, as well as Acts 1:8 is a commandment to GO and EVANGELIZE!

## **Personal Evangelism**

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You want to share your faith, but fears stand in the way of your personal evangelism. To truly conquer your fear, you might want to invest in some kind of personal evangelism training.

Personal evangelism involves

- □ the active sharing of the activity of God in your life,
- □ listening to the spiritual needs of the friend you are talking with,
- regularly praying for your friends, and
- □ sharing the gospel content with them, in such a way
- that God brings conviction of sin and a desire to surrender one's life to Him without being judgmental towards them.

Personal Evangelism is one of the greatest joys of following Christ. It is also is very intimidating for many people, perhaps for you as well. But the best way to grow in your skills is to learn how to talk about your faith in a conversational way.

As you spend time with Jesus on a regular basis and experience His blessings in your life, you will discover a growing desire to share your faith.

In other words, the key to personal evangelism is to do it. As DL Moody once said about personal evangelism:

"Then I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it."

There are other forms of evangelism to consider; like: congregational evangelism, evangelistic preaching, etc, but here's a view steps to get you strated on evangelizing one-on-one or in small group settings, social circles, to someone next to waiting in line for the bus or at the shop.

#### Know the gospel: The best place to start

The best place to start in personal evangelism is not by asking the question: "What is the best method?" Rather, the best place to start is by knowing the gospel message.

You don't have to master the message first, but there's some methods which will follow. Do you know the core content of the Gospel? Can you share a version of the Gospel? Once you have a good understanding on the Gospel content, you can then use any method you want. Memorize a Gospel outline.

The key to awesome personal evangelism conversations The goal is to have conversations with your friends, and even those random strangers. Spiritual thirst is the key point to listen for.

Spiritual thirst opens the doors to conversation that are natural and not in any way fearful. The more you know the Word of God for yourself, the more you will thirst for it; and the more you thirst and be filled, the more you need to empty out unto others. Once you see the product of what you do, you will become addicted to the sharing of the Gospel – hence we call our ministry: Gospel Addicts.

#### Pray Regularly for People – even stranger

As you pray regularly for people, God will direct you and stir you up to reach out to them with the message of salvation.

# Live your life in a way that it become attractive to others

Sometimes the best way to evangelism is to live your life according to the Word of God in such a way that other people can see God in you. They might not understand by simply watching you, but because they notice something different in you, they will ask you. That's a great way to start out on evangelism.

Understand, you not going to win every person to Christ, but once you get a taste of one soul won, you will want to do it more...

# **Different Styles of Sharing the Gospel**



[Abstracts from a teaching by Evangelist Lee Strobel]

Being more effective in your personal evangelism is essential; and we want to stress to you here that these different styles of sharing the Gospel is not a pick list of what you would prefer, but rather a guideline on some ideas you can mix together to become more effective in sharing the Gospel. You might not want to incorporate all the ideas herein, but be sure to pick a few and get started.

One of the biggest holdbacks for people who are Christians talking to others about Jesus is they think they have to become something great they can never become - sort of like Billy Graham, someone very articulate, very powerful in their communication ability. Or somebody really weird like the guy they see on the street corner who is babbling about God or something, and they say, "I don't want to be that. I can't become this great thing. I don't want to become this weird thing."

So they just sort of check out of the process of sharing their faith with others about Jesus. So I think one of the keys is to understand that we all have different styles of sharing our faith. And that's okay. You can be yourself and be effective in the way you talk about Jesus to other people. For instance, some people do have a direct style like Billy Graham does. And they're like Peter at Pentecost who got up and said, "Hey look! Guys, you just murdered Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God. What are you going to do about it?"

And 3,000 people that day realized what they've done, then they repented and they became followers of Jesus, and the church was born. So he had a very direct kind of confrontational style. But most people don't have that style. I don't have that style. Some people have an intellectual style, sort of like the Apostle Paul in Acts 17, who talked about the philosophers of Greece and talked to them about God. Many people, I included, like to talk to other people about evidence and about facts that back up our faith. Other people have a testimonial style, sort of like the blind man who was healed by Jesus and he was taken before the religious authorities. And he wasn't very confrontational with people and he didn't try to reason with them. He just said, "Look. I was blind, and now I see. Deal with it."

Some other people have an ability to tell their story in a compelling way, the story of how they met Jesus Christ and how he's changed their life. And that's a great style, a great way that those people talk to others about Jesus; and they win souls that way.

Other people have a serving style. There's a person in the New Testament called Dorcas. She would make clothing for all of the widows in her neighborhood and through that have an opportunity to talk to others about God. And some people have this ability to serve other people in a very practical way and through that to find an opportunity to be able to talk about Jesus Christ. Other people have a relational style. That is, they make friends really easily. They love getting together with people. They're people persons. They seem to be extroverted and they love to get into conversations and go deep with people about issues in their life, to have a cup of coffee, and a piece of the pie, and to talk about God.

Those people are very effective many times in building a friendship and through that friendship, getting into deep, and important, and liked, and eternity changing conversations about God. Then other people have an invitational type of style. Maybe they're not the most articulate people in the world; and that okay!

Maybe they're not the most extroverted people in the world. But they love to invite people to go to places where they can hear the message of Jesus being taught. And I think of the Samaritan woman in John chapter four, who meets Jesus and realizes he's the Messiah. So what does she do? She runs back into town.

Does she try to persuade people that Jesus is the Messiah? No. Does she confront them? No. What she does is invite them back. She said, "You've got to hear this guy Jesus. I think he may be the Messiah." And they came back to hear Jesus and some of them did indeed come to believe in him. And some people, these days, are just really good at inviting other people to join them at an outreach service, or at a church service, or an event, or a Christian concert, or someplace where someone who's gifted either in music, or drama, or communication, who is going to explain the Gospel that their friend can then hear and hopefully respond to.

So I think one of the most liberating things about the Christian life is, it's not a cookie cutter approach. We don't all have to share Jesus in the same way. We can do it in a way that suits how Jesus wired us up, and we can do it naturally, and we can do it effectively.

# The Office of an Evangelist



Although evangelism is not only meant for office, or corporate participation under a leader, for every Christian is called to evangelize their sphere of contacts; however, there is also an office of an evangelist.

In this segment we will take a look at the office of an evangelist in aspect to the offices we see in Ephesians 4 and verse 11, which includes: Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, and Teachers.

#### What is an evangelist?

He is a preacher of the Gospel, a proclaimer of the *good news* of salvation in Jesus Christ. He will speak to *crowds* and he will share the message with single *individuals*. He has a relentless desire to present Jesus Christ to anyone who will listen. And he will be glad to *teach you* to do the same. The Christian churches need this ministry! He also leads the evangelistic groups and outreahes in most of the ministry work outside of the church meeting place.

In Luke 4:18, [Jesus said] The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...
Strong's concordance defines "evangelist" as "a preacher of the Gospel." The verb form of the word is "to announce good news ('evangelize'), esp. the gospel."

• Jesus was the supreme evangelist! He Himself *is* good news. And He was anointed by the Holy Spirit on earth *to preach* the good news. He did it with great success and won multitudes to faith in Him.

The word "evangelist" occurs three times in the New Testament:

1) 2 Timothy 4:5 But you [Timothy], keep your head in all situations,

endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

- 2) Ephesians 4:11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, **the evangelists**, the pastors and teachers.
- Acts 21:8-9 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of *Philip the evangelist*, one of the Seven. He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.
- Ephesians 4:11 lists what are commonly called the "fivefold ministry" — apostles, prophets, *evangelists*, pastors, and bible teachers.
- Timothy is generally believed to have been pastoring the large church in Ephesus. Paul's encouragement to him to "do the work of an evangelist" could mean either:
- (1) Timothy was a *pastor-evangelist*, called and ordained in two of the fivefold ministries; or
- (2) he was primarily a pastor, but was also exhorted to do the *work* that evangelists do in order to help grow the church that he was pastoring.

• Philip was specifically called an evangelist (Acts 21:8). He was a married man with four spiritually-gifted daughters and was living in Caesarea (vs. 9). He had previously been one of the original seven deacons in the Jerusalem church. Let's take a closer look at Philip to see what we can learn about the evangelist's ministry.

Acts 6:1-5 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are **known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom**. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also **Philip**, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

- Philip had earlier been a deacon in the church in Jerusalem.
- He was said to be a man "known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom," strongly suggesting that he was a man of solid Christian character who was respected as such by those who knew him.
- He had evidently proven himself to be faithful and effective in his deacon ministry, thus gaining for himself an impeccable *reputation* and much *boldness* in his Christian faith, as promised in 1 Timothy 3:13 - *They that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a* **good degree, and great boldness** in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. These qualities would be assets to him in his later ministry as an evangelist.

#### Philip in Public Evangelism —

Acts 8:5-16 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city... [12] when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women... [16 and they were] baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

• "Philip went...[to] Samaria." He was obedient to Jesus' Acts 1:8 commission to His followers to "be [Jesus'] witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." It is good for an evangelist (and all of us!) to have a specific church "home." For Philip this seems to have been originally in Jerusalem, then later in Caesarea (Acts 21:8). But the nature of this soulwinning calling seems to involve a certain amount of *traveling* ministry away from the home church.

- Philip stayed on message as a preacher of the Gospel "He proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ" (vs. 12). He "preached Christ unto them" (vs. 5).
- Evangelists today, like Philip then, should expect their preaching to **be confirmed** with miracles and signs, healings, deliverance from demons, and other supernatural manifestations to validate the word being preached (verses. 6,7,13). [see Mark 16:15-18]
- As Philip ministered in his evangelist anointing, multitudes in Samaria heard, believed, were baptized in water, and were filled with the Holy Spirit (verses. 6,12,17).

#### Philip in Personal Evangelism —

Acts 8:26-40 Now **an angel** of the Lord **said** to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The **Spirit told Philip**, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him... [35] Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and **told him the good news about Jesus**.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and **Philip baptized him**. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

- Philip was *spiritually led to one individual*, the Ethiopian eunuch. An **angel** of the Lord (26) told him precisely where to go. Philip obeyed, then was further led when "the **Spirit told**Philip, ' Go to that chariot and stay near it.'" The Holy Spirit can *lead us* to people whose hearts are open to hear the Gospel's salvation message.
- I find it interesting that God took Philip *away* from successful ministry to the *multitudes* (vss. 5-6,12) to share the Gospel with one solitary **individual** (vss. 26-39). So we see that God intends to use the evangelist to win both the multitudes and single individuals to Christ.
- As with the crowds in Samaria, Philip likewise told the Ethiopian eunuch "the good news **about Jesus**" (35). That is the evangelist's message and ours: **Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior.**

Moving on from this successful one-on-one witnessing encounter, Philip continued "preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea" (40). Later we find Philip apparently established and living with his family in Caesarea. It is reasonable to conclude that he and his family were committed participants in a local church there, which would be the likely place for his four daughters to be used in their spiritual gift of prophecy (Acts 21:8-9).

#### In Closing: an Evangelist

- 1. Is **qualified** in his character and his ministry.
- 2. He may, like Philip, be both a "translocal" soulwinner (in Samaria, the desert, and other towns) and a local, churchbased minister ("Philip the evangelist" seen as settled in Caesarea).
- 3. Very importantly, like the other fivefold ministers, the evangelist will "**perfect the saints** for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:11-12). He will impart to others a *fervor* to win souls and the *training* needed to help them do that.

- 4. He himself will evangelize (a) **publicly**, preaching Jesus Christ, His name, and the kingdom of God, having his ministry confirmed with supernatural signs, and seeing people saved and baptized; and (b) **privately**, balancing his public ministry with Spiritled personal evangelism, as always with a view to winning souls to Christ.
- 5. So what is an evangelist? In brief, he is is a preacher of the Good News of the Gospel, he is a Spirit-empowered soulwinner (public and private), and he is an equipper of others to win souls, too.

## **Three Important Facts for Soul winning**

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#### "...he that winneth souls is wise" [Proverbs 11:30]

As a Christian, we are all in the ministry of reconciliation, we are called to win souls. As soul winners, there are certain requirements necessary for an effective ministry in leading mankind to Christ.

- 1. Clarity: Clarity of the message that you preach. You must understand the message of Christ, first for yourself, because you can't communicate to someone else something you don't understand. You can't bless someone else with something that you haven't been blessed with yourself. You can only give what you have, and so, a good understanding of the Gospel is imperative for soul winning.
- 2. Conviction: There has to be absolute conviction in your spirit about Christ and the salvation that He brought for the whole world. You must become fully persuaded of His message, of His person, and of His mission; because you need His message to preach, you must express His person to your world, and His mission has been mandated to you.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:15 expressed a profound note of conviction when he said: "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth..." His persuasion was absolute; there's no other way for salvation except Jesus Christ. There are no options!

He also said: "...for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the Gospel" [1 Corinthians 9:16]. You can only make such a statement when you are fully persuaded, when you know without a doubt that the only way to life and for life is Jesus Christ! **3. Possession:** As a soul winner, you must have full possession of the truth. You may be convinced of something, but that's not enough; the truth must become yours, you must take possession of it.

The Lord Jesus said in John 6:47 – "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life." The one who believes is a possessor. You must be in possession of the truth that, as a soul winner, you have what you are dispensing to others. You are 'living' eternal life now!

Arm yourself with these truths as you go about your soul-winning work; and you will be a more effective minister of reconciliation; as every Christian are called to be a minister of reconciliation.

#### Prayer

'Holy Father, thank You for equipping me with this important information on how to be an effective and successful soul winner. I receive Your instruction with meekness, and declare that my soul winning efforts are taken to a new and higher level of glory, success, and productivity; as I put Your Word to work in the name of Jesus – Amen!

*Mark* 16:15 – "And He said unto them; Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

**Daniel 12:3** – "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of "the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

Get yourself saturated with God's Word and be the soul winner you are meant to be – we included a 1 Year Bible Reading Plan at the back of this manual for you to print and use during your personal study time.

# The Basics of How to Evangelize



Sharing your faith with nonbelievers can be intimidating and difficult, but also incredibly rewarding. Evangelism is a cornerstone of the Christian faith and can be a great way to connect with people and share your passion in a tactful, friendly manner. You can learn to make the whole process easier by reading a few simple evangelism tips, starting below with Step One.

#### **1** Pick an appropriate location and time.

If you want to get out and share your message [which according to mandate is to every believer, you should] with as many receptive people as possible, let them come to you not you to them. High- traffic areas good for evangelism might include downtown business districts, street fairs or farmers' markets, and college campuses – [take note: This is a starting point for you not to be overwhelmed at first].

- Avoid evangelizing around churches of other faiths and other places that might be contentious or difficult. The subway platform at 8 am won't find most people in a chatting mood. Use your judgment. It might be a great idea to evangelize on the go where you can meet people waiting for other transport or so.
- Make sure to follow any solicitation laws in the area and abide instructions from business and property owners who might want you to move on. Be courteous and leave.

These point are for 'beginner' evangelist, just so that you can get comfortable about the idea of speaking to others about Jesus.

#### 2 Prepare your personal message.

You might outline and mark particular verses or stories from the Bible you hope to highlight in your evangelism. Also, prepare anecdotes from your own life as a believer that might serve to interest someone in becoming a member of your church.

Whatever you think will connect with people in a personal way is appropriate. You might share:

- $\Box$  Favorite verses and stories.
- □ Important verses.
- $\Box$  The story of your faith.
- □ Your history in the church.

#### **3** Prepare a store of probing questions to ask.

It's helpful to transition from simple conversation into a discussion of faith by leading with probing questions, and it helps to have a good list of them to draw from so you're not struggling to come up with them on the fly. Good questions might include:

- □ Do you believe in an afterlife?
- □ What do you think happens when you die?
- □ Do you feel fulfilled in your life?
- □ Do you ever feel like something is missing?
- □ Do you ever pray?

#### 4 Prepare yourself.

You might consider praying and preparing yourself for a day of talking about your faith. Some people find it very hard to share their faith and experiences in the Church, and it takes courage to talk about what you believe in to people who might not always be interested in listening.

Get a group together to evangelize as a unit. Don't approach people in a gang, but take frequent breaks and talk about how it's going individually. Having a support group will make the job a lot easier, letting tips and advice flow freely through the group.

#### 5 Don't rush directly into the topic of witnessing.

Start with some small talk and ask about what has been going on in his or her life lately. Don't expect that anyone would immediately trust you. It will take a while before someone opens up to you.

- Ask them if they have any pain or sickness and offer to pray for them ) A healing from God will help show them that God is real and cares for them.
- The Billy Graham Association said that 90% of converts remain in a church when they find a friend there. So if you are in college or school, you can do this experiment: sit with someone in the cafeteria for 3 days and make a friend first, then talk faith on the third day. The results may be startling for you, the student may pour his/her heart out to you, even for hours, with questions.

#### 6 Lead with a probing question.

Ask a question that will lower the person's guard and get them thinking about larger existential issues, making them receptive to an exchange of ideas. A question like, "What do you think happens when you die?" or "Do you believe in an afterlife?" can be effective at transitioning the conversation into your territory.

A most effective evangelistic tool that you can use is a survey. You can ask four questions about an individual's life, and after you know the needs and beliefs, witness to each based on the point of view.

#### 7 Listen and pay attention.

Evangelism isn't just waiting for an opportunity to speak, it needs to be a real conversation and exchange of ideas. When you ask a question like, "Are you happy in your life?" or "Do you ever feel as if you're missing out on something?" really listen to the answer someone gives. Aside from giving them the feeling that they have a willing listener, you need to pay attention to what they're saying to learn to respond accurately and convincingly.

Avoid pressing the persons that are totally closed to you, but persist with the ones that are open. Listening closely will help you to gauge this interest and open them up even more.

#### 8 Talk about your testimony to encourage the person.

Tell them about your version of Christianity, what it means to you, and how your faith has changed your life for the better.

It's important to treat this conversation as a conversation between two people, putting a face on the Church. In general, you'll want to avoid getting into overly complicated discussions of dogma and theology, focusing instead on the importance of faith and salvation.

# 9 Provide receptive people with a Bible and other appropriate literature.

Have some Bibles on hand to gift to the most receptive of the people you communicate with –or- what we normally use; a copy of a daily devotional: Rhapsody of Realities

If your church has provided you with tracts or specific documents they hope to disseminate, give them to as many people as possible, interested or not.

#### 10 Lay out a plan with them.

A person isn't going to become spiritually mature and be "Saved" after talking to you for five minutes. What's the next step? What should this person do tomorrow and the next day to build and maintain their new interest in your faith? Where might you direct them?

Consider exchanging information, or giving them literature about your Church if you don't feel comfortable giving them your personal contact information.

#### 11 Pray with them.

If the person has never prayed before, they might be curious and nervous about the process, which you can help facilitate by walking them through their first prayer session. Say a simple and brief prayer, introducing them to it as a practice. Tell them how to pray and when to pray.

#### 12 Recommend a church in the area.

If you're in a town that's not your own, take some time becoming familiar with churches in the area that you can recommend. Knowing the time of the next service could be a nice way to give your possible converts a good next step.

# A Beginner's Guide To Prophetic Evangelism



You might have been inspired by or feel the call of prophetic evangelism; and that's good. God is using a lot of people these days in prophetic evangelism.

The prophetic evangelism movement is growing. Teams of Christian believers are pouring out into the streets and shopping malls, listening to the Holy Spirit as He directs them to speak with people. Using spiritual gifts, they are passing on words of knowledge and prophecies to people who may never have stepped into a church. They then offer to pray for them—and Jesus is doing miracles.

As awesome as this is, I have a burning conviction that ordinary, Spirit-filled believers, who might never join a team doing street witnessing, do not need to miss out. **Anyone who has a heart to hear from God and to walk in spiritual gifts can learn prophetic evangelism.** I believe that:

1. Prophetic evangelism can occur in our daily life

2. The principles of prophetic evangelism can be learned in a series of simple steps.

But before I start—lets ask the question: What is Prophetic Evangelism?

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19)

Prophetic evangelism is, at its most basic level, **sharing the Good News about Jesus with people using the means of prophetic**  **revelation.** It begins with hearing from God (or seeing, if you're wired as a visionary person) how and what He wants you to pray, speak and do in the process of witnessing, as well as where and to whom. Sometimes, but not always, prophetic evangelism involves sharing a prophetic message from God with someone who is not a Christian.

**'Revelation' means that you are receiving knowledge or insight from God that you wouldn't know by natural means.** The Holy Spirit reveals it to you supernaturally.

#### Supernatural Evangelism

One time, I was walking along a beach when I noticed a man and his son dragging a large net to shore. With great difficulty they laboured to bring the net into shore, only to find it contained a few bits of seaweed. The young man shrugged his shoulders and began to take off his wetsuit. His whole demeanour said, "Don't ASK me to do that again!"

It reminded me of how many times in church life we have worked hard to bring lost people to Jesus, only to have worn ourselves out for very little result. Jesus once told His disciples to let down their nets for a catch of fish. Like the young man I saw, they had worked hard all night for nothing, but when they let down the net at Jesus' word, a miracle happened. The net was filled to overflowing with fish. (Luke 5:4-6)

This is a great illustration of prophetic evangelism. When we partner with the Holy Spirit, miracles happen. God never meant for spiritual gifts to be confined to within the four walls of the church. Jesus moved in healing, prophecy, deliverance, miracles and knowledge in the streets, in fields, in homes and in parties. The early church did the same. I am being challenged not to be one kind of person in a church meeting and another outside. If the Lord has given me gifts of prophecy, intercession and so on, why shouldn't I walk in those gifts wherever I go?

Below is the starting point for developing your prophetic evangelistic ministry or group.

**Prayer**—waiting on God for prophetic revelation. Who does He want us to share with? What is He doing in their lives and what is He saying to them at this time?

**Position**—we recognise that God has placed us alongside people, and that He is already at work in their lives. There's a purpose for your being; and being in their lives.

**Power**—felt needs in people's lives give us an opportunity to offer prayer and for miracles to happen

**Prophecy**—an opportunity may arise in which we can share a message from God. Or—He may give us prophetic direction as to what to speak or an action to take.

**Proclamation**—at the right time, we share the story of Jesus with them.

#### The key, in as must as normal evangelism is:

- Study the Word of God for yourself
- Pray and pray for others
- Be confident in the Holy Spirit
- Step out in faith

# **Keys to Effective Evangelism**



Part 1

#### The Early Church Pattern for Evangelism

In Acts 5:12-42 Luke reveals the early church's pattern of evangelism.

#### An Analysis of the Church's Growth

1. Rapid growth - From its inception the church grew rapidly: Acts 2:41 says that on the Day of Pentecost "there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

In **Acts 4:4** we discover that "the number of the men ["adult male"] was about five thousand."

Acts 5:14 says, "Believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

In **Acts 6:7** Luke records that "the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly."

Acts 8:6 notes that in response to Philip's ministry "the people with one accord gave heed."

Acts 9:31 says, "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, were multiplied."

In **Acts 11:21** Luke says that "a great number believed," and verse 24 reiterates that "many people were added to the Lord."

The church was growing so quickly that within weeks, thousands had joined. Believers were actively evangelizing--the church was reaching the world.

#### 2. Real growth

That tremendous growth continued, although being a Christian back then wasn't easy. The price was high, the demands were extreme, and total commitment was essential. But after having counted the cost, many were still coming to Christ. There's nothing wrong with tremendous growth if it's the result of evangelism--that's the only kind of growth that is real. Those Christians wanted to win others to Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, they did.

Their only motive was God's glory, so the Holy Spirit magnified their work. Later in Acts when Paul and Barnabas reported the conversion of Gentiles, "they caused great joy unto all the brethren" (15:3). There's nothing more exciting to the people of God than being used by God to draw others to Himself.

#### 3. Regular growth

Today some would suggest that when a church reaches 600, 1,400, or 2,000 it should stop reaching out. The early church in Jerusalem had 3,000 the first day--and had just begun! It's tragic for a church to become satisfied with its growth. Regardless of how many believers there are, there need to be more. Those who know Christ can't be content just to attend their churches, feast on the Word, and excuse themselves from reaching others, thinking there are so many here already. Everything we learn should make us more effective in winning others to Christ, because evangelism is our mission. We must understand however, today we have over 7 billion people in the world, of which only a mere 2 billion proclaims to be of Christian faith – and further, many of them don't go to church. Our continues work is much needed and by all means, we should employ as many as we can to do regular evengelism.

#### B. The Annals of the Church's Growth

In Acts 1 we see our Lord equipping the future church, as it still remained in the womb of God's promise. Then in chapter 2 the church was born. Immediately it began to grow and was nurtured in "the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (2:42). Naturally with growth came opposition, and its infant muscles were tested. But it became stronger as a result.

*The church's task was simple*: to reach the world. And it was totally committed to it. In chapter 4 they prayed, "Lord, behold their threatenings; and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child, Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness" (vv. 29-31). These members of the early church were committed to evangelism, and today we should too!

They were committed not only to evangelism, but also to each other. Acts 4:32-37 stresses that there was unity and sharing. That text describes two essentials for effective evangelism: individuals proclaiming the Word and a collective unity. Jesus emphasized the importance of unity when He prayed that His followers might be one so the world would believe that the Father sent the Son (John 17:21). In John 13:35 He tells His disciples, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." So their evangelism flowed naturally from personal communication and collective unity. But at that point satan struck.

In chapter 5 a great sin, which threatened to be a blight on the church, surfaced. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit in an effort to be considered spiritual. God disciplined them before the whole church by taking their lives, illustrating the severity of sin in the church. Thus God immediately cut out the cancer that had crept into the church. So when we get to verse 12, the church is pure again, and evangelism is ready to flourish.

## LESSON

Acts 5:12-42 highlights five progressive features that are keys to effective evangelism.

# I Purity

"They were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest dared no man join himself to them; but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

#### A. Mandate for Purity

1. The proof

a) Stated In Acts 5:1-11 God disciplined Ananias and Sapphira because the church must be pure to make an impression on the world. So to reach the world the church must be pure. I believe God still purifies the church as He did in Acts 5.

Hebrews 12:6 says, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." First Corinthians 11:30 reveals that God took the lives of some Corinthian believers because they had abused the Lord's Table. First John 5:16 refers to "a sin unto death." Although God still disciplines directly, today He has primarily committed discipline within the church to its leaders and members. We are responsible to discipline not only our own lives but also the lives of those around us. After examining our own hearts, we must be alert for sin in the church. Ephesians 5:11 says, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but, rather reprove them." First Timothy 5:20 says, "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear." In 1 Timothy 1:20 Paul mentions Hymenaeus and Alexander by name, saying they were "delivered unto Satan, that they [might] learn not to blaspheme." In Titus 1:13 Paul exhorts Titus to rebuke unruly believers "sharply, that they may be sound in the faith." In Luke 17:3 Jesus says, "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him." The church must examine sin within itself because purity is basic to evangelism.

#### b) Illustrated

First Corinthians 5:1-6 says, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication [sexual sin] among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles [heathen], that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up [proud of your sin], and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan [to put him out of the church] for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.... Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" The church must deal with sin.

#### 2. The process

In Matthew 18 Christ presents a clear process for dealing with sin in the church:

- a) **Matthew 18:15--**"If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." It's amazing how many Christians refuse to go to the one who has done wrong. Instead they create a circle of talk and gossip. It is biblical to approach the person himself first.
- b) Matthew 18:16--"But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." Your responsibility doesn't end once you have gone to a sinning brother privately and he has refused to listen. Take two or three others with you and lovingly confront him with his sin again.
- c) **Matthew 18:17a-**-"If he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church." This is what you do if he refuses to listen to you all.
- d) Matthew 18:17b--"If he neglect to hear the church, let him be

unto thee as an heathen man and a tax collector." That doesn't mean he loses his salvation; it means he should be put outside the fellowship because he will harm it by bringing in his sin. The church is committing the sinning brother to God's discipline. Practicing church discipline can raise some difficult problems. But the early church never sidestepped difficult issues. Those believers understood what was at stake: not the feelings of a sinning brother, but a pure church from which to communicate the gospel to the world. It's a question of priorities.

#### 3. The pattern

God Himself was the first to practice church discipline to show how critical purity is. The sin of Ananias and Sapphira was a gash in the lovely body of the infant church; a splash of filth on the white raiment of God's chosen. In 1 Peter 4:17 Peter says, "Judgment must begin at the house of God."

# B. A Model of Purity

Acts 5:12b-14 is a large parenthetical comment that discusses the purity of the early church in Jerusalem.

#### 1. A record of the church's purity (v. 12b)

"They were all with one accord in Solomon's porch." The sin within the church had been rooted out, and all were with one accord--the church was pure again. That doesn't mean all the members were sinlessly perfect. It means they were being honest with God and confessing their sin, not hiding it deceitfully as were Ananias and Sapphira. Luke said they were all in "Solomon's porch," which was one of the elevated sides of the great court of the Temple. Peter and John healed a man there, and then Peter preached there (3:17-26). Thus Solomon's Porch had apparently become a customary place for Christians to assemble daily for the times of prayer in the Temple. It was a perfect spot, because at the times of prayer masses of people crowded into the courtyard. Those Christians who were elevated slightly on Solomon's Porch would be able to catch the eye and interest of everyone there.

#### 2. The results of the church's purity (vv. 13-14)

a) Stated negatively (v. 13a)

"Of the rest dared no man join himself to them." No one else dared to join the Christians who had gathered in Solomon's Porch. Usually when something is new, exciting, and fast-growing, people are eager to jump on the bandwagon, but not in this case. Verse 5 explains: "Ananias. . .fell down, and died; and great fear came on all them that heard these things." Verses 10-11 add, "Then fell [Sapphira] down immediately at his feet, and died. . . . And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." People weren't anxious to join that movement because it was dangerous! You could die! So only those who were totally committed to Jesus Christ became part of the church. It was too risky for those who weren't. People naturally avoid any relationship where their sin will be confronted-- unless they're totally committed. So only those whom God was adding became part of the church. Discipline in the church is important because it makes our evangelism pure and protects us from the infiltration of the world.

#### Total Commitment: Jesus' Requirement for Church Membership

Today's churches are filled with sinning saints. Because there's no price to belonging, people who don't belong constantly infiltrate the church. There's nothing to fear, and church membership can be advantageous to them. The problem is that most churches don't require any deep commitment of their members. Consequently unbelievers, hypocrites, and people with shallow commitments infiltrate the church and prevent the purity that should characterize it. Membership in the church of Jesus Christ demands a total life commitment. God's standard is perfection, even beyond what we can experience or understand. When anyone who wants to can belong and become deeply involved, the church becomes impure and obscures the truth. I am not saying we shouldn't welcome those who don't know Jesus Christ--we welcome them wholeheartedly with His love because we want them to come to Christ. But when they come to unite with His church, we must stress God's standards for admission. By that we're not trying to keep them out, but to tell them what God demands to get in: total commitment to Jesus Christ.

#### b) Stated positively (v. 13b-14)

"But the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." Only believers were added to the church. That is the way it is supposed to be. We need purity that is motivated not by legalism but by a love for God, who desires to keep His church pure. What plagues Christianity today is the multitude of unsaved church members who can hide in the church, because it never confronts sin and allows membership for anyone who asks. A frequent excuse for not disciplining is that we might offend someone. But that's like saying, "I don't want to tell my lungs that they have cancer because they might be offended."

#### The Church's Check System

When I talk about the responsibility of the church to discipline, I'm not talking about the church on the corner or a denomination, but about every Christian. Each believer has the responsibility to maintain personal purity and to help fellow believers do the same. We do that by our example and rebuking them of sin we are aware of. Knowing that other believers are lovingly watching our lives helps us to be pure. It's a check system. If you know something in your life is wrong, make it right. If you know of sin in the life of a brother, go to him privately, and in love admonish him. If the church is pure, our evangelism will be also.

Some--often because of the fear that they themselves will be discovered--argue that such teaching will keep unbelievers from

attending church. However, real evangelism starts with a pure church. When the church is pure, God adds genuine believers to it. If the price of membership is high, as it ought to be, the church will be composed of legitimate members. Although our love extends to everyone because of Jesus' death for them, people must understand the cost of belonging and weigh it carefully. Our churches must not allow unbelievers to hide in the church as members. Because we love them, we should want them to truly know Jesus Christ.

#### Jesus' High Standard for Belonging to Him

Luke 9:57-58 says, "It came to pass that, as they went on the way, a certain man said unto [Jesus], Lord, I will follow thee wherever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man hath no where to lay his head." Somewhere between verse 58 and 59 that man leaves and never returns.

Verse 59 says "he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." His father probably was still living. Perhaps he wanted to wait until his father died and he had received his inheritance before following Christ. The Lord responded, "Let the dead [those who are spiritually dead] bury their dead [those who are physically dead]; but go thou and preach the kingdom of God" (v. 60). Apparently that man also left. Verses 61- 62 continue, "Another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, who are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Christ demands total commitment.

In Matthew 10:32-39 Jesus says, "Whosoever, therefore, shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father, who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father, who is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I am come not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-inlaw against her mother-in- law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." He seeks people who will lose everything and follow Him.

Some may think that kind of commitment produces a weighty and slavish life. Others may wonder why anyone would want to become a Christian. In Matthew 11:28-30 Christ balances the demand for total commitment by saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The Lord demands total commitment, but once we are willing to make it, He shoulders the rest of our burden. Knowing Jesus Christ is truly a great joy.

Notice the last part of verse 14 speaks of "multitudes both of men and women." The church grew so fast that they stopped counting. A pure, saved, fully committed membership is the key to real growth. Evangelism begins as we emphasize purity within our own lives and churches.

#### II. POWER (vv. 12a, 15-16)

A pure church will always have power, and the church in Jerusalem had it. The Sanhedrin had threatened the apostles against any public ministry (4:18). No one could speak about the resurrection. But it's impossible to hide the power of a pure church, so they were bold, and the church progressed.

#### A. Seen Through Signs and Wonders (v. 12a)

"And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people."

The apostles were regularly doing miracles. The gifts of miracles, healings, tongues, and interpretations of tongues were sign gifts, which God gave to the apostles and certain Old Testament prophets to confirm the Word. After seeing the miracles that the apostles did in the name of Jesus Christ, the people were open to hearing about Him.

Those miracles verified the apostles' message. In fact, in 2 Corinthians 12:12 Paul calls miraculous gifts "the signs of an apostle." Hebrews 2:4 speaks of the apostles having certain miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, which they used to verify the validity of their message. Jesus Himself used miracles to confirm His message. He went into a town, performed miracles, and then told the people who He was.

The miracles in Acts 5 are an answer to the church's prayer in chapter 4, where they said, "Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child, Jesus" (vv. 29-30). But God couldn't grant that request until the church was pure. The Greek words translated signs and wonders emphasize their purpose. "Signs" point to something, and "wonders" create an attitude of amazement.

All the miracles pointed to the deity of Jesus Christ, and created wonder in the minds of the people.

#### B. Seen Through Healings (vv. 15-16)

"Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds [the valuable, soft beds of the rich] and couches [the typical beds of the poor], that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them who were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed every one."

The streets of Jerusalem were an incredible sight. Everywhere there were beds occupied by rich and poor alike, all waiting for the apostles to move through town. The inhabitants of Jerusalem actually believed that Peter's shadow could heal. Some ancient peoples believed that a man's shadow carried his influence, so parents would place their children into the shadow of great men and snatch them away from the shadow of someone they disliked. The text doesn't say that Peter's shadow healed anyone, only that the people believed so. Their actions display a tremendous respect for Peter. Great miracles indeed occurred.

#### **Pondering the Principles**

1. In Matthew 18:15-17 our Lord gave us a clear directive for effectively dealing with sin in the lives of others. Unfortunately it is too seldom followed. When a believer knows a brother is in sin, the most common responses are to ignore the problem, to tell one's friends--occasionally that is excused as a prayer request--or to report his sinful actions to the pastor or someone else in authority. All those responses are unbiblical.

Read Matthew 18:15- 17, noting the progression. You may want to memorize verses 15-17, or at least memorize that Matthew 18 contains the biblical process of confronting sin in the church. Ask God to enable you to react biblically the next time you know a brother is in sin. Read Galatians 6:1 to know the proper attitude for carrying out Matthew 18.

2. Although we are responsible to help each other stay pure, Matthew 7:3-5 graphically demonstrates that our first priority is to "cast the beam out of [our] own eye." Before we help others, we should investigate our own condition. Sometimes when we think of personal purity, we think only of external behavior. But in 2 Corinthians 7:1 Paul says we should rid ourselves of "all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (emphasis added). Are you now guilty of some sin of the flesh or the mind?

Have you sinned by what you have said? Stop now and acknowledge your sins to God, asking for His forgiveness and restoration.

# **Keys to Effective Evangelism**



Part 2

#### 1. Our evangelistic efforts must stem from a *biblical* understanding of evangelism.

There are so many ways to go wrong in evangelism—impulses of fear on the one side, vain ambition on the other—that if we do not nail down a truly biblical understanding, we will quickly veer off course. So we start by understanding that biblical evangelism is *teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade*.

# 2. Evangelism is often the label given to things that are *not* evangelism.

We must not confuse the gospel with the fruit of the gospel. Is sharing your testimony evangelism? Is defending the Christian faith evangelism? How about doing good deeds for the oppressed? Certainly those are good things that serve and support evangelism. But they are not evangelism itself. We must not confuse the gospel with the fruit of the gospel.

3. Evangelism entails teaching the gospel first and foremost.

God teaches us the gospel through his Word; we can't just "figure it out" on our own. So it stands to reason that we must speak and teach the gospel to others: the truth about who God is, why we're in the mess we're in, what Jesus came to do, and how we are to respond to him. It's no wonder that Paul often described his evangelistic ministry as a *teaching* ministry.

#### 4. Evangelism aims to persuade.

We want to see people move from darkness to light. Having that

aim helps us know what things to talk about and what things to lay aside. Evangelism isn't just data transfer; we must listen to people, hear their objections, and model gentleness because we know that souls are at stake. And we know what it means to truly convert: a true Christian has put his complete faith and trust in Jesus, so much so that he has repented of a lifestyle of unbelief and sin. Understanding this guards us from false conversions, which are the assisted suicide of the church.

### 5. Evangelism flourishes in a *culture* of evangelism.

Much instruction is given about personal evangelism. And that's right and good since we're each called to testify to our own personal encounter with Jesus. But when people are pulling together to share the gospel, when there is less emphasis on getting "a decision," when the people of God are pitching in to teach the gospel *together*, a culture forms that leads us to ask "Are we all helping our non-Christian friends understand the gospel?"

### 6. Evangelistic programs will kill evangelism.

We need to replace evangelistic programs with a culture of evangelism. Programs are to evangelism what sugar is to nutrition: a strict diet of evangelistic programs produces malnourished evangelism. So, we should feel a healthy unease with regard to evangelistic programs. We must use them strategically and in moderation, if at all.

# 7. Evangelism is designed for the church and the church is designed for evangelism.

A healthy church with a culture of evangelism is the key to great evangelism. Jesus did not forget the gospel when he built his church; in fact, a healthy church is meant to *display* the gospel. Think of the ways that the gathered church displays the gospel: we sing the gospel, we see the gospel in the sacraments, and we hear the gospel when we preach and pray. A healthy culture of evangelism does not aim at remaking the church for the sake of evangelism. Instead, we must highlight the way God designed the church to display and proclaim the gospel *simply by being the church*.

### 8. Evangelism is undergirded by love and unity.

Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). In that same discourse, he prayed that his disciples would be unified "so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20–21). Jesus says the love we have for one another in the church is evidence that we are truly converted. And when we are unified in the church, we show the world that Jesus is the Son of God. Love confirms our discipleship, and unity confirms Christ's deity. What a powerful witness!

# 9. A culture of evangelism is strengthened by right practices and right attitudes.

We need to make sure that we see evangelism as a spiritual discipline. Just as we pray for our non-Christian friends, we must be intentional about sharing our faith with them. Furthermore, we must never assume the gospel in conversations with non-Christians lest we lose it. We need to view the gospel as the center of how we align our lives to God as well as come to God in salvation.

#### 10. Evangelism must be modeled.

One of the greatest needs in our churches today is for church leaders to boldly model what it means to be an ambassador of the gospel. Pastors and elders must lead the way in sharing their faith, teaching others how to be ambassadors for Christ, and calling their congregations to do the same. Churches desire to make disciples and they want people to be actively sharing their faith and interacting with unchurched people. That's a good thing.

# The Changing Strategy of Billy Graham



Billy Graham, the most respected evangelist in the world, used big crusades as an evangelism tool. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association claims that over 3.2 million people have been converted at those events.

I am personally grateful for this method, as I planted my first church in Buffalo from the impetus of the Billy Graham Crusade. I requested all of the poor people in the inner city that no other church wanted. They pointed them all to our baby church. We sat down, shared the Gospel, saw them come to Christ, and baptized them. We used the tool of a crusade to reach people and start a church.

While the large crusade was a useful tool at that time, in America and Canada, most observers would say it is much less so today. However, that's not true everywhere. There are churches that are still using such approaches here in the west, and in Africa and South America, however, it can still be extremely useful in reaching large numbers of people with the Gospel. As crusades have declined, Billy Graham's ministry has witnessed home-based evangelism increased.

So, in conjunction with Graham's 95th birthday, the BGEA launched a new tool: *My Hope Campaign.* It is a nationwide effort to reach people across the United States for Christ. Through *My Hope*, Christians are encouraged to open their homes to share the Gospel message with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors using one of several new evangelistic programs featuring lifechanging testimonies and powerful messages from Billy Graham.

The message stayed the same, but the tool—from stadium

crusade to the home couch—changed. Many churches have used Evangelism Explosion—we talked about it this past week in my class at Wheaton College Graduate School. It's a mainstay. They have training opportunities which allows leaders within your church to become certified to teach volunteers. If you have not done so already, you might be surprised at its effectiveness (and its new versions).

#### New Tools for Evangelism

One of the things that seems to happen, however, is that people tire of the tools provided and they seemingly need new tools to help them re-engage with those who are not yet believers. This is a common occurrence among churches of all sizes. Hence, there is a new version of Evangelism Explosion, or whatever is out there.

Here are a number of tools that are relatively new or may be new to you that you can use in your attempts to help church members be involved in evangelism. When it comes to evangelism, there is a disconnect between aspiration and action.

**The Story** is a fairly new evangelistic tool. It is designed around the four parts of the gospel story: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. They have a colorful and visually stimulating tract in print and in digital form. They now have an accompanying Bible with the tool embedded in it.

It's a helpful resource, and the people that produce it do more than just produce the tracts and Bibles — they even offer significant training and guidance in the use of *The Story* and how to go about sharing Jesus with others. This is a valuable resource when it comes to sharing the Gospel with our friends and family.

*I am Second* is a tool produced by E3 Ministries that uses celebrity testimonies as its impetus. They claim it is "the shallow end of the pool that helps get people in a proper relationship with Christ." On

their website, you can see numerous celebrities explain why they are second and not first.

I am Second writes about its ministry:

I am Second is a movement meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. Actors. Athletes. Musicians. Business leaders. Drug addicts. Your next-door neighbor. People like you. The authentic stories on iamsecond.com provide insight into dealing with typical struggles of everyday living. These are stories that give hope to the lonely and the hurting, help from destructive lifestyles, and inspiration to the unfulfilled. You'll discover people who've tried to go it alone and have failed. Find the hope, peace, and fulfillment they found. Be Second.

*Life on Mission* is a resource for all Christians, regardless of profession, to live on mission and share the gospel with others. They write on their website: The content is adaptable to any context and can function well as an individual study or within a small group environment. Life on Mission not only delivers a robust gospel base with daily mission practices, but it is threaded with engaging stories and powerful questions that help individuals to take their next steps to living Life on Mission.

Sometimes, there are tools that may be less known in the United States, but better known in the rest of the world. For example: Over 22.5 million people have attended *Alpha* courses, making it the most widely used evangelistic tool in the world. It is an evangelism tool in 169 countries in 112 languages. It explores the basics (*alpha* or first) of the Christian faith.

*Christianity Explored* is another basic evangelism course. CE originated at All Souls Church in London where John Stott served as pastor and is available in 20 languages and 60 countries. Their courses help people understand from the Bible who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

*Two Ways to Live* is a course from Australia that breaks the message of the Gospel down into six simple points in a way that is easy to understand both for the Christian and the non-Christian.

**The God Test** is, as its website states, "being used around the world as a groundbreaking tool for Evangelism. From New York to Cape Town, it has not only sparked tens of thousands of gospel conversations, but it is also helping believers to be more equipped and secure in their faith." It helps facilitate discussions about the difficult issues surrounding the Christian faith.

#### What Tool Should I Use?

That is a question that can only be answered by knowing well the people in your church and the community. Then you can determine which method and tool will resonate with your congregation and connect with the unchurched in your neighborhood. Actually, as you look into the tools, you may find that you prefer one because of theology, another based on approach, or another because of timing in your church.

My point is that tools can help—they can prime the pump, leading to a more natural life of evangelism. So, look for ways to encourage and train church members. People need tools to help them to do what they desire to do. The church should seriously explore the varying evangelism tools and use them to share the gospel to a world in need. Feel free to recommend other resources in the comments. I'm making a list. My list is not intended to be exhaustive—just some off the top of my head. There are lots of great resources out there.

# EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP



Part 2 For Church Leaders and Ministers

'Send us around the world with the power of Your Word; and Your eternal plan for all mankind' [Psalm 67:2 / TLB]

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There's really no right and wrong way to do evangelism, as long as you make use of biblical foundations. In part 2 we offer some insights for church leaders and ministers, but as an individual you will also learn a lot. Join us now as we take a deeper look into corporate evangelism

# **NO BOUNDARIES**

### **INTRODUCTION - Part 2**



One of the most humble approaches you can have in ministry is that you are not the best there is. If and when the opportunity arise, you ought to be ready to step aside. You might have started a good work, but sometimes, just as we see with Paul and Barnabas, roles can easily change. In the beginning of Paul's ministry in the book of Acts, we see that Barnabas mentored Paul. Barnabas was senior to Paul. One of the evidence is that Barnabas' name was always mentioned before Paul, but later on we see the role changed where Paul's name started to get mentioned before Barnabas. Of course, there's other evidence to strengthen this statement, but I want us to understand that no matter how good we think we are, we can be replaced.

Now being replaced is not always a bad thing, because as we see, God used Barnabas in mighty ways after his roles change with Paul. We should be open to being used by God for ministry effectiveness and not recognition.

A good mentor will always train their own replacement. In mobilizing your church, your evangelistic groups, or your small groups you may be leading at this time, you need to consider God's plan and calling on your life. Also understand that as a Christian, we are all part of one body; and Christ is the head of the entire body. In the same manner the hand can't do nothing without the arm, so to at time you need your other hand to help you. In like manner, sometimes we are doing something simply to strengthen another member in the body of Christ. Some times our involvement in ministry might shift – not because we done something wrong, but God has gifted us for something great; and at times we don't see it.

We will talk on this subject a but later; but for now, let's see how we can mobilize volunteer leaders for evangelism...

# **Mobilizing Your Volunteer Leaders**



#### What Energizes Volunteers?

1 Thessalonians 2:10-14

"You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, Encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe. For you, brothers, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews" [1 Thessalonians 2:10-14]

#### 1. You will share the stage

People grow best when you share ministry

#### 2. You are an Encourager

Be a Barnabas - Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)

# 3. You notice the different giftedness and connect that giftedness into ministry involvement

1 Corinthians 12:30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?....

4. You keep people out of the Political Battles that can rage in any organization

1 Corinthians 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere men?

#### 5. You keep people from the over Volunteer Syndrome Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I

am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

# 6. Give people needed training

1Tim. 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Titus 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

- Do not show favoritism James 2:1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism.
- 8. Keep the Big Picture in mind- They have a dream to grow spiritually

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

9. If you are in a paid situation, don't complain about your salary to members of the church.

1 Timothy 5:18 For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "The worker deserves his wages."

# 10. Do-able projects, [prospects are] respectfully and sustainably considered

If you have to guilt people to do things, it is usually not going to be sustainable

### **Training your Ministry and Small Group Volunteers**



A small group can be anything from a home-cell, bible study class, men or women fellowship group, etc... It is important to understand that these various small groups can function as a lead magnet in evangelism, as a place where newly won souls can be discipled in a small group setting where they can experience a more personal touch in fellowship. Anytime a gathering is less than about a dozen people, we really have a small group. And if that group meets because someone's calling it together, then it is an intentionally led small group.

As a leader, you should spend some time in training your ministry and small group volunteers; and always encourage them to step out as a group to do evangelism.

#### The Ministry Model for Small-Groups

A model in which someone accepts a responsibility for making themselves a value and a blessing to other people who are seeking God and seeking help and seeking comfort and seeking to make something worthwhile out of their lives. We will be looking at some foundational principles which will strengthen your small group for maximum effectiveness if they are setup well.

#### **1** Connecting with the power structure in your church

If you don't connect properly with the authority in your church, you're going to be looked upon as an outlaw perhaps. You're going to be looked upon as somebody who gives the pastoral staff a certain amount of discomfort, because they don't know what you're up to over there. And they don't understand that what you're up to may be the most real thing that happens to people outside the actual event of the communion of the morning worship service. You could be one of the most valuable parts of a person's spiritual growth and, yet, the staff of the church might not appreciate that if we don't have that linkage. You must find someone to report to. Every good church out there has a structure; and in the structure you must follow that certian protocol that's set in place. The most important definitions of empowerment – working under someone's authority, a legitimate authority - is an important part of your starting your ministry. You ought to take responsibility for your group. We have compiled a wonderful teaching manual titled: The Ownership of Leaders. You can <u>download it here in PDF</u>, which will help you as a leader to duplicate structure in your group/s.

#### 2 Coaching Your Members in selecting a candidate/s for Leadership

Coaching has some things for you to keep in mind.

- $\Box$  it takes being there to coach.
- □ connect with them
- $\square$  visibly, connect with them
- □ audibly, connect with them
- $\hfill\square$  touch-wise, connect with them
- □ sight-wise, connect with them

Arrange yourself in such a way that you can hear what they have to say and have enough space so they can say it and you can hear them out completely. The coaching requires being fully present to a person for a period of time. You need people who will mirror back to you your very best intentions.

#### **3 Plan Your Meetings Prayerfully**

If your church doesn't have a small group outline, you need to plan your meeting; and even if they do, be prayerful about it. Your small group is a smaller scale church outside of the walls of your home church –or- mother church. In your small groups, you can meet for worship, teachings, sharing testimonies, and other activities which will even lead you into the street – see next point

#### 4 Mobilize your Small Group

Your small group must function as an extension of your church; but also as a reach out platform to your surrounding community. Take your small group out to the streets, take some church flyers with you and spend some time to evangelize your sphere; then before calling it a night, gather together again and discuss your experiences. This is what the early churches has done and it is still very effective today.

#### **5 Connecting Your Members**

It is always good as, your group are growing, to get some of your members that's been with you for a while to connect to new members of your group. Relationships does not build itself, so bringing new members into a loving and caring circle will not only keep them coming back, but it will also help them to find a place of belonging to something great.

#### 6 Expanding Your Group

As a small group leader, you can easily oversee a maximum of 12 people; but to have a more intimate relationship with members, you need leaders under you who will fill the gap. Developing leaders in your group to take 2 or 3 people under their wing will knit your group together and form more lasting relationship.

Expansion is needed when you see your leaders are maturing in giving care and disciplining others in your group. At such a point, you should send your leader to start their own group, duplicating the system you have thought them, and grow their group in like manner to expand.

#### **Cultivating Your Network of Relationships**

In your development as a small group leader, it is important to develop a concept as to what your ministry can become, what you can become in leading a group of people. Your potential is to become a church; and here is how:

Starting your small group, you need 2 or 3 people you have personally won to Christ and discipled. Get those 2 or 3 people to join you in inviting 2 or 3 more people each to your group.

Say it is you and 2 other people who are inviting others; and each one of you'll get 2 people to attend your small group; you will have 9 people at your meeting including you. Then do the same thing again; train them to evangelize their sphere of contacts and invite people to your small group setting / meeting. If each one get 2 more people to attend your meeting, then you will have 27 people. You see the duplication system? That's how you grow a small group into a church.

#### The Aims of Small Groups

The aims of the small group settings is simple: 'they're reflecting on the fact that the meeting got small enough to become intimate again.' It is a place where trained leaders can give spiritual care to members of the church and surrounding attending community and those in reach with a more one-on-one level. Larger churches lack this quality as everything gets done in a corporate setting; and it is easy to overlook an individuals cry out for help in any given area of life. The small group leader and his/her leaders can offer what most bigger churches can't; that real belonging to a family. Small-groups is a place were basking in the enjoyment of being able to hear each other out without feeling rushed or crowded is culture.

That's why we look for groups to start multiplying any time they're above 10 to 1; meaning, where each leader has more than 10 people under his/her care. Example: The Small-Group leader may have 3 leaders under him, and those 3 leaders cares for the needs of 5-10 people each. If your home or small setting can't handle a large group of 20 to 30 people, a split is recommended.



Proverbs 29:18 – "Where there is no vision, the people perish"

#### **The Christian Calling:**

Every born again Christian has a calling from God; and the first calling would be that we are all called out of darkness unto God marvelous light [1 Peter 2:9]. The second calling is the general calling of reconciliation [Matthew 28:19-20/Acts1:8], to reconcile all men back unto God by preaching the Gospel and healing the sick [Luke 9:2]. But beyond this, we have place and a role to fulfill in Christ Jesus. You should have a spiritual covering; a church and a home where your seniors covers you spiritually through discipleship, mentoring, and continuous prayer for you. Then you have that personal calling from God, where God calls you into place as a member of the body. Now you might never become a pastor, prophet, evangelist, teacher or apostle like we see in the five-fold ministry [Ephesians 4:11], but whatever your calling is, it is important to God that you fulfill it. My personal calling is also my calling in ministry, to be a Pastor and a Teacher, but also to be an Evangelist; and that I received by the Spirit Who highlighted Psalm 67:2 [TLB] for me: "Send us around the world with the news of Your saving power, and Your eternal plan for all mankind." Now with that, my spiritual covering, both for myself and the ministry at large, is under Christian Leaders Institute; and I still have a mentor, Pastor Pierre Djiumo, from another leading church called Christ Embassy International.

#### The Christian Vision:

Your calling is tied to a vision; and your calling is the calling of God into your life. This could include your spiritual dream, the prayerful voice of God in your life calling you to ministry. Phil. 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ

Jesus. – The calling is that spark.... And God always first leads you by His Spirit; and also men who has been placed before you.

#### The Christian Mission:

Mission is that vision put into a specific plan defining specific tangible desired outcomes that the organization pursues.

#### The Seed of an organizational Vision

Your personal Vision and the organizational Vision ought to match Romans 15:20 "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation"

#### **Organizational Vision**

How does your personal vision translate into your connection to your church? People are the crown of God's creation, and there's no greater joy than helping them walk with God and to see them utilize their gifts. I love the people part of ministry and see my role as pastor to create stages for other people to use their gifts and make an impact in their family and to their community. As a leader, you should be driven in the same way. As a member of the body of Christ, present your ideas and see where you can fit in. Perhaps you need a bit of guidance, but every good minister should be open to hear your idea; and give sound reasons to why your idea might not be best for the opportunity, instead of just discarding it.

#### **Organizational Mission**

What are the specific ministries that accomplish that Vision. Do you have a service? Are you going to have ministries? If so, what?

A vision will always be reflected. Real Decision reflects the real vision. See the Acts 6 Story which will give you more insight in bringing your vision and mission into alignment with your church's vison and mission...

# Preaching the Gospel, Healing the Sick



"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. [2] And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. [3] And he said unto them, Take nothing for *your* journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. [4] And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. [5] And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them" [Luke 9:1-5].

In Luke 9 and verse 2, we see a very simple, yet very effective instruction given to the disciples by Jesus: "Preach the Kingdom of God [Gospel / who is Jesus and the salvation He brought], and heal the sick."

It's important to notice that there's 3 steps in our opening scripture:

- 1] Go the disciples were send by Jesus
- 2] Peach the Kingdom of God Basic evangelism
- 3] Heal the sick which are signs and wonder which will follow us that believe [Mark 16:16-18].

Romans 10 and verse 17 tells us the principle of this:

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

The very Word of God is healing unto those who hear it. In the days that Jesus walked this earth, people heard of Him and the wonders He did, and they were healed by faith.

We read in the book of John chapter 1 from verse 1 to 5 -"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] The same was in the beginning with God. [3] All things

were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life; and the life was the light of men. [5] And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

Jesus was the Word of God; and this same Word became flesh and dwelled among men [John 1:14]. Today, people hear that same Word [Jesus] through us. We are the expressed image of God to our world. God has anointed us and charged us with the mandate to go into our world, to preach the Gospel, and to heal the sick. This is the very first commandment given to the church and every new believer; to go and evangelize our sphere of contacts.

Jesus in Luke 10 and verse 19 reveals to us another remarkable truth by saying: "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you"... And then when we look at Mark 16:15-18, we can get the bigger picture: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Are you convinced now that God has called you as a Christian to effect change? He has given you a mandate and anointed you for a great work – Are you ready now?

Although, I was not trying to convince you, but if you believe these things, then simply go now and do it.

### **Discipleship Model**

C

#### Introduction

Although evangelism is of the utmost importance, it should never stop there. Newly souls won to Christ are very fragile, as they have not learned the foundations of the Bible. They have the systems of the world deeply enrooted in their souls and their minds are governed by it. Effective soul winning goes beyond simply preaching the message of salvation. You have not effectively won a soul until you have discipled that soul.

This discipleship model will help you be a more effective soul winner beyond the conversion. Here is a few things we will cover in this segment:

- Connecting with the new convert
- Staying in touch with the new convert
- Invite the new convert to your small group or church
- Encourage the new convert to attend different meetings
- Get the new convert enrolled in the Foundation School
- Do a house visitation
- Share insightful biblical materials and daily verses or devotional

In the case where a new convert lives far out of the area where you go to church to, find the nearest church to them; and also connect with some of the leaders in that church to track the new convert. In some cases you might need to find a church outside of your organisation, and in doing so you can seek the help form your local research team or leaders. In such a case you still have a responsibility to stay connected to the new convert as you were the one who won them to Christ and you were their first point of contact. Don't try and pass your responsibilities unto others. Send them a whatsapp or sms; and give them a call every now and again.

# The Mentor Model

Discipleship is mostly composed of mentorship. To mentor someone is to allow God to appoint a candidate to you so you may mentor them. That appointed candidate comes mainly through those God has put before you to win to Christ.

Although we only touching base on the topic of discipleship and mentoring, we will share more in detail on this in our 2<sup>nd</sup> volume. We will begin with:

#### **Five Simple Steps to Mentor New Believers**

The most important fact of soul winning [as we have mentioned before], is for you to disciple the new converts; don't dump them in church – don't overwork your leaders and pastors, they also have bigger responsibilities, as well as mentoring their own candidates.

Here are some points on how you can disciple and mentor new converts of your own in the corporate ministry:

#### 1. Meet With Every New Believer

Pastors of bigger churches [more than 300 members] can't do this. That's not a slam on them, it's just the way it is. But it does point out one of the advantages of pastoring a small church – the personal touch.

#### 2. Determine How They Learn and Grow

People learn and grow in different ways. Let's use the personal touch that we get from being in a small-group to help people in the way that suits them best. If you're wondering how the interview works, it's simple. You ask about the following:

- □ What was their family like, growing up?
- □ How did they like school?
- □ Do they like to read?
- □ Are they a hands-on learner?

- □ Are they relationship-oriented?
- □ What do they do in their spare time?
- □ What was their best learning experience in the past?
- □ Their worst?
- □ Who was their favorite teacher and why?

Don't hesitate to get into it; this will help you get the feel of what will work for them in the now; and also find a way to get them more involved at a later stage.

#### 3. Connect Them With a Mature Believer and the Right Resources if you yourself are still new in the faith

There might be a handful of new believers in your church who meet regularly with mature believers to learn, grow and be discipled. It's most likely that each one of them does it differently, depending on their circumstance. You are to always guide new folks to build a personal relationship with Jesus and to study the Word for themselves. In the beginning they might need a lot of help with this.

# 4. Help Them Plug Into An Active Ministry That Utilizes Their Gifts

This is the most-neglected step of most new believer programs. We fill people's heads with Bible knowledge, but we wait too long to activate that knowledge within real-world ministry. That is dangerous - for the believer and the church. The main reasons for pastoral stress is church members with a lot of Bible knowledge who are doing little, if any, practical, hands-on, outsidethe-church-walls ministry.

The Apostle Paul taught us that, "*knowledge puffs up, but love builds up*" (1 Cor 8:1). That's what happens when we cram bible knowledge into people's heads without helping them activate it with their hands and feet. It's never the new believers that burn out the pastor. It's the bench-warmers who think they know

how to run the church, but never lift a finger to help. Then they leave because they're "not being fed".

The best solution to that? Teach people from the very start of their faith how to pick up a spoon and feed themselves!

#### 5. As People Mature, Call On Them to Start Leading Others

Discipleship is never finished. Even the most mature believer has something to learn. The best way for a mature believer to keep learning is to teach others as they do ministry together. You will learn alot by teaching others.

#### **Start With One**

One of the great side benefits of these steps is how little time it takes from the pastor's schedule. The pastor and senior leaders should spend endless hours in mentoring others, although they do have a responsibility in doing so, but helping them achieve great results, you got to step up if you want your church to continue producing sound products [meaning more mature members].

Start with one person. Mentor them in a way that they understand from the begining that they will be doing the same one day – and hopefully, one day soon. Believers discipling believers is the biblical way.

As you grow, understand that each one person can mentor a maximum of 12 others successfully. This is the same reason why we appoint leaders by the leading of the Spirit of God. In small groups, the leader will disciple at the most 12 members. Going beyond that number, we split the group by appointing another leader who went through the training process of becoming a leader. Your are mentoring people to become leaders, not just better congregation members. Church leadership is a network of believers working towards the same goal or vision...

# A More One-on-One Discipleship Model



#### Your initial stages of starting to disciple your new convert

Discipleship involves a lot, but one of the most important things you can do with a new believer is read the Bible with them– teaching them how to read, understand, respond to, and apply God's Word. Pray with them and gradually get them involved in more active groups where they can learn with others.

If you are a leader in your church and have a small-group setting like a home-cell, then get some of your members to connect with your new converts one-on-one. Sometimes it is difficult to manage your time around your involvement in church as a leader, work, and your own personal and family time.

As a leader, you should always be ministering to new souls and win as much souls as possible; but this does limit you to one-onone discipleship; that's why you should get your members involved in helping to disciple your new converts. There's benefits in doing so.

- You are leading your members in becoming mentors themselves
- 2 You can monitor your overall group and see where you can advise the individuals better for maximum impact and effectiveness
- 3 You have more time to spend with a selected 1 or 2 people who the Spirit is leading you to mentor / instead of trying to mentor a whole group by yourself. You will still mentor your group, but you can then do so with having mentors under you to mentor others while you focus personal mentorship on raising your next leader/s.

In the one-on-one discipleship model, it is important that as a leader [including your other leaders] understand that some stranger to your group might feel out. They might not even be comfortable with you or another leader; and they will withdraw if they don't find the right connection. Again, this is were you need to prayerfully seek out a person to connect the new person to in your group. The gift of discernment comes in handy here; so if you don't have this gift, find out if someone else does. Make use of them to see who will be a more suitable candidate to connect the new member/s too.

You need to learn how to listen to what people say, about how they feel about others before we put them into an assignment. One principle that is priceless and a must teach to your members is: **The power of a smile reach the heart of many.** 

#### Here is some other good qualities to cultivate:

- $\Box$  excitement,
- □ a positive energy,
- $\Box$  a big smile,
- □ a warm grasp,
- $\Box$  a quick hug,

...those things are the tools out of which caring is made.

Lastly, stay in contact with your members; drop them a curtsey message now and again, check in with them after a church meeting, or if they weren't at a service, check in with them and see if they okay. Then, go beyond the needs of the group by reaching out to individuals and families. Perhaps you can grab a lunch with one of your members [never the opposite sex by yourself]; or ask if you can pop around at the family's home for a few minutes. If someone is going through a financial struggle, check with your leaders if you'll can't assist them for a while; offer prayer and share ministry materials with them. Get your members connected to your whatsapp group and keep them informed – all this goes a long way in building a loving and caring environment which expresses Jesus to your world.

# **Mobilizing Your Church**



In the next few segments of:

- Mobilizing Your Church
- Mobilizing Your Evangelistic Groups
- City Evangelism
   and
- Evangelistic Crusades...

I will simply touch base for now in this volume. We will take a deeper look in these things in our second volume.

#### **Please Note:**

The above mentioned titles may not be of interest to you; it is however essential that the senior leadership and the pastor take heed to these things.

#### Let us start with Mobilizing Your Church:

My wife and I was part of a pioneering church outreach from America in the city of Durban, South Africa back in 2013/14, which taught me the true value of mobilizing the church. Every now and again, either on a Sunday or a Wednesday midweek service, we took the entire church to the streets – the leaders and congregation members alike [men, women, and children], the pastors, the worship team with the drum-set, guitar, and keyboard, speakers and portable pa-system; and of course a generator. It was a lot of fun; but seeing how people responded to a church coming to them instead of them going to church was amazing. We started out with just a handful of people and in a few weeks the numbers increased to nearly 200 members; and in a few months time during an Easter Service, we had an attendance of almost 800 people. More than taking the church to the streets, we promptly done street evangelism every Friday night and Saturday mid-day. Our target areas was mainly in gangster and drug invested suburbs; as my favorite, the inner-city backstreets filled with the homeless and criminals. Yes, it was dangerous territories we evangelized in, but Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

Although we had great responses to the Gospel through what we call 'church on the street' and street evangelism in these areas, we also had great responses in more respectful areas. On each occasion, we had a number of souls surrendering to Jesus, and while that was still fresh, we had leaders and other volunteers quickly sweeping the area to get the details of these new converts. Once we got back to our base, we would make our first contact by telephone; and a few days after we would send them a message. During these first contacts, we would invite them either to our church service or a small-group setting near them, like a home-cell group – where we can start our discipleship with them.

If you want to make a real impact in your community and you want to see church growth, then you not going to do so by sitting praying in church; you got to step out there, you got to take the church to the people in your community. If you think you going to get new members in from your church signboard, you might end up with a church full of church hoppers and benchwarmers.

### **Mobilizing Your Evangelistic Groups**



Most leaders find it difficult to get people to join them in evangelism, or they just simply happy that a handful has responded to their invitation. As we discussed in the previous segment, mobilizing the church is what cultivates doers. But that's not always enough in a larger church settings. Sometimes you have to take people by the hand, and while you can invite people to join you in evangelism on a Friday night or on Saturdays during your announcements in church services –or- personally connecting with folks one-on-one after services, you might need to go a step further.

Don't expect people who never done evangelism to meet you on the day; most of the time you need to not ask, but tell them you will pick them up from their home. They might not always like this idea, but they will agree; and that's great. The chances is that if they have to first hand experience street evangelism with experience and energetic people, they will show up by themselves when you say we going to meet for evangelism on such a day, at such a time, at such a place.

### So you might ask: What do you do in street evangelism?

It's no different then evangelizing your family and friends or work colleagues, just these are strangers and you have salvation to share with them. Don't throw new evangelist members into the deep end and think they going to swim and catch fish; pair them up with experienced people in your midst and send them two-by-two, so that the less experience person can learn and witness God at work through the more experienced person.

### Lead by Example:

We spoke about equipping your group by hosting teachings, meetings and building confidence in them; but creating a 'Lead Me' example is what really going to get your group mobilized! Leading by example will place you in the action seat, the driver of your group. In the initial stages of forming and inviting members to join you in evangelism, you will need to be the first in everything. You will need to be the first to speak to a stranger, the first to objection handle a hardheaded none believer, the first to be bold in praying for someone in a public place, the first to lead someone in a salvation prayer, the first of all things done in evangelism.

Let your new members group afar of to see what you do. If they going to clutter a potential candidate, it will scare the person of, no matter how good and genuine your approach is. Then pair your team of in two-by-two groups; placing a new member to your team with someone who has done evangelism before. If a new member comes from another church where they've been involved in evangelism, still pair them with some who is used of your church or group's style. Let them get a feel of how you'll do things as a team. Afterwards you can ask them what they thought and encourage them to share how they done it at their previous church – you might pick up something you can use in your team.

Pairing people two-by-two is a model Jesus thought His disciples, and they were effective in doing so. You want to develop team work where one member can work with another in winning souls by stepping in when another gets stuck or faced with a question they don't know how to answer. It is also good to change your pairing around next time, this way you can see who works most effective with another; and they can then help monitor the team's success, encourage and teach other members of your team.

Going into the street to evangelize can have certain dangers, therefore being partnered with another can help. One person can be on the lookout for possible dangers while the other is ministering. In general, don't let your pairs drift to far apart; for there may be lions waiting to get separate a stray sheep – there's safety in numbers.

# City Evangelism

The work of **evangelism**, the work of winning of souls is not only a mark of wisdom, it's one of the privileges of being the leader of a small group. But when you first think about calling together a group of people who can learn to love one another and to obey the Christian Gospel, you don't necessarily have the winning of people to Jesus Christ and his truth as one of your objectives. And yet what we've been discovering is this. **It's one of your great privileges.** 

Although many churches think that they are making impacts through city evangelism, the results are quite small when we see how many new people actually attend the next service. If we want to make a real impact in the fast moving city lives of the inhabitants, then we got to do so one at a time. Now you might say, the cities are filled with hundreds of thousands of people, would it be better to reach out to larger groups of people. Yes and no! The real question then is, how many new attendees do you want to see in your next church meeting or cell/small group? You might be able to minister salvation to hundreds at a time when you gather people to hear you preach to them, but many of those salvation are lost when they don't come to church; they simply fall back into the systems of the world and their cities – the strongholds of that location.

So then, how can we make a better and more lasting impact by reaching people one at a time? Here's how: Every cell group leader does the work of an evangelist by first of all winning a hearing for the Gospel; and modeling that to his/her followers – implementing a duplication system. I know you don't understand yet, but allow me to explain the details of this effective way of winning souls and creating hunger for the lost to follow you to church.

Winning a hearing for the Gospel is done through and by acts of love; genuine love!

Pastor David Cho, form Korea who is know to have the largest congragational church in a single sitting, shared this testimony at one time, revealing what made church grow so large:

"I instruct my cell group leaders to look around, and in their workplace or in their neighborhood, to find someone who is not a believer, not a Christian, someone who is struggling at some point in their life." He said, "The struggle can be as modest as not being able to get their groceries into the elevator of their apartment building without some struggle and you just offer to help them and carry the stuff down to their apartment for them. Or the struggle can be a shopkeeper who can't keep the windows clean or can't keep the floor swept, because they're just kind of overwhelmed by what's facing them. I tell my small group leaders, please go in alongside of these people and help them. You make yourself available to them. You structure your life so that you carve out some time and you just go by, and be with that person, and you be there, and you offer them help. If the children need tutoring, tutor them. If the store needs cleaning, clean it. If you can be of any help to them in whatever way you can imagine and God leads you to, just offer to help them. And do this on a consistent and repeated basis until they turn to you and say, 'Why are you treating me like you're treating me? Because no one has ever treated me this well before. What's going on here?" At that point, it's appropriate to say, 'I'm a servant of Jesus Christ and he's told me that I should be good to all people. And I saw you were struggling and I thought if Jesus were here, he would help you. So I just thought you could use some help."

He said, "What this does is this eliminates all resistance to the Gospel, because from that point on, they will ask questions and you can share with them your personal faith, you can invite them to your cell group, you can invite them to the worship services of your

church."

If I may add here; in our western and modern world this may be a hard thing for us to do, not because we don't have time, but because we value our own time more than another person's salvation. That is very selfish of us, we must draw back to the roots of love, which are moved by true tangible compassion towards others.

He said, "What we have learned is from the time that you have someone on your heart that you begin to serve until they are in the church as a baptized member is only **four months** typically." And he said, "That means that each group leader can do this with room to spare twice a year. And so we could have 100,000 people won one-by-one even if every group member doesn't manage to do that." Isn't that amazing?

You see, you don't have to be a high-powered evangelist. Because when a heart is ready to receive the Word, as long as the Word is plain and clear, they can receive it, because they've been prepared and soiled to receive the Word.

There's nothing wrong with going the Billy Graham or Reinard Bonnke way; but there's also noting wrong with keeping it basic and simple – evangelism is to be enjoyed; and when you see people's lives being transformed through evangelism and discipleship, your joy will surely be full.

### Do it – Don't Quite

### **Evangelistic Crusades**



Evangelistic Crusades are evangelism on a corporate scale –orsimply put, on a larger scale. It is not as simple as the basic street or city evangelism; here you need money, you need vision partners and you need volunteers. You need money for the venue you going to be using; and if you going to offer food or snacks, you will need money. Depending what your expectations is and what you giftings are, you going to need to determine the style of your crusade; will it be a crusade which simply offers salvation, will it be more of a prophetic crusade or a healing crusade.

With the help of volunteers, you will need evangelistic teams promoting the crusade, you will need flyers, posters and banners. You will need permission if you going to make use of a tent service to host your crusade. You can make good use of your volunteers in bringing all this together. But if it is your first time doing a crusade, I suggest you start small and grow it from there. You may consider doing a one day crusade, then move on to a 2 day and then 3 day crusade. You might also start of making use of an open field or park with a tent, then move on to renting a hall – and on the big scale crusades, you might even need to rent a sports field or stadium.

Whatever way you intending to host your crusade, there must be planning, meeting, structure, program, team work, vision partners, and above all, lots and lots of time spend in personal and corporate prayer.

We will briefly touch on the above points to consider; then we will move on to the Crusade Model, learning from the world renowned evangelist, Billy Graham Model for Evangelistic Crusades; as every type of crusade is an evangelistic crusade in it own way; be it a crusade which simply offers salvation, will it be more of a prophetic crusade or a healing crusade.

Let's first touch base on some points leading in the preparation of a crusade:

- **Planning:** You going to need a dedicated and well connected team to help you. This is not something you can do easily by yourself. Prayerfully get a team together, leaders who follow your vision, and those who are connected to business men and governmental local counsels.
- **Meeting:** Call on a meeting to discuss what the Lord has laid upon your heart, share the details and expectations.
- Structure: As you get people on board, it will be crucial in your next meeting to draw up a structure – Who will oversee what, who will each member report to, the responsibilities of each member on the team, the target and every aspect concerning it. You don't want one member to work over another or someone doing something another is not aware of. Set up a whatsapp group where you can do regular updates and also monitor progress.
- **Program:** As things are taking shape and a date is set; call another meeting and propose your program. Get your team involved and ask them for feedback. It is vital that everyone is well informed and functions on the same page as you.
- **Team Work:** It will be your responsibility to ensure that every member of your team works as a team; no one is to work alone. If a member of your team is to meet certain authorities or suppliers, let another accompany him/her [but always us pairs of the same sex to accompany another].

• Vision Partners: Some folks like to get sponsors in; and if someone has approached you to be a sponsor in one of your events, that's great; however, always call on your own members / congregation to partner with your vision. Keeping the giving in house helps grow a ministry and it forms a special kind of bond in your ministry.

• **Personal & Corporate Prayer:** This is the most important part. This event is your baby and you need to take special care of it. Your are the father of this and you have a team and vision partners who wants to see souls won to Christ. As a good father will do when he finds out his wife is pregnant; he starts to pray before he announce it to anyone. A good father will not first announce it –orcall meeting and set a program before praying. A foolish father only starts praying closer to the expected delivery date of his baby.

# Get your team involve with daily prayer points and guidance for the beginning to the end and beyond.

Your prayers does not stop at the end of a crusade, you continue to pray for new souls to be taught and strengthen in the Word of God.

### **Billy Graham Evangelism Tips**



I found this article on the internet and thought it is worth sharing; I hope you learn from it as I did.

# The Evangelical Alliance's Director of Mission Gavin Calver reflects on Billy Graham's legacy

Dr Billy Graham has been my biggest role model - not just as a Christian but as an evangelist. His life and dedication to the proclamation of the gospel led to millions hearing, and responding to, the good news. In 1954 when he in Lodon during a mass crusade, he preached to thousands in Trafalgar Square:

In total, he spoke to live audiences of nearly 215 million people in more than 185 countries around the world and an estimated two billion people have heard his messages through television, video, films and the internet.

His impact is almost incalculable. But here are just five things he's modelled to me [Calvin] when it comes to sharing my faith:

### 1. Stay focused

Dr Graham was unwavering in his commitment to his God given calling. He once said: "My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which I believe comes through knowing Christ." There must have been many opportunities and temptations along the way but his utter commitment to preaching the good news and seeing others given a chance to respond to this is something that is a huge lesson to us all. Staying focused and not being drawn away by the many distractions (legitimate or not) that come our way is something we can all learn from.

### 2. Be clear, biblical & accessible

It can be tempting to try and be a bit too creative or overly clever with the message we've been entrusted with. But Dr Graham kept things simple. He preached a clear message that engaged his listeners. His sermons were both biblical and accessible. In a Christ-like manner he shared deep truths in a way that anyone could understand and see as relevant to their situation.

### 3. Make sure your lifestyle mirrors your message

Journalists would often try and dig up scandals about Billy Graham. But they never succeeded because there was nothing to find! When it came to holiness and living the life worthy of his preaching, Billy Graham was an incredible example. Some of the boundaries he drew might seem overly conservative to some, but I have nothing but admiration for the way in which he lived his life. He put a desire for holiness and pleasing God ahead of what any human thought of him.

As an evangelist it's vital that we practice what we preach and in Dr Graham's case he did this better than most. As Christians we all need to pursue the kind of life that points to 'whose' we are – children of the living God.

### 4. Keep going

It's easy to do lots of different things - each for a short space of time. It's much harder to keep on going and persevering with one message while everything changes around you. Yet he faithfully preached the gospel throughout his adult life. Even when he was 95 years old, he released a final gospel video to the world entitled 'The Cross'. Over the decades his style changed a little from time to time, but the substance of his message remained the same and the calling he lived out was consistent. In our instant culture where everything seems able to change without thought, the enduring tenacity shown by Dr Graham in keeping going with his evangelistic mandate is a wonderful example to us all.

### 5. Leave a legacy

Even after his passing on the impact of Dr Graham's evangelistic ministry continues to be immense. Hundreds of thousands of people all over the planet are now sharing their faith with others having first been introduced to Jesus by Dr Graham. It's important that all of us leave a positive and significant legacy in the lives of others once our time on earth is finished. This process of positively investing in other people should begin now, not when we are older.

### Just a traveler

I thank the Lord for the ministry of Dr Graham and I am grateful for all I've learned from him. I'm reminded to follow his example in holding on to an eternal perspective and not allowing myself to be distracted by the things of this world. To quote the great man, "My home is in heaven. I'm just travelling through this world." As we travel through this world let's not ever underestimate the impact we can have on those around us. Just as Mordecai Ham had an incredible legacy (Dr Graham responded to the gospel after listening to Ham preach), we never know the impact we might have on any one life. Let's be inspired by Dr Graham and go for it in sharing the gospel in our day!

### **Reinhard Bonnke Evangelism Tips**



Another great evangelist of our time is Reinhard Bonnke. Join me now as we look at what he shares with vital keys to effective evangelism...

Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, the founder of Christ For All Nations, (CFAN). Al Gibson has tracked the ministry of Christ For All Nations (CFAN) for many years, first as a young man attending Reinhard Bonnke crusade meetings and conferences in Africa to a recent Fire Conference at the NEC in Birmingham, UK. He has always been inspired by Reinhard's passion for Jesus and faith-fulness to the call and it was a great privilege to meet up with him in Washington D.C. and interview him for the GOD TV Guide.

### Al Gibson: For many years you have taken a fiery message of salvation and repentance to the nations... what fuels the flames of evangelism that burn so deeply in your heart?

Reinhard Bonnke: What drives me is the Great Commission; which Jesus Christ gave as a final instruction to His disciples before He ascended to Heaven. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature• He commanded all believers – and that should be the heartbeat of every Christian. If we truly believe that a soul without Jesus is eternally lost - then we cannot be idle – we have got to do something. The desperate need of a lost world overwhelms my heart and keeps me going for God.

Al Gibson: Even in the face of major obstacles? How, for instance, did you feel when your 34 000- seater tent was blown apart by a hurricane when you first started doing mass crusades?

Reinhard Bonnke: Some people thought that because the tent was destroyed, my ministry was over, but the Holy Spirit told me this would happen two days before and gave me such peace in my spirit that I could not explain. Henceforth, My glory shall be your canopy and your praises shall be the masts•, the Lord told me and I have travelled with that invisible tent ever since – it's cheaper to pitch and to transport - and it's much more extendable!

# Al Gibson: And like you have often said, "Jesus turns a minus into a plus."

Reinhard Bonnke: Yes indeed!

### How does Reinhard Bonnke lead someone to the Lord?

### Al Gibson: How would you encourage people to be more effective in their witness particularly in introducing Jesus to friends of another faith.

Reinhard Bonnke: The Bible says that Whosoever calls upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved• and I constantly preach to people of all different religions about Jesus, who He is, and the salvation He came to bring. He didn't just send salvation, He came to bring it Himself. I tell them that we are all sinners who need a saviour and Jesus personally made it possible for all our sins to be forgiven and for our relationship with God to be restored.

Salvation is Jesus and Jesus is salvation. It is an act of God, not of clever persuasion. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness and judgement and confirms the spoken Word of the Gospel in a personal and powerful way. Once someone has heard the Gospel, He leads them to respond by repenting of their sin, which means turning away from the old sinful lifestyle, towards Jesus Christ, who forgives them. Jesus said in Revelation 3:20, "I will come in"•, and that is an iron cast promise, because Jesus always fulfils His Word. If a person prays with all their heart, their life WILL be changed because Jesus WILL come in and take control.

### Al Gibson: Could you give an example of how to lead someone in a prayer of salvation.

Reinhard Bonnke: Very simply, a salvation prayer must contain certain elements. The person needs to acknowledge that they are a sinner, and are facing a lost eternity. That Jesus loves them and died in their place, taking their punishment upon Himself. That they now come to receive this offer of salvation. You then need to lead them in repentance of their sins and in a commitment to turn away from evil to the Lord Jesus, asking Him to come into their life. Then you need to encourage them, that Jesus Christ is now their Lord and Saviour if they believe this in their heart and confess it with their mouth.

I believe with all of my heart that for the first time in history we have a genuine chance to win our whole generation for Jesus Christ.

This is not done by some super evangelist here, and one super evangelist there, but I believe that God wants to raise a whole army of His people.

### Al Gibson: When you pray this prayer in your crusades, thousands, even millions respond, and many testify to have been healed. Tell us about that.

Reinhard Bonnke: Yes, we see people by the millions receiving salvation in Jesus Christ. For example recently, in one single week, 3.4 million people completed decision cards for salvation. You see, If we preach the original Gospel, we are bound to have original results! When we look at the Resurrection Gospel proclaimed in the book of Acts, it was not a case of mental persuasion or argumentative preaching, it was proclamation confirmed by the signs and wonders. Healings authenticate the message of the Gospel and my experience is, that after I have prayed the prayer of salvation, the same things that are described in the book of Acts begin to happen as I pray for the sick I remember a man from another religion who had a daughter that was born deaf and dumb. When I prayed for the sick, just a simple prayer from the platform, he stood with his daughter in a crowd of 500 000 and suddenly she heard and spoke. He said, "My god has never done anything for me, look what Jesus Christ has done"• and went home to destroy the idols in his house. As a result, his whole household came to salvation, so you see the miraculous, plays a key role in the success of the Gospel.

# Al Gibson: Do you think television also has a role to play in evangelism?

Reinhard Bonnke: Oh yes. We have to empower more believers for evangelism. I am believing that the Lord Jesus will step out of the television screen and minister directly to many different people, anointing them for evangelism and and putting a flame on every head. If only one percent of born again Christians in this world, would catch the fire... we would have thousands more evangelists which would have a mighty impact upon our generation.

What GOD TV is doing amazes me. GOD TV will continue to grow and play a major role in world evangelism.

### **Keeping Your Group/s on Target**



Good leaders are products of many meetings; and when we talking about evangelism, that's exactly what we what to be doing – developing well seasoned leaders, imparted with a vision, and driven to win souls – be it in the evangelistic groups, any small groups, and the overall corporate ministry. This is one of the most essential parts of the overall and larger aspect of evangelism: Keeping Your Groups on Target – we will start by the meeting itself.

On the topic of evangelism and discipleship, the first thing we want to do in our meetings is to:

- 1 **Connect** Connecting with whom? **Connect with the leaders** of your church and the staff of your church –or- their designated people [assistants] for taking reports. After we have connected, our first task following our connection is...
- 2 To recruit. Now what kind of person is it that we're going to recruit? The person who is going to take over our job. We don't say, "Would you like to come and work in a group with me?" Well, you can start that way, but as you unfold to them what you have in mind, you are saying to them, "And guess what? It's going to be your group when we get done." And you will deal with the person that you will recruit what I'm going to do to you. We are going to work together to start a group that neither of us will own, because we're going to give it away to people who follow us. Then, we're going to start additional groups as we go." This is setting a model of duplication; and that's how the vision grows, your expand your ministry, and your reach more people.
- **3 Invite people**, with the help of our apprentice, to the group. This means that the church leadership will not give us a class. They will not give us a group. Who's responsible for raising the participants and calling the meeting and making the group come into being? We are. We accept responsibility for that because

we're leaders, and we're defining leaders as people who have a following. So we're going to have followers because we're leading and we're inviting. And in some cases, this means that we have to develop a certain personality attractiveness; otherwise, people won't want to come and share misery and sorry with us. They would prefer to come and be encouraged by us.

- 4 Prepare for the Meeting In the evangelistic environment you want to get people involved; but first you need them to be confident. Many Christians has a fear of speaking to strangers about Jesus; and it somewhat has to do with how they think other will see them, knowing that they have their own wrongs. Jesus didn't call you into ministry because you are perfect, He called us because He wants to perfect us through ministry the work we do for and with Him. However, the bigger problem why people fear speaking to strangers about Jesus is that they don't know how to; and that become the leader's responsibility to equip his followers on the how Teach them!
- 5 The Meeting Itself Here is a core principles to use in your teaching/meeting; and it can be use in almost any group or meeting: We want people to come together, and as a result of being together, we want them to love God more and appreciate what God has done by making his son, Jesus Christ, available to us and giving us a place in the body of Jesus Christ. We're a part of what God is doing on earth at this point in human history; and part of a functioning body where every member has a task. Because as believers in Jesus Christ, we are part of the body of Jesus Christ. So we want people to love God more and to appreciate the fact that they're part of his body.

People will always feel welcomed and willing to join in doing what you ask when they feel loved and cared for. Your meeting might have a teaching time; especially the small group settings, but you must allow interaction. Most people feel involved when they have a time where they can speak, share ideas, can be heard, and knowing that someone is listening. In the **caring group concept**, it's just as important what each member says to another as it is what the teacher says to the group. At different times during the meeting, different kinds of interaction are appropriate. But we're really talking about mixing it up so it can be **mutual self-care**.

The scripture speaks of a particular concept. It says, "Speaking the truth in love." Truth is sometimes pretty harsh.
Truth itself is contradictory to the things that we hold dear.
Truth sometimes causes us to realize we're wrong.

As a consequence, what we have to look at is how can we present the truth in such a way that the people who are participating in our group are able to receive the truth and not reject the truth? And this is where the love part becomes very important. If people really feel affirmed and really feel loved, then their hearts become far more open to hear the truth. If they are willing to hear the truth, then if they will heed it, then the benefits in their own lives will be abundant, because the blessings of God are promised to people who both hear and readily listen to and embrace the things that are being taught. It is more, acting your faith; putting the Word to practice and seeing the results thereof.

Avoiding Distractions and Killers of Interacting Groups

Most small-group meetings are held in homes, so we will look at the home or house settings:

- Let's make sure that the person who is going to be the host takes care of putting the pets away. Pets can be very distracting especially if they're licking dogs or mewing cats or whatever, or parrots that need to be hooded. Get those things taken care of before the meeting time so that's not a part of the last-minute scramble.
- And then, make sure that you've got an agreement with the family you've contracted, to turn off all the radio and television so that we don't have this constant airwave interruption that's

coming in.

And then, have it agreed as to who will answer the door for greeting late comers so that the meeting doesn't have to stop for that but the host or hostess can greet the latecomers and do so, bring them in and help them get situated and comfortable and then they can be introduced to the group appropriately.

Distractions can also include children who are not properly looked after; or even refreshment times. People are quickly distracted when someone gets up to sort out the refreshments, making noise in the kitchen, etc...

Do not allow irritation in the group by briefing latecomers on things that has been discussed already. Make clear what the starting time of your meeting is; and if anyone does come late, they can be briefed after the meeting or the next day.

Always, in a respectful manner, avoid people to ask inappropriate questions or answering question which is negative or off topic to your meeting. Such things can be politely address separate and after the meeting if needed, not within the meeting.

As much as you might have a teaching group, you will also have a caring group; and within caring groups you will have individuals who need special attention. Your members and followers must understand that you are the leader, without you being bossy or a dictator.

The aim of your small group meetings is to equip your members with knowledge and understanding to practice the Word of God while also encouraging evangelism. Keeping your groups on target will develop that caring environment which the larger setting of corporate ministry many times can't offer.

Lastly, we need to understand that we will have to meet needs in

and beyond the group if we are truly going to cultivate an atmosphere of a caring group. Once your group is established and actively involving members, you will have a mixture of leaders, mature members, and new comers. When new comers see that you do not meet the needs of other or more mature members in your group, it might cause them not to return. Remember, although our group is not a charitable organisation, we do promote charity and care. This means that we are moved by compassion and love for one another; and when any one of our members are in need, we should assist them as we can.

The early church set an example which seems to be difficult to copy in today's societies – where they sold their possessions and brought the money to the Apostles to share among everyone so that no one may be in need. That type of compassion is hardly seen in today's churches, but it is not impossible for us to do this in today's society.

As God blesses us, we shouldn't raise our standards of living, but rather raise our standards of giving. Live simple lives, be givers, and you will find that there will be no lack; you will always have what you need.

We should, as leaders, lead by example and also develop in others the heart that seeks the needs of others and then work towards meeting those needs. This can be done within our own circles, but should also extend outward to meeting the needs of those we are reaching out to in evangelism.

### Bonus Article: The Perfect Stranger in You



This article was taken from our website and offers rich and insightful content on the subject of soul winning If you have downloaded our Collaborated Series, then you would be familiar with this article; if not, then enjoy this one

Christians can come out quite strong when they minister Jesus unto the world. Many times, we come across as judgmental with preaching conviction instead of salvation; and in many cases we don't even realize we doing so. Salvation should always be preached with love; and saying so, it should be done with unconditional love. This is mainly because Christians didn't take the time out to understand why people don't know Jesus. Many times Christians are to blame for the world not knowing Jesus. They want to beat down and get straight to the point, which in many ways is too much for people who don't know Jesus. Christians today don't seem to have time to minister salvation unto people and go around with the mindset, 'Well, if they don't want to hear what I have to say, it's not my problem – at least I done my part'. Well, that's not good enough, we must make time, the world is dying and time is running out. You get daily a deposit of 86'000 seconds; tomorrow those seconds is gone and you receive a new 86'000 seconds. If that was money, you would use it well, knowing tomorrow that 86'000 will be replace with a new 86'000 – no carry overs. So too, how you use your time effectively also matters.

One other reason is, Christians in many cases who knows Jesus, truly don't know Him at all – because they don't understand God's heart. We need to study the stories about Jesus' ministry when

He ministered to people; and understand how God wants us to minister to people too. This article is to shed a bit more light on all the above mentioned. How to minister to the world with patience, love and also through understanding God's heart – what makes God tick. We don't merely show God our love by going to church and telling Him how much we love Him; we do so through application of His Word – being a doer of God's Word.

God's idea is for us to become the Word of God, in such a way that men can read the Word by looking at our lives; but what many Christians do today is preach louder with their mouths than what their lives can speak. What comes out of your mouth should be a reflection of your life. Now, God doesn't call us to preach His message unto the world because we are equipped to do so, all He is looking for is a willing vessel - He will equip you as you go about doing. We must be willing to step out to reach a dying world. Reaching out to a dying world: It's important to show people you are interested in them as a person. Making small talk and breaking the ice on a one on one basis. Slowly get into asking about their beliefs, but remember, you are a stranger to them – and the Greater One Who lives in you might also be a Stranger to them. Try not come on too strong, as you want them to see the perfect stranger in you – they must see Jesus in you through the expression of the inner working of God in and through you.

Therefore, it is not necessary to quote verse after verse to people in trying to convince them to believe in Jesus – that's not your job; your job is to tell them about salvation with wisdom. Remember, people have a God-given right to believe what they want.

# Understanding the difference between religion and Christianity:

Religion keeps people from living their life to the fullest. It makes some people feel guilty about things they don't need to feel guilty about; and other people worry about things they shouldn't worry about. The problem with religion is that people think they get points for the things they do.

Self righteous leaders focus only on rules and then lay it on the people if they didn't follow it well enough. We see this often in today's church. People feel that they should live according to a certain standard or they will be looked at funny...

Religion causes so much of superstition and ignorance. Some churches impose such standards of living, that some people in the church starts to isolate themselves, thinking that they need to run away until they come to some sort of righteousness within themselves. Others isolate themselves from the world and even other Christians, not wanting to be corrupted by the way others believe and think; whereas we always need to stay in a position whereby we can minister to people salvation and not get caught up in their mess, but rather help them see the light. The Bible does say that salvation is personal and that we must work out our own salvation; but I tell you the truth today, working out your own salvation starts by winning souls. If you are radical for Jesus, which you should be, then you will also be radical about the things Jesus is radical about – SOULS!

True Christianity is allowing God to love people through you, because you are born of His nature.

### Struggle with believing:

Some people have a hard time in believing something they can't see, so if we are to lay out standards and rules on how to live a good Christian life, you are bound to push people away, rather than pulling people in. Some people are really difficult to minister too, and even when you, as genuine as you can be, you might still be crossing the line for some folks. Remember, we don't always know what made people run so far from God, accept the normal – sin! Allow those who you minister too, to give their view point,

answering some questions with questions, but never tell people that what they say is wrong without a very convincing evidence.

People want to be heard, and they want to feel like others care about what they think too. You are not agreeing, you simply taking a counselor's seat in ministering to them. People don't believe that they can have a relationship with God, because they don't understand God's love. They feel like they have to reach out to God. They just can't understand how God is reaching out to them instead.

Religion always leaves some sort of doubt somewhere along the line. We need to look at things from God's point of view instead of man's point of view. God wants to be involved with His creation. Some people need more than just hearing that God exist, they need proof. It's not always possible to prove God's existence, because we don't put God to the test; but with just the right questions we can plant a seed in peoples hearts which will guide them in receiving the right answers.

So we need to relate people to God. Many times we lose peoples attention, because we trying to relate God to people and not people to God. Meaning, God share trades with the universe, so what trades of people reflects in God; because God created man in His image and likeness, but what trades does people have in God? People is the highest intelligence living on earth (in God's creation) – therefore it will make sense that they represent who He is.

Things like our minds, emotions, abilities to chose – all these human characteristics should relate to God Who created them. Now, I'm not talking about wickedness we can see in people today, but it does put a question in the hearers mind: 'Where does evil comes from if all things comes from God. Now many people can't accept this, but good and bad exist in God, the only difference between God and man is, that God, by choice, let goodness flow out from Him. Evil can't stick its head out, because in God's plan for creation, there is no place for evil.

### Filling the void:

People feel incomplete all the time; and that is because they don't have God filling that void. People are incomplete without God. God actually placed a desire in men to want to have a relationship with them. People don't always realize it, therefore you find people chasing after many things for fulfillment, yet they remain incomplete at the end of the day. The ignorance of people allows devil to have a field day with their minds. The more devil can deceive people that they can get fulfillment in drugs, alcohol, sex, chasing after money , building mansions and buying expensive cars and designers clothes, the further he will pull people away from receiving Jesus into their lives – which will cause people not to have a relationship with God.

Now, is a person's desire to have a relationship with God nonsense or does it make most sense? In too many case, it doesn't make no sense, because religion has framed the Bible as a rule book for man, instead of a love letter from God to men. It only makes most sense when we see the Bible as a love letter. Always point people to the love of God He has for the world. God is love and His very character is revealed through His Word. The Bible tells us, there where the word of a king is, there the king is too. So when we learn to minister to people through the love of God, then God will be there with us when we minister. After all, God's Word goes out through those who He sends.

Jesus also said, there where two or three is gathered in His Name, there He will be in their midst. This is the assurance that we need not to be lost for words, because we can always lean on Jesus when we minister salvation unto people in His Name.

Approaching the hard headed people [on the next page]>>>

### Approaching the hard headed people

You are only responsible for what you say to people, not for how they hear it. Only those you minister to can decide if they going to believe you or not – you can't make them believe. As long as you tell the truth, you on the right track! Our responsibility is to help people make up their minds if a relationship with God is possible or not; we can't tell them they have to believe it because we believe it. We can't make up their minds for them.

People think they can get fulfillment without God, but that's because they don't understand what fulfillment is. Fulfillment is to be filled with satisfaction all the time, not just at times. Only God can fulfill the human soul. In the end of people's lives, after living a good life, they still come to a place of feeling something is short. That somehow, somewhere they've missed something.

That's because they missing God in their lives. You just can't get fulfillment with man's ways and creations if they are just as fine eyed and imperfect as you are. The good experiences in life is just not good enough.

All people are looking for something bigger than themselves, some just don't realize it and it takes them longer and some times they never come to the point that there is more to life than what meets the physical eye. They try and logically come up with answers to life's circumstances through trying to rationalize scene as the answer, but even that has limits and does not fulfill the heart of man. Even google doesn't have all the answers! This world's temporally fulfillments can be taken away in a blink of an eye, but once you have found fulfillment in God, no one can take that away from you.

### After breaking the ice:

After breaking the ice and seeing the person you ministering too is more easy listening to you, because they see a different kind of Christian in front of them. A Christian who is not forcing their beliefs down – a Christian who reflects Christ like characteristics. People are more likely to listen to you when they can see Christ in you, even though they don't know Jesus, but there is a special unction that comes with a humble, sincere approach.

This is a good time to talk about relationships. God had a very close relationship with man in the beginning, and with those who were really faithful to Him throughout time. However, God's heart's desire is to have that relationship back, that's why He sent Jesus to reconcile man back unto Himself. People in general don't feel loved by God, because they can't really hear His voice. In many cases, some terrible things might have happened in the past. People lose loved ones in accidents or loved ones who have been murdered. Some lose their partners in life due to cheating partners. Others are molested as children and women that are raped – people just don't understand why these things happen if we say God is so loving and caring. It's a tough one to explain, but nevertheless, there is explanations.

People turned their backs on God and ever since they struggle to hear His voice. It's not because people are deaf to hear God's voice, it's just that they can't hear His voice as clear as they ought to. God always speaks to our consciousness when we in that state of mind. God speaks to people in simple ways, like when you laid your eyes on your newly born baby and you feel that overwhelming love, that is God. When you stand next to the ocean and feel so small in front of something so big; and wonder if there is something bigger out there – thats God speaking to you!

A guilty conscious of doing something wrong, that's God speaking to man. That is God speaking to people's conscious, because deep down, you know you were not meant to be that way.

People in the world have this twisted idea that to actually have a

conversation with God must be boring... Religion has placed in men's minds that you have to speak to God in a certain way – that you must watch how you speak or God will be angry with you. The reality of it all is that God knows where you at, and He meets you at the place you at. God doesn't call you out from where you are to have a relationship with you, God reaches you in the situation you in.

Therefore, God also knows that you rough around the edges; but the good news is, God is a patient God. He is willing to work with you to get you out and up from any situation, all He needs from you is your willingness.

Imagine how awesome it must be to actually sit and have a conversation with the One Who carved out the mountains, the One Who wrote the code for DNA and designed all languages. The One Who made the stars and every new born infant; and the One Who loves you with no limitations or conditions. God is more amazing than anything and everything He created. God is not boring, He can teach you all the secrets to life, you must just be willing to open your heart to Him.

People feel like they don't even know where to start in having a relationship with God, but here is the good news; you don't have too. God has already started the process, because He is the One Who is reaching out to you. To have faith in God is a whole lot easier than what people think it is. You just need to let go from the things which makes you not trust in God. You really have nothing to lose.

Why doesn't God stop all the bad things that's happening: God hates these bad things just as much as we hate it. Some people go on and say: 'but why doesn't God stop these things from happening if He loves us so much?' People think that if God has to put a stop to all bad things, that the world would be a good place. But it's not that simple, we must understand God's plan in order to understand the world's happenings. God's grand scheme is to get the people off the Titanic before it sinks.

Things have to happen in a due course of time; and God knows this, that's why He gave us all faith. A good gardener doesn't pull out weeds among newly planted plants, because pulling out the weeds will disturb and even up root these new young plants. So the gardener waits for the plants to develop a stronger root system before removing the weeds; but his garden needs good nutrition and water to develop strong and healthy root systems in the plants of the garden. Yes, the weeds will also grow, but the plants in the garden will mature quicker with the right care.

So too, God is the gardener – He knows these things and He is at work, even at times we can't see it. In the end, the bad will be done away with and only a beautiful garden will remain. The bad will be punished and the good will be rewarded. People just don't seem to understand why they

should wait, but mankind has turned their backs on God, God never moved, He is still in the same place. However, reconciling the world is a slow process, it takes one person at a time. God was so willing to reunite with us that He was even willing to die for us. He took all the punishment of all mankind unto Himself in order to have the relationship back with man. God is not slow, He is patient! God is giving second chances, so that no one is left behind. What people perceive as God dragging His feet is in reality God showing mercy.

### **Reconciliation:**

By the time people are willing to step up to the table to reconnect with God, they need to know that it is more than just you starting to pray. Prayer is a two way communication, and as you talk, you also need to listen when God speaks back. For anyone who wants a relationship with God, listening is the crucial part. In that you will receive council and guidance in getting your life sorted out. You will hear from God on what He needs from you...

Religion is mostly an outward thing, in what to do, what not to do, don't do this, don't go there... but a person who can hear God's voice is a person who has been changed from the inside out. God gives us new spirits, because the old spirits just wouldn't work – it was dead to sin and doesn't know the voice of God. So in becoming born again, you are born anew from God. You are being given a new spirit which is clean and not corrupted, a spirit which can hear God's voice.

God speaks to His children in many ways; through the voice of your conscious, through His Word, through what we see and hear, etc... The bible is not a rule book, it's a Father's love letter to His children. Real Christianity is more than just going to church and sitting listening to good stuff; it is letting God love other people through you. It is knowing that you forgiven, its knowing that you accepted and no matter what, its knowing that you always have a special place in God's heart. God is love, and He has unfailing and unending love for you. God's love for us surpasses all pain, sorrow and regret – when we accept Jesus, God fills our hearts with overwhelming love. A love which imparts piece, happiness, joy and hope, because God's love is perfect!

People have to make a decision in whether they want to experience perfect love or not. Once a person has made this decision after hearing a perfect stranger speaking to them with the love of God, it is time to lead them to the Lord. Pray the salvation prayer through with them, but before you do, allow them to experience a touch from God. More than what you or that person will ever know, God wants to touch their lives.

People may be shy to receive prayer in public, so instead of asking them that you want to pray with them, just go on and tell them you going to do it. This isn't the time to pause, just take their hand and start praying for them. You don't need to worry about what you going to be praying about. Remember, God only needs a willing person, so as you do this, God will give you the words to pray. This will break the ice to their shyness in going for the home run – leading them willingly in a salvation prayer. People will more than likely willingly allow you to lead them in the salvation prayer after they have felt God touching them.

Remember, as a child of God, you are anointed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – the extent of your hand is the extent of the hand of God through you. The anointing will do the work as you do the action. The touch of the anointing will give that person more convincing evidence that what you spoke about is real – more so then you physically touch them.

### The home run:

Now that the person has experienced God and are in a comfort zone, it is time for the home run – the prayer of salvation. Below is a simple, yet complete prayer which you can memorize to use when you lead people to the Lord. Remember, you don't have to be loud or dramatic about leading people to the Lord. Allow that person to be comfortable. After all, God sees the heart!

### **Prayer of Salvation:**

"Dear Lord God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. Your Word says, "...whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved". I ask Jesus to come into my heart to be the Lord of my life. I receive eternal life into my spirit, as I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in my heart that God hath raised Him from the dead – therefore I declare that I am saved; I am born again; I am a child of God! I now have Christ dwelling in me, Hallelujah!"

(This is only a guide line in covering the vital aspects in leading

people unto salvation) Now that the person is born again, invite them to church or encourage them to go to a church near them; but most importantly, get the person's contact number, email and name. You have a responsibility to disciple that person until they are rooted in a church where they can receive further discipleship.

I trust and believe that this article has inspired you to step out and win some souls. We would like to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to drop us an email and share with us your story, thoughts and questions....

gospeladdictsglobal@gmail.com

### In closing:

If you have noticed, in this article, I didn't quote not one verse in direct reference to what's been said – however, this article is filled with indirect quotes straight from the Bible. In ministering the Gospel to the world, we need not make use of direct quotes, at least not till the hearer is caught on our beliefs. I pray that this article has inspired you to step out and start winning for Jesus. We simply just can't walk through life and see people heading straight into destruction. It is like walking down the street and seeing a blind man heading straight for a big hole in the road. If no one is going to tell him to walk on the other side, he will surely fall right into that whole.

It wouldn't be his fault that he fell into the hole, because he is blind – it will be the fault of those who saw him walking straight for that hole and said nothing to warn him. The people in this world who isn't born again is like a blind man heading straight for the hole of hell. We have a responsibility to tell people. If, after all our warnings, they still chose to walk straight for the hole and fall in, then their blood is on their own hands. So let us do our part in evangelizing our world so people may also come unto salvation!

Be radical for Jesus!

### **Final Words**

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You ought to develop a heart of charity [seen in the King James Version, translated from the Greek word Agape: meaning Love]; love and kindness towards your fellow human beings. Note, I did not say fellow believers, because God wants us to love all men and be kind to everyone; not only our fellow believers. People who comes from abusive and troubled backgrounds can see right through people who pretends to be loving and kind. Do not be judgmental; and never pick your candidate to whom you going to share the Gospel with; allow the Holy Spirit to bring those He choose in front of you, and be obedient to minister to whosoever it might be.

Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks towards the inward parts of the heart of man – This was evident in Saul who later was named Paul by God Himself. Paul was a persecutor of Christians, but Jesus saw the greatest Apostle of all times [well, that's in my opinion]. The great apostles of the early church feared Paul, but Jesus touch Paul in such a powerful way that this same persecutor and murderer of God's people became humble unto death himself. There's much that we can learn from Paul; but I want to single out one quality of most of the people who met him.

In general, many people might seem nice and even righteous in our sight; but when they are threaten and during times of trails and tribulation, their true colors outshine them. The Bible says that things done [hid] in darkness will be brought to light for men to see. Sometimes the best way to test if you –and/or- your leaders are ready, is to put them through the fire. When metal is being forged, the blacksmith will heat the metal up to rid it from toxins and impurities. In the heating period, the toxins will bubble out and evaporate into a black smoke. The blacksmith will then take the

metal out and beat it down, then place it in water to cool; and repeat the process again and again. He knows that the metal is pure when less smoke evaporate from the application of heat; and also when the beaten metal is place in water for cooling, it does not sing no more. Hot metal that's being processed gives of a singing sound When it is placed in water for cooling – therefore, when it stops singing, it is a sign that the metal can be shaped because it has been purified to be worked and molded.

When we allow ourselves to be used by God, when we give ourselves wholeheartedly for the work of the Kingdom; God use us as a twoedged sword – "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." We become the Word of God as we minister in love to others.

By testing leaders and those we think are ready for ministering, we find their readiness in the amount of singing they do. In this case we are not speaking about sweet melody and beautiful hymns; we are talking about complainers.

When folks are not ready to impact people's life with positive and sound truth, they complain at trails, tribulations, dire circumstances, and persecutions in their life.

Ready yourself and your leaders by developing sound biblical character that can withstand the fires of life!

Go, win, train, and send! God bless you!

# **1 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN**

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We pray that this book as shed some useful insight on the subject of evangelism and discipleship; and we also pray that you become an effective soul winner and mentor to your new converts in the Name of Jesus Christ!

May God bless you as you take the Gospel to your world!

Below is a simple biblical prayer to lead someone unto salvation

You may print it and use it in your evangelism or Design your own cards by using this example

Give a card to each member of your group, so they may have it at hand when they lead someone unto salvation

## SALVATION PRAYER

"Send us around the word with the saving power of Your Word; and Your eternal plan for all mankind" [Psalm 67:2 / TLB]

"O Lord God; I believe with all my heart in Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God. I believe He die for me and God raised Him from the dead. I believe He is alive today. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life from this day on. Through Him and in His Name, I have eternal life; I am born again. Thank You Lord, for saving my soul! I am now a child of God - Hallelujah!"

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Scripture References: Romans 10:9 / Acts 2:21 / 1 John 4:4

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