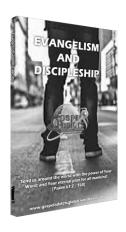






# Evangelism & Discipleship Volume I & II





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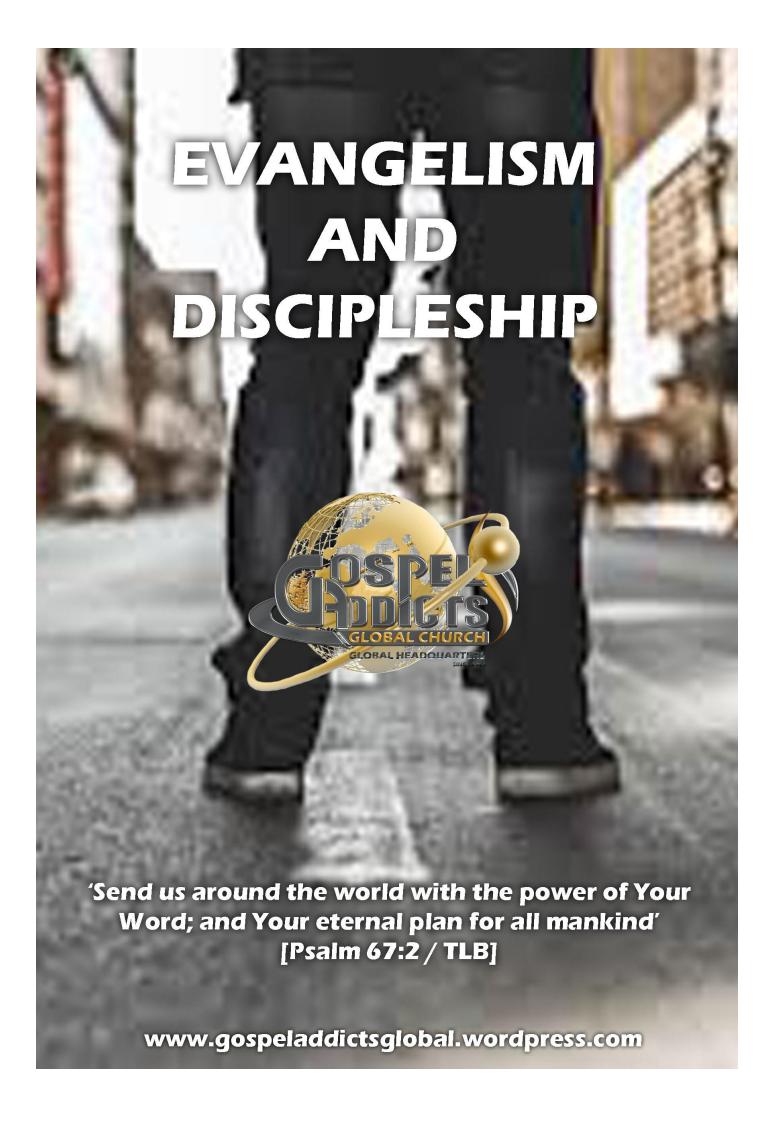
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# **CONTENTS**



<b>Volume 1</b>		<b>Volume 1</b> / Part 2 continues	
Part One	page		page
The Mandate of All Believers		Keeping Your Groups on Target	60
Foreword	1		
Introduction –Part 1	1	T. 1337 1	60
Individual Call Unto Evangelism	4	Final Words	63
Personal Evangelism	5		
Different Styles in Sharing the Gospel			
		O#	
The Office of an Evangelist	9		
3 Important Facts for Soul Winning The Paging of How To Evengelize	13 15	Volumo 2	65
The Basics of How To Evangelize	13	Volume 2	<u>65</u>
A Beginners Guide to Prophetic		Introduction	68
Evangelism	18		
Keys to Effective Evangelism –Part 1	20	God Commands Perfection	70
Keys to Effective Evangelism –Part 2	28	The Seven Connections	74
The Changing Strategy of			
Billy Graham	30	Modeling Evangelism	78
Part Two		Prayer of Salvation	90
Introduction –Part 2	33	Sings and Wonders for	
Mobilizing Volunteer Leaders	34	Effective Evangelism	91
Training Your Ministry & Small		<u> </u>	
Group Volunteers	35	Modeling Discipleship	94
Vision & Mission	38		
Preaching the Gospel		Five Principles of Discipleship	97
Healing the Sick	40		
5		End Notes	100
Discipleship Model	40	D 10. T'1	101
The Mentor Model	42	eBookStore: Titles	101
A More One-on-One Discipleship	15		
Model	45		
Mobilizing Your Church	47		
Mobilizing Your Evangelistic Groups	49	Bonus:	
City Evangelism	51	The Perfect Stranger in You	102
Evangelistic Crusades	53	The Perfect Strainger III 100	102
5		<b>Bible Reading Plans:</b>	
Billy Graham's Evangelistic Tips	55	1 Year Reading Plan	110
Reinard Bonnke's Evangelistic Tips	57	2 Year Reading Plan	112



#### The Mandate of all Believers



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.



# **Foundation School Study Manuel**





Knowledge is essential for evangelism! You can download our Foundation Manual HEREwhich 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, lo, 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**



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 some- body 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.
- 3) 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 wellpurchase 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, church-based 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 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**



#### "...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 requirementsnecessary for an effective ministry in leading mankind to Christ.

- 1. Clarity: Clarity of the message that you preach. You mustunderstand the message of Christ, first for yourself, because youcan't communicate to someone else something you don'tunderstand. You can't bless someone else with something thatyou haven't been blessed with yourself. You can only give whatyou have, and so, a good understanding of the Gospel isimperative for soul winning.
- **2.Conviction:** There has to be absolute conviction in your spiritabout 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."

**Daniel12:3** — "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 yourjudgment. 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:

- Favorite verses and stories.
- Important verses.
- 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 themthinking 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 onthe 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.

#### 9Provide 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 RealitiesIf your church has provided you with tracts or specific documents they hope to disseminate, givethem 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 EffectiveEvangelism**



#### 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 2:41says that on the Day of Pentecost "there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

Acts 2:47says, "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 5:14says, "Believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."

In Acts 6:7Luke 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 9:31says, "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 hasrefused 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 whole-heartedly 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-in-law 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* under- standing 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 quards 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?" rather than "Who has led the most people to Jesus?"

#### 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 homebased 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 life-changing 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.

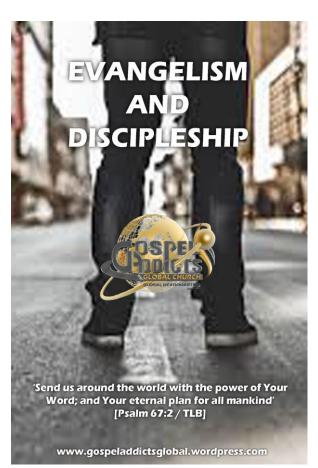
**The God Test** is, as its website states, "being used around the world as a groundbreaking tool for Evangelism. From New York to Cape Town, it has not only sparked tens of thousands of gospel

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.



#### **INTRODUCTION -Part 2**

for Church Leaders & Ministers



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,
- 7. **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 some-one 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 download it here in PDF, 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. it takes being there to coach, connect with them visibly, connect with them audibly, connect with them 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.

#### **Vision & Mission**



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 thencedepart. [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:

- o Go –the disciples were send by Jesus
- Peach the Kingdom of God –Basic evangelism
- 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**



#### 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
- o Invite the new convert to your small group or church
- o Encourage the new convert to attend different meetings
- o 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 some-one 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 2ndvolume. 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:

- o What was their family like, growing up?
- o How did they like school?
- o Do they like to read?
- o Are they a hands-on learner?
- o Are they relationship-oriented?
- o What do they do in their spare time?
- o What was their best learning experience in the past?
- o Their worst?
- O 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, outside-the-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-on-one discipleship; that's why you should get your members involved in helping to disciple your new converts. There's benefits in doing so.

- 1 –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:

excitement,

- a positive energy,
- a big smile,
- a warm grasp,
- 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 —or-simply 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 —or-call 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 over-whelms 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 some-one 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 argument-ative 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...

**2To 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.

**3Invite 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; other-wise, 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.

#### **Final Words**



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 two-edged sword –"For the word of God *isquick*, 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 the fires of life!	by develop	oing sound	biblical ch	naracter that	can withstand
		64			

# Evangelism & Discipleship

by Pastor Rudi Ferreira

Volume 2 www.gospeladdictsglobal.wordpress.com





# Evangelism & Discipleship Volume II



Gospel Addicts Global Church

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#### **CONTENTS**

#### 

	page
Introduction	68
God Commands Perfection The Seven Connections	70 74
Modeling Evangelism	78
Prayer of Salvation	90
Sings and Wonders for Effective Evangelism [Mark16]	91
Modeling Discipleship	94
Five Principles of Discipleship	97
End Notes	100

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"Send us around the world with the news of Your saving power and Your eternal plan for all mankind" [Isalm 67:2 | TLB]



#### INTRODUCTION



Evangelism is the first step in fulfilling the great commission:

"16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore **go** and **make** disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **and teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" [Matthew 28:16-20 / NIV].

The second step is to disciple the souls attached to you. What we just read in Matthew 28 is talking both of evangelism and discipleship. One can't be successfully accomplished without the other. The word 'go' is Jesus' commandment to actively participate in evangelism; and the word 'make' is Jesus' commandment to actively disciple, not only the new converts, but to continually disciple those you personally won to Christ – therefore, the Lord continues to say: "...and teach them..."; to do what? "...to obey everything the Lord has taught His disciples.' Those disciples won soul through stepping out in evangelizing their world; and then discipling those souls to obey everything Jesus had taught them. Then those new disciples in turn done the same thing from generation to generation; and so it still continues today. When you came into Christ, you were reached in one way or the other through evangelism [be it through a stranger, someone you might know, a close friend, a program, or even a family member]. Even if you were, what some people say, 'born into Christianity' [meaning, born into a Christian home], your mother and father spoke to you about Jesus and at the right age you accepted the Lord Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life. The bottom line is; you are in Christ through some sort of evangelism; and thereafter you were brought into discipleship.

In most cases, the order might be similar to what we see above; but one of the biggest problems in the church today is: Majority of those who participate in evangelism do good in winning souls; but after winning a soul, they don't bring that soul into discipleship – or rather they direct them to a church or small-group setting where other people will disciple those that they won to Christ. Don't think that is ok to win souls and get them to join your church or small groups, pushing your responsibility unto others. You need to participate in discipling the souls you win. You must build relationships through connections in souls you have won. There are seven [7] basic connections [which we will look at later in this volume], which we will briefly look at here:

- 1. Connection to God
- 2. Connection to Your Spouse / Friends
- 3. Connection to Your Family
- 4. Connection to Your Small Groups [Social / Network]
- 5. Connection to Church
- 6. Connection to the Kingdom of God
- 7. Connection to the World

Evangelism is a model, while Discipleship is duplication - in Discipleship you duplicate yourself in the souls you have won through the things you do; in your commitment, in your relationship with God and with people, the perfection of your heart, and in your service to Christ and others around you - it calls for always checking yourself, because you want to be careful in areas you may be lacking in order not to duplicate your failures in others.

Most importantly; you must understand that every Christian has been called to lead. Soul winning / evangelism is not solely the responsibility of those called to the office of evangelist, or church leadership and pastoral offices; it is a call to every born again Christian – in actual fact, as we read in Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to evangelize our world and also to disciple those we win to Christ; and as we obey this commandment and start winning souls and bring those souls under our wing into discipleship, we start growing as leaders – they followed your words when you reached them through evangelism [be it corporately or as an individual]; and through you they received Christ; therefore, the chances of them wanting to continue to follow you as you follow your leader/s is good – but it all depends on the perfection of your heart [see teaching on 'God Commands Perfection].

A church which doesn't do both evangelism and discipleship is an idle church; and does not fulfill that Great Commission - This is also true in an individual Christian's life. It's time that the church start shaking up the world to release its hidden treasure. Jesus purchased the field [Matt.13:44>38]; the treasure is hidden in that field [the field refers to the world]; and we are called to work that field [Matt.9:37]. "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed" [Romans 8:19 / NIV]. At Gospel Addicts Global Church, our continues prayers is based on the founding verse of our ministry – "Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind" [Psalm 67:2 / TLB].

Take Note: Psalm 67 and verse 2 is our founding verse; and our mandated vision is built on this: 'At Gospel Addicts Global Church we develop Ministers for Christian Leading and Leadership; such as Pastors, Teachers, Evangelist, Prophets, and Apostles. We offer Life Coaching in developing individual gifts for the works of the ministry; and Mentorship for Accredited Higher Formal Ministry Training with Endorsements. Being not only an active ministry, but also a proactive ministry; our focus is Jesus, our message is the Gospel, our task is the Great Commission'

In our Life Coaching programs, we train leaders on a personal level; which largely teach our members the importance of evangelism and discipleship; while in our Mentor programs we equip our members with sound doctrines of the Word of God through Higher Formal Ministry Training. Being a proactive ministry simply means, we apply what we teach as our task is to fulfill the Great Commission. Not every ministry shares the same vision; but every ministry should and must set their focus above all else on the Great Commission – which is: modeling evangelism and discipleship in corporate settings, small-group settings, and in the individual member's personal lives.

We pray that this book will lead you into fulfilling that great calling of the Great Commission in Jesus Name – Amen!

#### **God Commands Perfection**



Majority Christians think that perfection is something we will come into once we are in Heaven, but that is not totally scriptural. Although our life in Heaven will be absolutely perfect, perfection is possible in this life too. However, it is important that we understand what this perfection is - as our comprehension is somewhat not accurate according to what scripture teaches about perfection.

Looking at the very words of Jesus, Jesus spoke about perfection in this life when He said: 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect' [Matt.5:48]. What was Jesus talking about? We will examine the scripture in finding out what the Word of God has to say about us being perfect; and to use a relatable example, we will use the topic of money to explain the issues or condition of a man's heart...

A rich young man came to Jesus and spoke to Jesus, telling Jesus all which he has accomplished in his life, asking Jesus then what is it that he needs to have eternal life; and then he asked Jesus: 'All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?' [Matt.19:20] – meaning, that he is wealthy; and this portion of scripture indicates that this young man was a good man - but Jesus answered him, saying: '...if thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me' [Matt.19:21]. In the sight of this young man, he was living a good life, but he also admit that he is lacking something; however, when he heard Jesus' answer, 'he went away sorrowful, for he had great possession'[v.22]; and clearly he didn't want to part with it. Then Jesus went on to say something remarkable: "[23] Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. [24] And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." Jesus did not say that it is wrong to be rich; however, the heart of the rich many times are not perfect, for a rich man's wealth is many times gained through being stingy and holding dear his earthly possessions. We have seen this in our day. Take what has happened worldwide during the announcement of the world Covid19 Pandemic: Rich people gone shopping like never before, stocking up like it's the end of the world; but they would not consider that many poor people were left with almost no food to buy, neither would they consider sharing with the poor - it was a case of 'each man for himself [or atleast for his family]. The Bible tells us that '...the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows' [1Tim.6:10] - and this is particulary so with 'Christians' today. Understanding this then; it is not that Jesus said that it is wrong to be rich, but rather Jesus was referring to the condition of the heart [in this case, the heart of the rich].

A rich man can enter Heaven, but his heart must be perfect – what does this mean? Refering again to the words of Jesus, saying: 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in Heaven is perfect.' Is not our Father in Heaven rich? So what is it then – in John 12 and verse 8 Jesus says; 'you will always have the poor among you.' This does not mean that the poor will remain poor; but rather, you might come into Christ being poor – that does not mean that a Christian must remain poor [and biblically, a Christian should not remain poor].

As you grow in your Christian life, you are to grow in every aspect of your life, even in wealth. Others will come into Christ [both rich and poor], but as you are changed from glory to glory [2Cort.3:18], your heart must be changed too. A Christian's wealth does not lie in his/her possessions, but in the condition of the heart. You might be rich, but with a giving heart you will be a righteous man/woman. Does not the Word tell us: 'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again' [Luke 6:38]. The Lord will not amonish us to give if our giving will not be returned unto us – that is, if being rich is wrong. Understanding this portion of scripture; when we give in our measure, then God will give in His measure – we are talking about two different measures here; and we can't compare our giving to the measure God give with. When God gives back unto us, we will have in abundance, in overflowing, having too much for ourself; because when God gives us in His measure, our gain is not just for ourselves.

What God looks at, is not how much you give, but what is the condition of your heart when you give – for God loves a cheerful giver [2Cort.9:6-7]. Pay close attention to what we are studying here: It's not about money, but what we do with it! It is a principle that works on the conditioning of the heart. We give not because we have, rather, we have because we give – this is a condition of the heart. It doesn't matter if you are talking about material things like money or possession, or actions or emotions – all depends on the condition of your heart. Your deeds can be good and perfect, but if your heart is not perfect in doing, then your doing is done in vain [maybe you need to go back and read carefully what I just said].

There is many ways to give:

- You can give money in tithes, offering, first-fruit, giving finacially to the poor, etc...
- You can give material things like food and clothes to the poor, even shelter...
- You can give hope through ministering to the broken-hearted, oppressed, and depressed,,,
- You can go about evangelizing your world and winning souls...
- You might simply give a smile to someone, lifting the spirit of those who are down...

Whatever it is that you are giving, unless your giving is done with a perfect heart, all your giving will be done in vian.

### Let us look at some biblical examples:

"Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Jehoaddan; she was from Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> <u>He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD</u>, **but not wholeheartedly**" [2Chron. 25:1-2 / NIV].

Amaziah did what was right in deed; and the Lord commended him on that, however, the condition of his heart was not perfect. Let us look at another king and what the Lord says about him: "Although he did not remove the high places, Asa's heart was fully committed to the LORD all his life" [1Kings 15:14 / NIV]. Asa's deeds were not all perfect, but his heart was perfect. This is 2 kings in their own time; one whose deeds were good but his heart was not perfect; and the other whose heart was perfect but his deeds were not all good. To

understand the difference in this, let us look at David's story; The Lord spoke to Samuel and instructed him to go to the house of Jesse to anoint the new king of Israel; but as each son of Jesse was brought before the prophet and priest of the Lord, the Lord said: 'Not this one.' Then Samuel called for David who was still a young boy out in the field with the sheep; and the Lord said: 'Anoint this one, he is the next king of Israel' – "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" [1Sam.16:7]. The next king of Israel was to have a perfect heart; and David had a perfect heart. The book of 1 Samuel 13 and verse 14 says: "But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command" [NIV].

We see this also in the book of Acts: "After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do" [Acts 13:22 / NIV] — Yet, even David, having a perfect heart, turned out not to be so perfect in deed, as he saw a married woman [Bathsheba] who he wanted as a wife and ordered that her husband [a general in his army and a 'friend', Uriah] to be put in the frontlines of the army so that he might be killed so that he can have the Bathsheba as a wife [2Sam.11:5-27] — David's deed or action was wrong!

Now let us look at Abram – God called for perfection in deed as well as heart; "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless" [Gen.17:1 / NIV] – The KJV render the latter portion of this verse more correctly by saying; "...walk before me, and be thou perfect" & the Amp Classic addition adds to this by saying: "...walk and live habitually before Me and be perfect (blameless, wholehearted, complete).' This is the kind of perfection God is calling us to; asking for perfection that works from within; which is the perfection of the heart that works and produce perfect actions.

Although God had commanded that the folks of old be perfect before Him; as a New Creation, the Lord also commanded us to be perfect before the Him – in deed and in heart – "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" [Matt.5:48 / NIV]. The Lord will not command this if it is not possible for us to be perfect. How is it possible to be perfect in deed and at heart? Well, over and above that the Bible tells us so, we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, Who will work out all things in us and bring us into perfection [it is progressive], as we grow in the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Take note: God is not commanding us to be perfect in an instant, but to allow His Spirit to work in us and bring us unto perfection – for God will work out all things accordingly, for those who love Him. We have more supporting verses on this – Jesus prayed, saying: "I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me" [John 17:23 / KJV].

We have been called and separated from this world, although we still in this world, we are not of this world; therefore, God is calling us out from among the ways of the world, saying to us: "...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the

virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" [1Pet.2:9 / AmpC]. This is beautiful, for God did not only call us out to be perfect, but He has also equipped us to be perfect [with His very own Spirit] - asking for perfection that works from within; which is the perfection of the heart that works and produce perfect actions.

We are commanded to love – first to love the Lord [*Luke 10:27*]; and also to love one another [our neighbors; irrespective of who they are] as the Lord loves us [*John 13:34 & 15:12*] - "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love [*1John4:7-8* / NIV].

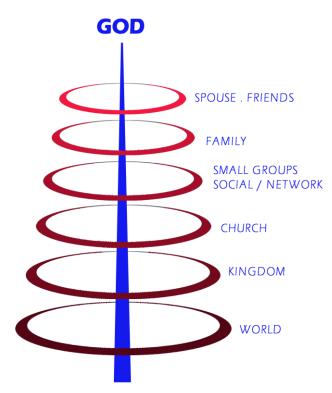
Perfection is very possible if we follow the principles of God, but it is up to us to choose to live our life for God; living accordingly to the principle of *John 3:30-36*; "He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease. [31] He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: He that cometh from heaven is above all. [32] And what He hath seen and heard, that He testifieth; and no man receiveth His testimony. [33] He that hath received His testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. [34] For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. [35] The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. [36] He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" [KJV]. This is enough for me to seek and to live in this perfection; and we will do good if we study the principles of love as seen in 1 Corinthians chapter 13 [don't just read through it, but truly study it; not just to know it, but to apply it and live by it] – Hallelujah!

God is asking for perfection that works from within; which is the perfection of the heart that works and produces perfect actions in love. We can give that to God; Amen!

## **The Seven Connections**



Connections are important in the human life; and when we talk about connections, we talking about relationships, communion, friendships, and general interactions. In our church, we refer to these relationships as the seven connections. All seven connections rely strongly on how we communicate with God and our world; how we talk, how we listen, and how devoted we are to God, His Word, and one another.



As seen in the image on the left, we have a vertical line connecting all our basic connections in our Christian life – with God at the top and also at the centre of all our connections.

First of all, we have a Vertical Line which represents our connection and relationship with God; but this same connection is also see Horizontally [we will take a look at this a bit later].

#### **Horizontal Connections:**

- 1 God 2 Spouse / Friend 3 Family
- 4 Small Group / Network [social] 5 Church
- 6 Kingdom [connected to other Christians in and out of your church]7 World [the unconnected world evangelism]

Our connection with God reflects in 2 aspects we see in Prayer

- 1] Talking = Prayer
- 2] Listening = Studying the Word
  - ...and Combined it gives us Devotions

Looking then at our Seven Connections; where God is above all and also at the center of all, we see that:

1. *Our connection with God*: calls for an intimate relationship, which involves not only dedicated time in prayer, but also a continues prayer life. As much as we can set quite time apart for prayer [and this is vitally important], prayer can be done anywhere at anytime. We are to communicate with God continuously throughout the day, for God is not only with us, but by the Spirit, God is in us. Our connection with God can be simple, but must remain intensively intimate through talking to God [be it in getting ready to go somewhere, while traveling, during working hours, etc...]; but please note, prayer is a form of communication and when you communicate, you can't do so silently. You might ask, but how do I pray aloud while traveling when others are present. Well, you don't have to talk loud to God, but vocalizing your talking time with God is important; and who cares if people around you think you crazy – you most probably having something they deeply desire, but are not sure how to get it – a real

intimate relationship with God. But prayer is not all about talking, just as much it is not all about asking God for things [we are to praise and worship God, and just have ordinary conversations with God; after all, He is our Father]. Prayer also involves listening; and a good place to learn how to listen to God is by studying His Word. God primarily speaks to us through His Word, but if we don't know the Word, we might just miss it when God speaks to us in our spirit; and at its worse, we can easily be deceived by the counterfeit of God, who is satan. When we talk to God and also listen, we start forming a devotional life, placing God above and central of everything we do – and in that there's blessings beyond what words can express.

- 2. Our Connection with our Spouse / Friends: also calls for a relationship whereby it is important to talk and listen [well, that depends on what type of relationship you want]. Some people can be genuine in their relationships with others, while some can be very false [even Christians]. For you to built healthy relationships, you must listen well; don't just babble along; but more importantly, have God above and central in your marriage and relationships with friends. A connection with your spouse also calls for time where you'll pray and study the Word of God together.
- 3. *Our Connection with our Family*: talking more directly about children in the marriage [if you not married yet, or if you don't have children yet, then refer to yourself as a child in your mother and father's home]. It is important for a mother and father to share the Word of God with their children; and not only share the Word, but pray with your children and share Holy Communion with them at home. Start a family alter, where you have dedicated time where you will join as a family having service at home pray, worship, and share the Word of God [this doesn't have to be lengthy sessions, but it needs to be meaningful].
- 4. *Our Connection with our Small-Groups* [Social / Network]: as much as we live busy lives in our modern world, we need God above all and at the center of our small-group connections; which includes our social circles and network of colleges. Talking about God to unbelieving friends can be challenging, but it does make a great platform for evangelism. Starting a prayer group at your workplace or school can also become a great platform for winning soul; as outsiders will see something different in the lives of those who have joined you. This also calls for a great opportunity to start a small group setting. A small group setting is church outside of the church building [also called house-church]. This can be very impactful, especially when we study the operations of the first church [who gathered in one another's home for the first 300 years], and they grew in numbers tremendously.
- 5. *Our Connection our Church*: Not one single Christian should neglect the gathering of saint [even if you a pastor of your own church, you still need spiritual covering]. Church is not for formality or social gathering; it is a place of corporate worship and anointing. Church is an extension of your every day life as a Christian. It is a place where you corporately fellowship with God; and there's special blessings in this setting; blessings you will not get outside of the church setting.
- 6. *Our Connection to the Kingdom*: Outside of your church setting [the corporate gathering / the building] there are other Christians too. Some folks in church carries on like the church where they fellowship is the only true church; and when they meet other Christian they immediately invite them to join their church like they evangelizing Christians instead of the 'lost' world all around us. It is important to have connections

- with fellow Kingdom children, however, it must be healthy connections where we can share spiritual truths with one another; and have fellowship with like-minded people.
- 7. *Our Connection with the World* [the unconnected 'to God' world]: If you have quest it, then you right our connection to the world is first and foremost our platform for evangelism our field for soul-winning. There's not must more to say about this; accept that the way we live our lives in the world will determine how effective we will be in soul-winning [referring to our teaching: God Commands Perfection]. You can't be effective in soul-winning if your deeds and heart is not perfect before the Lord you don't want to duplicate bad habits or a dirty heart in others and say: 'I have won that soul.' Evangelism is just that; you are duplicating yourself in those you win to Christ; first by evangelism and also by discipleship.

Like Jesus said in Matthew 13:31; '...the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed...' Yes, it might start small, but it has the potential to grow into a large tree; and every tree has the potential to become a forest.

Referring to the Seven Connections Picture: Note how the circles get bigger as you go down; your influence keeps growing when you have God above all and center to everything. We said earlier that our connection to God is both Vertical and Horizontal, as we keep connecting to God upwards, we also keep connecting to God has we go sideways in our relationships with people – it forms a cross; and that's what I want to illustrate to you next.

You most probably seen this illustration before, but it was a bit different. I prefer it the way you see it on the right.

The canyon at the centre is that gap in life known as sin; which leads to condemnation. When we keep God at the center and above all in our relationships, then we can build meaningful and fruitful relationships based on God's truth. Place yourself on a horizontal line with your spouse, family, friends and other people all around you in your world. No one should think better of themselves as the next



person; we are all fashioned in the image and likeness of God. Jesus died for the whole world to be saved; the only difference with those in the world and you who are born again is; they are not aware that Jesus already saved them – that is where you come in, to educate them so that they might receive what has already been given – but how you do it is of vital importance – that's what we going to look at next in our segment: Modeling Evangelism.

Before we move on; have another look at the canyon and the cross. I said, place yourself on the horizontal piece, with you on one side, and other people on the other side. The cross beam represents the gap in relationship; and also represents the bridge between us and our relationships. Your cross beam depends on the state of your heart [or perfection of your heart. Notice, the vertical beam is center; and represents God at the top and sin at the bottom. I want you to note the significance of the vertical beam – not only is it central in our relationship between us and others, but it places God above and central in the relationships we are to build. Also, and although the bottom of the vertical beam represents sin; it also represents God in the midst of our sinful nature; creating an escape from our own destruction. Sometimes the 'best Christian' falls into temptation and sin; and sometimes not realizing it and other times willingly. Which ever way; when we have God at the center of our being, or have drifted away, we can always turn back and find God right there, waiting for us to turn to Him in repentance and He will forgive us. Now this does not justify us in any way to sin and know that God will forgive us; but rather, if for whatever reason we do sin, we do have a way out – Jesus Christ!

The cross bridges the gap between us and other people; it also reinforce God at the center of all our relationships; and lastly, it gives us authority over sin, to pin it at the bottom of our life while we can enjoy a save passage between the world and the Kingdom of God – and lastly, it closes the gap of us falling into the pit of destruction.

## **Modeling Evangelism**



In opening this segment, I would like to start of with some quotes which I think you will find quite interesting.

'Evangelism is not so much about reminding people about how lost they are; but how loved they are' - Randall Worley

'To evangelize does not mean to win converts... but simply to announce the Good News, irrespective of the results' - John Scott

'Evangelism and Missions are not imperiled by the biblical truth of election, but empowered by it, and their triumph is secured by it' - John Piper

'The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity'

- Mike Staahura

'At the end of the day, the biggest obstacle to evangelism is Christians who don't share the Gospel'
- Albert Mohler



Jesus was [and still is] the greatest soul winner; and we will do well if we learn from Jesus as the disciples of Jesus learned – and we can see the fruit of Jesus' mentorship on evangelism in the Acts of the Apostles. Jesus modeled evangelism in such a way that His disciples [the Apostles] understood the importance of the Great Commission as we see in Mathew 28:16-19&20; '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, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen' [verse 19 & 20].

The bottom line of evangelism is simply sharing the Good News; and there is no better way than that what Jesus has modeled: That He [Jesus Christ] was made sin for us, so that we may have right-standing with the Father and be reconciled to God. While some are called to a fulltime ministry of evangelism, we are all called to share to Good News with others in one way or the other – this is fulfilling your personal call as a Christian according to what we all have been commanded to do after that of the Great Commission – no one is exempt from soul winning. Take note: Evangelism is sharing the Good News, not the news of condemnation; it's a message of unconditional love, not telling people that they going to go to hell. This is the fine line between evangelism and discipleship. Evangelism is sharing the Good News because we love people as Jesus loves us. Discipleship is where we mentor disciples; we teach them greater truths; and when needed, we use the Word of God for correction and rebuke. When we look at evangelism in the perspective Jesus view the world, then we will understand why we are commanded to share Good News.

As a parent, you don't condemn our babies for they don't have the intellect to understand the greater functions and morals of life. In the same way, we can't condemn people of the world, because they don't yet have the spiritual intellect and understanding of greater functions and morals of the spirit – they are likened to babies; and we are responsible to teach them all those things we know. However, first we need to win them to Christ; and when they are brought in, then only can we start to disciple them through modeling discipleship [which we will look at in the next segment].

Enough said on this for now, let's turn to the scripture which are our model transcript to effective evangelism [we will use the NIV for this portion].

- 1] Evangelism is about increasing God's renown: 'Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done' [Psalm 105:1]. Throughout the Old Testament, God sets Himself above all other gods. He creates a nation with the intent that its people will make His name known among the nations and share the great works He has done. These great works culminate in the reconciliation of the cross and in His defeat of death in the Resurrection. I can imagine no greater motivation to make His name known; as we see David's motivation in Psalm 67 when he writes; 'Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind' [Psalm 67:2 / TLB].
- 2] **Evangelism is wise work**: *'The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and the one who is wise saves lives'* [*Proverbs 11:30*]. When this Proverb was written, the idea of "saving lives" had more to do with delivering them from evil paths which lead to death. In light of the Gospel, it takes on a whole new significance. When considered within the context of Christ's work, the fruit of the righteous is quite literally a tree of life and the work of saving lives from eternal condemnation.
- 3] Evangelism [although we are commanded to do so] depends strongly on our obedient and willingness to go: 'Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"' [Isaiah 6:8]. God never force us to serve Him, but He continually offers us a choice. In this verse we read in Isaiah, of the prophet having a vision of the Lord in His throne room. This sobering vision helped propel him to volunteer to share the Lord's message. We, too, are motivated in direct proportion to our experience with God. If we struggle to find the inspiration to share the Good News, perhaps it's time to pray for a deeper understanding on the revelation of God's glory and holiness as given to us in scripture.
- 4] Evangelism is simply telling others what God has done for all mankind: 'In that day you will say "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted" [Isaiah 12:4]. Much of the Book of Isaiah operates as a twofold prophecy. It has immediate import as a prophecy about Judah, but also points at the coming Messiah who will deliver Israel; and subsequently all humanity. Here Isaiah speaks of an evangelism that works in both timelines. Judah will be able to proclaim what the Lord has done to deliver the nation from its sin, and God's future people will be able to exalt God's name for what he's done for mankind.

- 5] Evangelism points to the world's only source of salvation: "Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other" [Isaiah 45:22]. In this verse, God turns His focus on Israel's surrounding nations who fashion idols to worship. Instead of worshipping idols they can carry with their hands, God encourages these nations to turn to Him for hope and salvation. This is an appropriate reminder to all of us who follow the Lord. There is still only one God and one salvation. There is no other! However, we are not to bombard the lost in the world by telling them their flaws, rather we are admonished through scripture to share Good News, which primarily is sharing the love of God with all people, irrespective of the race, age, gender, or status in life.
- 6] Evangelism is a divine responsibility: 'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself" [Ezekiel 3:17–19]. In this passage, God gives the prophet Ezekiel the task of being a "watchman" for Judah. The main point of this commission is that Ezekiel would deliver God's message and warnings faithfully. A sobering element of this calling is the knowledge that when Ezekiel neglects to share the Lord's warning for Judah's wickedness, he will share in the doom. This passage should shake us in the foundations of our Christian lives. We, too, are watchmen of sorts. We have a message of salvation to deliver, and some responsibility lies on the messenger who neglects to give the message – therefore, we should not be idle bench warmers in the church gathering, but also actively step out into the world and tell the lost about what we found in Jesus Christ – that is salvation which has been freely given to all men; and are obtained by believing and confessing the Lord Jesus [Rom.10:9-10].
- 7] **The Evangelist makes God's greatness known:** 'And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord" [Ezekiel 38:23]. God says again to Ezekiel, like seen in the Old Testament theme that He desires for Israel and the prophets to be the vessel that communicates God's greatness among the nations in and through His people. It's always been God's desire that He would have a people through whom the rest of the world would be blessed as they made His virtues known; and it is no exception with us but this strongly depends on how we live as vessels for the Lord to express Himself through us to our world.
- 8] Sharing God's goodness with all of creation: 'My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets. In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to me, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty' [Malachi 1:11]. The Old Testament closes with the book of Malachi saying again; it's God's desire to be known among the nations. The picture of God's goodness being known everywhere is demonstrated as the rising and setting of the sun. We, too, bear a responsibility to share God's goodness to all mankind everywhere the sun touches; as the book of Malachi was the last time the Lord would speak to the folks of the Old Testament for 400 years; then the Messiah is born and the New Creation is birthed to carry this Good News to the ends of the earth.

- 9] Our own goodness in the Lord is a form of Evangelism: 'Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" [Matthew 5:15-16]. Why don't people light a lamp and put it under a bowl? Because it's wasted effort and kills the light. If you light a lamp, you're bringing light to your home. Here Jesus reminds us that He doesn't want to waste His efforts either. Our lamps have been lit with the intention that we would give light to others as well. It's important to note that, in this instance, our good deeds are the light He is talking about. When we do good works, we give credence to the gospel. It's not just the evil that we do that works against the Gospel, but also our unwillingness to do good which is a hindrance to the Gospel.
- 10] Prayer is an important part of Evangelism: 'Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' [Matthew 9:37-38]. In a world full of hungry people, is there a more heartbreaking picture than ripe fruit rotting on the vine because there just aren't enough harvesters to bring it in? The same is true in a world full of pain and heartbreak. The Gospel desperately needs harvesters to share the message with those whose hearts are ripe to receive the Good News. Global stats on Christianity indicates that there's about 2 billion Christians in the world; now imagine if each of the 2 billion reach 4 people each that is our current world population of 7.8 billion people covered. The Lord has given us the responsibility to make evangelism a priority in our lives, personally as well as corporately. This is more than rushing around telling people about Jesus. It's also about praying that the Spirit will move in other Christians to feel the importance of joining the work of evangelism.
- 11] **Evangelism promises results**: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" [Matthew 11:28]. The Gospel isn't something that only pays dividends in the sweet by-and-by. If we simply share the benefits of the Gospel as something that saves people after they pass-on from this world, we're doing it a harmfully to its hearers. The gospel has immediate benefits to those who are weary and broken, and we need to make sure that we are communicating the supernatural strength available to those who submit to the Lord. The Good News is more than salvation for the afterlife, it is hope for now, it's a new life now.
- 12] Evangelism 'A Golden Standard': 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' [Matthew 28:19-20]. When we read this passage, we need to read it as Jesus' commandment, not just a friendly suggestion as it seem many as taken it for. There isn't a person who has made the decision to follow Jesus who is exempt from this commission. This is about more than just getting someone to pray the "sinner's prayer"; or what I call the Prayer of Salvation. It's about equipping them to grow in grace and truth and be people who take up this mission themselves. This is the on going process of evangelism which becomes discipleship [more on this in our next segment].
- 13] Evangelism is of Vital Importance: 'Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but

whoever does not believe will be condemned' [Mark 16:16]. Until we begin to really internalize what's at stake in evangelism, we will struggle to rightly prioritize it. Evangelism is the very fine line between life and death; and it is our lifeline which we are to save others with [as we are already save in the boat].

- 14] **Evangelism is pleasing to Christ**: 'I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God' [Luke 12:8]. Imagine Christ publicly acknowledging you among the heavenly host for your willingness to identify yourself with Him; and for being His vocal witness here on earth. Jesus will neglect to share His pleasure for every time we've communicated the Good News of the Gospel to another.
- 15] Evangelism is not about having good arguments: 'When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say' [Luke 12:11-12]. Jesus is telling His disciples [and us too] that a time is coming when the cost of sharing the Gospel will be high. He encourages them not to be concerned about what they will say when they're dragged before those in authority; the Holy Spirit will move on their behalf. Sometimes we're so worried about having the right answer to every question that we neglect to open our mouths and simply share the Good News. It's helpful to remember that the Holy Spirit is there helping us to communicate and also working in the hearts of those with whom we're sharing.
- 16. Evangelism is Good News shared: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him' [John 3:16-17]. We're often so focused on what happens to those who deny Christ, that we forget that the Gospel is Good News; and we are called to share the Good News. We're not sharing a message of condemnation, but one of a God who loves humanity so much that He'd be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so that they could be reconciled to Him.
- Our behavior is another form of Evangelism: There are a lot of philosophies and religions vying for attention. In the end, there has to be something that sets one apart and confirms its truth and value. We'd like to think that the Gospel is confirmed by our lofty arguments. The truth is that it's the Gospel's fruit that proves the Gospel's message; and there is no greater fruit than the love God's people have for each other [and we truly need that in our lives today more than ever]. It's so important that we realize that the opposite is also true. Our inability to love and affirm one another undermines the Gospel's message of reconciliation and in it itself, we sin against the Word and ultimately against God.
- 18] **Jesus is the Doorway to our Father**: 'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' [John 14:6]. Why is evangelism so important? Because there is no other way to be reconciled to God but through Jesus Christ Period; that's the Gospel Truth!
- 19] Disciples bear fruit: 'This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing

yourselves to be my disciples' [John 15:8]. In keeping with John 13:35, it's imperative that we accept that our behavior and our fruit is a form of proof that reinforces our evangelism. The word "holiness" literally means "set apart." We are set apart for God's work, and this will set us apart in our culture. People will judge our words by our works. We need to have fruit that communicates the truth of the very Gospel we preach.

- 20] **Our Evangelism is Empowered**: Jesus speaks in future tense of the empowerment that will come through the Holy Spirit. This power will give potency to the disciple's message as they take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This power that was to be given via the Holy Spirit came soon afterward, and is available to all of us who seek to be obedient to our commission. We have the power we need to fulfill our high calling, because Greater is He that is in us, than he who is in the world!
- 21] **The church is the light of the world**: For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth' [Acts 13:47]. Take note; you are, as an individual and also corporately, the church; being all members of one body, and Christ the head. To the first-century Jew, the idea that God's salvation would extend beyond Israel was completely foreign; and that's despite the fact that God had always told Israel that through them all the nations would be blessed. All of us who follow Christ are part of His plan of redeeming the whole world to Himself. We are the light of the world. There is no plan B.
- 22] We must push on and finish our task of evangelism: 'However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me the task of testifying to the Good News of God's grace' [Acts 20:24]. If you're looking for inspiration, tape up this verse all around your home. Paul's single-minded focus to fulfill his responsibility of sharing the Gospel as widely as possible should energize us all. He lived and died for the Gospel; and the Bible assures us that the reward would be glorious.
- 23] We share God's power through Evangelism: 'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile' [Romans 1:16]. Our willingness to share the Gospel puts us at the mercy of those who may scoff at our devotion. It only takes a couple times of being laughed at, ridiculed, or treated roughly for sharing the Gospel before you're tempted to downplay your faith. Don't be afraid or ashamed. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation; and those who stand against you for sharing the truth also stands against God Himself.
- 24] Your Evangelism helps God share His gift of life: 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' [Romans 6:23]. Apart from the Gospel, we would all receive our wages as workers of inequity. Christ's Gospel has the power to swap out those wages for a free gift of eternal life all we need to do is accept it!
- 25] Evangelism is a vital part of the salvation process: 'For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who

call on Him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ' [Romans 10:10–17]. Do I need say more... God has always wanted a people who labor beside Him. It is entirely possible that God could magically place the message of the Gospel in the hearts of every person, but He doesn't. Why? Because God gives us a freewill to follow Him.

- 26] Evangelism is not showing how smart your are, neither smart arguments: 'And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified' [I Corinthians 2:1–2]. The New Testament is full of Paul's intelligent defense of Christianity, so it's heartening to hear that his method for evangelism was not based on crafting the most eloquent and air-tight arguments. On the contrary, he came with a simple message of Christ and His sacrifice. The best evangelists aren't the greatest orators; they're the ones who are single-minded in their desire to share what God has done in simplicity of the Gospel message.
- 27] Evangelism is not always about securing a commitment: 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building' [I Corinthians 3:6–9]. We share God's message, but God causes it to take root and grow into faith. And even if we don't always get to see the fruit, we can take good pleasure in the fact that we are playing an important role in the harvest. Don't feel like you are failing when folks don't want to commit to the Lord; sometimes we only the seed planter, while some else will come to water that seed but it is God Who will let it grow to acceptance at the right time. Although this is true; sometimes people think that they must get their lives in order first before they accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives. In such a case, we are to preach to those that it is Jesus Who will cleanse us all; we are to come as we are. If they then still don't want to commit, then don't stress, you done what you needed to do Praise the Lord!
- 28] Compassion [not pity] has an important role in Evangelism: 'Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings' [1 Corinthians 9:19–23]. God's Word manifests itself differently in each of us. So our goal isn't to get others to conform to our cultural standards as proof of their faith. Rather, we are

sensitive to their traditions and experiences so that we don't insult or confuse them before we've had a chance to introduce them to Jesus.

- 29] We must be open to the Spirit in Evangelism: 'For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me' [I Corinthians 16:7–9]. It was Paul's desire to invest some quality time with the church at Corinth [for discipleship]; and with the issues going on there, it's obvious they needed it. Yet, Paul was aware that the Spirit is making opportunities to share the Gospel in Ephesus, and following the Lord's movement is Paul's priority. It's important to remember that we will be pulled in multiple directions, but we need to follow the Lord's prompting; and not see opposition as a reason to quit.
- 30] God makes His appeal through the Evangelist: 'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God' [2 Corinthians 5:20]. It's God's desire that the world would submit to be reconciled to Him, and He is making that appeal through us, the church. We are the diplomats that God has sent to represent Him in this foreign territory. Sadly, many Christians don't take up their position as ambassadors in this world therefore, we ought to disciple our members effectively [we will look at this in our next segment].
- 31] **Follow your prompting; and allow others to follow theirs**: 'On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the Gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised' [Galatians 2:7–9]. It's easy to feel God is prompting you toward a specific work and think His prompting is universal. This was a problem that was brewing in the early church. Peter felt called to witness to the Jews and struggled with Paul's contrary calling to preach to the Gentiles. In the end, don't be dissuaded from reaching the people you feel called and empowered to reach the devil will never call you to reach people with the truth of God's Word; when you hear a voice calling you to reach the lost, it is God calling you be it in reaching gangsters, drug addicts, prostitutes, etc...
- 32] Evangelism is always about God's work and plan: 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast' [Ephesians 2:8–9]. We do well to remember that salvation is not something we earned by the work we've done. In the same way, the successes we see in evangelism are a response to God's grace at work in someone's life, and not because of our works, so we still can't boast, but instead, we boast in the Lord our God.
- 33] Salvation isn't the goal of Evangelism, Discipleship is: 'He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me' [Colossians 1:28–29]. Paul was all about sharing the Gospel, but he never saw

that as his only responsibility. He worked tirelessly to ensure that systems were set up so that people could grow into maturity. This is in keeping with Christ's Great Commission that we not only share the Good News, but that we teach them to do everything that Christ commanded.

- 34] Use the Evangelist 'Rule Book': 'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone' [Colossians 4:2–6]. In these four verses, Paul hits on the six elements of responsible evangelism:
- 34.1. *Pray regularly for opportunities to share the Gospel*: If you're serious about sharing the Good News, you will be asking God to give you more and more opportunities.
- 34.2. *Be watching and thankful*: Since you're praying for opportunities, you're going to be on the lookout for them, thankful when they occur.
- 34.3. *Pray for opportunities for others to share the Gospel clearly*: You'll also pray for others to have opportunities to share the Gospel, and that they would do so with power and authority.
- 34.4. *Be wise about how you treat outsiders*: You'll learn to think of every conversation as an important part of your evangelism. It's not that you're always sharing the Gospel; it's that you don't want to do anything that undermines you before you do.
- 34.5. *Make the most of every opportunity*: Making the most of your opportunities requires a lot of vigilance and grit. You need to be on guard to recognize your opportunities, and you need to have the resolve to take advantage of those opportunities when they surface.
- 34.6. *Ensure that your conversations are full of grace [always]*: It's so important that we recognize that our conversations reflect the Gospel; even when we're not talking about the Gospel because people who know that we are Christian will always be watching us and judging every word and action.
- 35] Your life gives your Evangelism traction: 'For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that He has chosen you, because our Gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake' [1 Thessalonians 1:4–5]. Fight the temptation to bury yourself in books to empower evangelism. Having a good argument isn't the only facet of sharing the Gospel. We need to come with the power we get from communion with Christ, fervent conviction recognizing that the Lord is already at work in this person's life, and an understanding that the life we live confirms the truth of the Gospel.
- 36] Evangelism will face opposition: 'So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me His prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the Gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life not because of anything we have done but because of His Own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time' [2 Timothy 1:8-9]. Paul reminds Timothy that the opposition to the Gospel and his imprisonment is no reason to be ashamed. Resistance is to be expected and even if the culture views imprisonment with shame, Paul doesn't want Timothy to shy away

from the potential price of sharing the good news.

- 37] Evangelist also invest in their own discipleship: 'Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth' [2 Timothy 2:15]. The believer's process of maturity is ongoing. We always need to be submitting to others in the faith and learning as much as we can, so when the opportunity presents itself, we are handling God's Word with confidence and power.
- 38] Everyone of us is called to do the work of an Evangelist: 'But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry' [2 Timothy 4:5]. Paul finishes his second letter to Timothy with this commission. With all the work that Timothy is called to as a young pastor, Paul wants to ensure that he doesn't neglect the work of evangelism.
- 39] Give reason for the hope you have: 'But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an <u>answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.</u> But do this with gentleness and respect' [I Peter 3:15]. This verse from Peter reveals how simple evangelism can be. It isn't about arguing someone into submission. It's about <u>gently and respectfully</u> sharing why you have your hope is in Christ. It doesn't need to be contentious or difficult. It should be natural and sincere.
- 40] Evangelism ultimately fulfills God's desire to reconcile the world back unto Himself: 'The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance' [2 Peter 3:9]. Even Peter was impatient for the Lord's return, and that was a couple thousand years ago. But the Lord is still withholding judgment because He wants everyone to have an opportunity to enter into relationship with Him. Evangelism is not only the way that we take the Gospel to every living creature, it is the way we help fulfill God's desire.

Evangelism is the commitment to, or act of publicly preaching, the Gospel with the intention of spreading the message and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christians who specialize in evangelism are often known as evangelists, whether they are in their home communities or living as missionaries in the field.



Below, we sharing a collection of verse in parallel to the topic of Evangelism; you can study these verses for better understanding on the importance of Evangelism as a individual [we will quote from the ESV]:

"His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love" [2 Peter 1:3-8]

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God" [Ephesians 5:1-2]

"...And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them..." [Luke 9:1-62]

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" [2 Corinthians 5:17]

"...Now I would remind you, brothers, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve..." [1 Corintians 15:1-8]

"...After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of Him, two by two, into every town and place where He Himself was about to go. And He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!'..." [Luke 10:1-42]

"Now when he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them" [Mark 16:9-15]

"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules..." [2 Timothy 2:1-26]

"And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they

left their nets and followed him" [Matthew 4:19-20]

"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith" [I Timothy 1:5]

"And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed" [Mark 1:35]

"And he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" [2 Corinthians 5:15]

"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" [1 Corinthians 4:1]

"For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" [Luke 9:24-25]

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers" [1 John 3:16]

"If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him" [John 12:26]

"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you" [Proverbs 25:21-22]

## **Prayer of Salvation**



It is of vital importance to always ask someone if they are born again, even when you know for a fact that they are not; because it comes across as judgmental to those of the world when it seems like we making an assumption. This also opens an opportunity to explain to them the benefits of being born again; but more importantly, that it is by no human efforts that we are born again; Jesus wants us the way we are – that we don't need to sorts things out or try to become self-righteous – for only Jesus can clean us [this should be done briefly and to the point – long discussions might irritate people]. Salvation is for today, tomorrow is promised to no man; but even so, not everyone will agree to pray what many calls the 'sinner's prayer', for that soul might not be yours to win [I rather refer to it as the Prayer of Salvation]. Also remember, leading someone in prayer is not a public demonstration of a soul won [therefore we have water baptism]; and in most cases, people who never received Christ but now are ready to do so, they might still be a bit shy. Discreetly pray for people and lead people in prayer by not being obnoxious or ubiquitous; this can seriously drive people away and you might just loose an opportunity to save a soul.

Lastly, it is important to take down contact numbers of such people [don't push them to give you their address; you can work on visiting them at a later stage]. Get their contact number and give them a miss call while you still with them to ensure you have the right number; then make sure that you follow up with them within 24hours. This soul will become your responsibility to disciple, get them to attend a small group, and again, most importantly, help them to attend a church near them — do your research and start building Kingdom Connections of trusted believers where you can direct people to; but do not pass a soul on — you still have a responsibility in discipling that person even when they join another church or small group setting — that's until they are comfortable in their new setting.

Below is a simple guide to an effective Prayer of Salvation you can memorize:

"O Lord God; I believe with all my heart in Jesus Christ, Son of the only Living God. I believe He died for me and that God had raised Him from the dead. I believe He is alive today! I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is 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 the One and Only True Living God!" Hallelujah!

We have based this Prayer of Salvation on the verse found in **Romans 10:9-10**; "That if thou shalt <u>confess with thy mouth</u> the Lord Jesus, and shalt <u>believe in thine heart</u> that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Take Note: It is important for the person you leading in prayer to actually sound out the words after you. Therefore, break the prayer up in segments for them to repeat – ex: 'O Lord God... [\_\_\_], I believe with all my heart... [\_\_], in Jesus Christ... [\_\_], Son of the only Living God... [\_\_]...' You will say a fragment and allow them to speak it after you, that way they will hear you clearly with understanding to repeat after you.

## Sings and Wonders for Effective Evangelism

Mark 16:15-18



"<sup>15</sup> And then He told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. <sup>16</sup> Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages. <sup>18</sup> They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed" [**NLT**].

We find the Great Commission in the book of Matthew chapter 28 and verse 19 to 20; "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, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen!" — and this is reflected in Mark 16:15, saying; "...Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." The remarkable thing in both Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-18 is that Jesus is not sending [or commanding] us to go on our own accord; but He has given us His Spirit to accompany us, to work in and through us; He has given us authority by using His name; and by the work of the Spirit, signs and wonders will follow us — but in this, it is vitally important that we work with discernment in evangelism when it comes to signs and wonders. You don't want to be casting out demons if the person is not demonically possessed; neither do you want to confuse someone by speaking in tongues if they have never heard of it before, etc...

When it comes to casting out demons, there are a few things you ought to know; and I would like to share my experiences on this for you to better understand these things. If a person is demon possessed, they are many times not aware of it; and in some cases when a person is aware, the demon has such a strong foothold on them that they become afraid for people to pray for them. The Spirit will lead you along in this; and what I'm sharing with you is just a general guideline to some insights; you will need to develop a real intimate relationship with the Spirit to accurately discern His guidance on these issues; however, when dealing with a demonic possessed person, you going to need patience and wisdom. Demons are deceitful spirits; and they will try and deceive a believer in lying dormant, like you have successfully cast it out; yet it is still present. Most importantly, in dealing with possession, you will need to bring such a person first to awareness of their possessions, and then bring them to understanding that all will be well – giving them the assurance of scripture that Jesus wants to make them well.

In many cases I have found that sicknesses and diseases are tied to demonic possession; but at times they simply tied to demonic oppressions. There's a difference with being possessed and being oppressed. Possession is when a demon has entered the body of a person and gained control over the emotions and intellect of an individual person; while oppression is when demons work from the outside in deceiving people. Of course, it is easier to deal with an oppressed person than what it is to deal with a possessed person; but the Spirit will lead you in doing what's right – but it will be a willing to learn experience in

bringing the possessed person into acknowledgement of possession and also acceptance that Jesus wants them saved – either which way, this is not just a once of encounter, but on going prayer and ministering to such a soul. This is dealing with the first sign; lest move on to the second sign.

Speaking in new tongues [this is angelic-tongues / language], is something which is done through the indwelling of the Spirit; as it is the Spirit of God Who utters heavenly tongue through us when we give heed to His ministry in our lives. The question is: Can every born again child of God speaks in tongues? Yes, if you believe what Mark 16 tells us, then this is true; but if you don't believe then you might have some difficulty in it. Mark is very direct here by saying: "... These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages." He couldn't have made this more clear – why we find so many born again Christian who don't speak in tongues is because they have a problem with their believing – and this is something you simply have to make up your mind about – You either believe or not! If you believe, then good; now you only need to say: 'Holy Spirit, I give You free will to use my mouth and utter Your words through me', and then open your mouth and allow the Spirit to speak through you. You can find an article on this on our website, titled: 'The Power of Praying in Tongues'- it will shed a lot of light on this topic. What I do want to stress to you hear is; speaking in tongues before a person said the Prayer of Salvation might just confuse them [many unbelievers haven't experience this]; but once the have received the Lord as Savior of their life and they are filled with the Holy Spirit, then they will be able to identify with tongues - however, it might still be foreign to them. You must, once again, use discernment in this.

The next two sign that will follow them that believe is: "... They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them.' Now you might ask how will this help in evangelism; and that's a good question – so let's look at Paul in this... "And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. [4] And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. [5] And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. [6] Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a great while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a god' [Acts 28:3-6 / KJV]. Now imagine that; Paul is shipwrech and washed up on an island of unbelievers; and a viper bites him, but it harms him in no way. These unbelievers turns to one another, saying he must be a god; and knowing Paul – this becomes a stepping stone for him to evangelize that crowd. Sometimes we deal with people who strongly oppose the Gospel, or someone with a highly contageous desease; but we don't need to worry about that; for in that moments the Holy Spirit will minister unto us and those things will not effect us or harm us in any way.

Some time ago, when I was working in Lanscape Construction, I was working along side my team in a very bushy corner of a garden; and I didn't notice that I was close to a green mamba [a deadly snake], when one of the labourers noticed it and warned me – but it was

to late, he had stiked my leg. The staff knew how piosonous this snake is; and they wanted to call the an ambulance – however, I imediately remembered the story of Paul and continued to work. Then some of the workers was startled and whisperring among one another. When I asked them, they said; 'look, the pioson is coming out of your leg. This opened an opportunity as they witnessed for themselves the power of God at work; and I ministered to them and led them to Christ – Hallelujah!

The 5th and last sign we see in Mark 16 and verse 18 says: 'They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.' This is very clear; however, I want to point it out to you incase you missed it – the first and last sign, it says: 'They will cast out demons in my name... They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.' Notice here: The first sign say that if we believe we will be able to cast demons out in the name of Jesus [we are not to touch the demon possessed; and we see that even Jesus didn't touch those who were possessed, but only spoke to them to come out]; while if a person is sick, it is written: that we will be able to touch them and they will be healed [here there's no need to pray for them, but just touch them]. Understand that as a Spirit-filled born again Christian, you are anointed by the Spirit of God and the anointing carries the power to destroy the yoke [Isa.10:27]. In this case, the yoke is sickness, and by touching the sick, the anointing in you has the power to destroy the yoke of sickness in a person's body.

Again, discernment is needed here; and surely the Spirit will lead you in all truth; because some folks is in such deep unbelief on certain things of God that you will need to pray for them; but also, there might be hidden truths in dealing with the sick. Demons are known to cause sickness in people; and if the person we are dealing with is sick because of demonic possession, then we must follow the principles of these signs – which are: 1<sup>st</sup> cast out the demon, then you can lay your hands on the sick and they will be healed. I'm sure that makes sense to you...

The bottom line here is: Do you believe? I'm sure your answer is yes... Now make up your mind and use these signs for effective evangelism – Amen! These signs are not given for us who believes, but instead, it is given to us for those who don't believe that they might believe – Hallelujah!

## **Modeling Discipleship**



In opening this segment, I would like to start of with some quotes which I think you will find quite interesting.

'Evangelism is telling people about God's grace; Discipleship is helping them walk in it'
- unknown

'Discipleship is a lifestyle filled with relationships; a life of pouring yourself out to others' - unknown

'If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to'

- unknown

'True discipleship is about inviting someone to the table, providing a feast, and then teaching them to feed themselves so they can prepare a meal for someone else' - unknown

'Salvation is free, but discipleship costs everything we have'

- Billy Graham

'Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship; and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ'

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Again, we will do well if we learn from Jesus as He modeled discipleship in His disciples; and also the way the Apostles mentored their followers, especially the Apostle Paul who mentored and discipled many others.

For many evangelist; discipleship is something someone else will do; therefore, we will start with the basics and then move on from there... In our ministry we deal with our members as leaders; for every Christian has been called to evangelize their world and to disciple the souls the bring in – this places each Christian at a position of a leaders; be it that you have one follower or many, the fact that someone is following, means there's a leader that they following – and in this case, you the leader they will follow. All our study guides [which are available on our website under our 'Global School of Ministry' pages] is designed for leaders – we will do the same here: we will address you as a leader.

Remember; in this segment we are dealing with discipleship; your evangelism in winning a soul is done, and now you are to disciple that souls you have won... Take note, this discipleship model is useful in both a personal level and corporately. It is important to have a discipleship model because ultimately people can talk about discipleship, but if there's no organized model or strategy to accomplish discipleship, it ends up not happening at all. What is a discipleship model? A discipleship model is a philosophy of how you help

people grow in their faith. There are three major disciple models most churches use to help their congregation grow in spiritual maturity:

- 1. Life-on-life discipleship model
- 2. The family discipleship model and
- 3. The classroom discipleship model

We will look at all 3 of these in perspective of driving your members forward

#### 1. Life-on-life Discipleship Model

The goal of the life-on-life [or one-on-one] discipleship model is to build trusted relationships with other Christians. Trusted relationships are where discipleship begins through admonishing one another, teaching one another, and edifying one another. The life-on-life —or- one-on-one discipleship model is also known as "small group", "life group" or even 'home-cell groups.'

A small group is a group of people who get together with the purpose of doing a study to learn together and build relationships with one another. This could be a Bible study, sermon study, book study, or any other type of spiritual study. Small groups also bring us back to the effective times in ministry of the early church, who for the first 300 years met in home-settings and the church grew tremendously during that time – why? Because home-settings is not formal like that of our modern day church settings. In a home-setting members are more comfortable and they can actually interact much more with one another than that of a corporate church setting.

Ministry teams can also be effectively implemented in a corporate or small-group setting; whereby you get like-minded people to congregate together to be part of serving in some capacity together. Some ministry teams churches may have include: prayer ministry, worship ministry, or children's ministry. Rather than the traditional Bible study or an inhome community group, people in ministry teams are out doing some type of ministry together; and this helps get people involve in different ministry arms within the ministry itself. Of course, here we are speaking about discipleship in the setting of the extended and continuing works of evangelism; getting people together to join in an evangelism team is another effective way to model the lifestyle of evangelism. Within an evangelistic team setting, you can have a lot of clean fun; and by going out on mission based ministry, you model the life of an evangelist; but this does not just involves stepping out into the streets as groups; but you should spend good time together as a team where you can equip your team with sound doctrines on the Word of God to be used in your expeditions [you can use a book like this one you reading now as a study manual to equip your members better].

In general church settings, you can have interest groups where people meet who already have similar interest of heart. It can be a décor and catering team, fun activities for families or kids, other fellowship groups like a teen-group, men's or women's fellowship, or even a couples fellowship group. The idea here is to get people connected on a more personal level so that the more mature or seniors in such groups can effectively model discipleship [but be careful that you don't start forming 'clicks' – groups isolating themselves from the general congregation].

#### 2. The Family Discipleship Model

The family discipleship model is when a local church is focused on teaching and equipping a family to be the center for discipleship. This can also be an effective work of an individual, who as a leader, goes and do home visitations; meeting the family in their homes and ministering to them on a personal level. This can be time consuming, so we suggest that you limit this activity to a maximum of no more than 5 families which will be a good number to manage. On the note of a ministry platform, this is where the parents are the primary spiritual mentors to their kids, a husband and wife are discipling one another, or a father is spiritually pastoring his home – and once a week meetings in a church setting will instill sound teaching for modeling this type of discipleship.

#### 3. The Classroom Discipleship Model

The classroom discipleship model is your traditional Sunday school model [Kids or Children Ministry]; a formal classroom setting with a teacher teaching about a certain topic as a curriculum. It is good to teach our children form young in the ways of the Lord; and although most churches are set up in this aspect; nothing is better than training up parents to teach their children in a home setting — being both the parents and teachers in their homes.

There are three types of classroom models churches frequently use [and of course, parents can use these at home too]:

- **Bible Focused Class:** The teacher goes through a book or portion of the Bible is a verbal commentary, verse by verse. A Bible-focused class is essentially exegetical preaching.
- **Topically Focused Class:** The class picks topics relevant to people. This may include parenting, finances, end times prophecy, or other practical things that may apply. It includes topics popular in Christianity.
- Classes by Age Groups: If they are under 18, they will be broken up by age input in groups accordingly. The leader will typically teach the Bible in a way that's tailored to that age group.

The bottom line in discipleship is to teach people how to follow Jesus as you were once taught and now is following Jesus. The main awareness in doing this is: Check yourself regularly, because discipleship is duplicating one self in another person. How do you live your life, how do you treat people, what is the condition of your heart, etc... all these things will be duplicated in those who you are discipling – as you are the mentor they will be looking at and they will copy what they see you do! Work the golden rule of Christianity in your love: 'Love the Lord with all your heart; and also love one another'

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" [1 John 4:8 / KJV]

Modeling Discipleship is living a biblical true life; modeling how you want to see others serving God according to God's desire and not your own. Everything we do have a reaction; even when we do nothing, people still react to that – so allow you actions to cultivate positive reaction – "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" [Galatians 6:9 / KJV].

## **Five Principle for Discipleship**

from Colossians 1:28-29



"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: [29] Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily"

- [Colossian 1:28-29 / KJV]

"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" [Matthew 28:19]. The command is clear, yet the way live out this command is often based on our own desire and how we want to twist it to suit our own desires.

Paul writes to the Colossian church, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me" [Colossians 1:28-29] — in this short and insightful portion of scripture, we can draw five principles for discipleship; let's take a look at them:

#### 1. The Heart of Discipleship: Proclaiming Jesus.

Remember what we said; evangelsim is not complete if there's no discipleship that follows - "Him we proclaim." Discipleship is about proclaiming Jesus and making His name and deeds known. Looking at some major themes of Colossians, we see that: 'Christ is Lord over all creation', and that 'Christ is our redeemer.' Within this context, Paul writes these powerful words we see in chapter 1. Just before these words, in verse 27, Paul reminds the Colossians that God has revealed the mystery [secrets] of Christ to them and that Christ is personally present with them. "Him we proclaim" - We proclaim this news; both to the lost and to the saved. Discipleship is an outward focused. It is difining the very definition of Christianity in the way we live our new found life in Christ; which is: 'Christianity is the outward expression of the inner workings of God in a human body!'

We don't invest in someone only for the sake of that individual, but we do so with the intentions of multiplying other disciples, that will impact the very souls of our members. We proclaim Jesus to men and women who will go on to proclaim Jesus to the world; and who will go and make more disciples. Discipleship is the foundation of raising up sound leaders, who will lead other in discipleship as they are being led in discipleship – it is a life long and on going process [even to the most senior level]. Even if outwardly we are "proclaiming Jesus" in how we do discipleship, we must make sure that inwardly, our motive is to make much of Him, rather than to make much of ourselves. It is literaly more of Him and less of us! The conditioning of our heart, the very perfection God commands, becomes the basis on which we develop discipleship models.

#### 2. The Means of Discipleship: Teaching and Warning with Wisdom.

Scripture has a lot more to say regarding how to make disciples, but Paul gives us some basics in this passage: "warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom."

Teaching, or instruction, might seem like an obvious component of discipleship. We must train those we lead in the Word of God and show them how to live lives that glorify Jesus. However, this passage reveals that our responsibility is not only to teach those we disciple the right way, but also to warn them when they are going the wrong way. Out of love for those we disciple, we must not be silent when they are living in opposition to the Scriptures.

In this passage, Paul says that we are to teach and train everyone "with all wisdom". As we see in James 1:5 that says we are to ask God for wisdom, and this is very important. As we disciple others, we must continually seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance. We must be spending regular time in the Word and in prayer. Any time we teach or warn, we must make sure we are doing so in submission to Him and according to the truth of God's Word, not our own standards. Galatians 6:1 says that this must be done in a spirit of gentleness and out of love.

#### 3. The Goal of Discipleship: To Present Everyone Mature in Christ.

It is through Christ's redeeming work that believers grow in maturity. The goal of discipleship, therefore, is not only to make disciples who will make more disciples, but for all believers to become increasingly like Jesus by renlentlesly relaying on Jesus. True discipleship involves investing in younger believers, walking through life with them, and shepherding them to Christian maturity. Younger believers here does not refer to younger in age, but those who are new to the faith. Discipleship is also compared to parenting. The two have amazing parallels. It is appropriate to view yourself as a sort of spiritual parent to those you disciple. Like a good parent, seek to nurture and love those you lead, and seek to meet their needs and encourage them to live lives worthy of their calling. This doesn't mean that we are to spoon feed those we are discipling, because a good parent don't hand feed their children forever, but instead they train them to feed and take care of themselves. They have an ultimate goal of launching their children out into adult life; and in spiritual parenting, we must function in this very sense of being spiritual parents to those we are discipling.

#### 4. The Cost of Discipleship: Toil and Struggle.

Discipleship is to be purposeful, fun, and rewarding; however, like most valuable things, discipleship also requires energy, time, and hard work. In this description of his ministry, Paul uses the words "toil" and "struggle". The Greek word which is translated as "toil" in this passage means "to grow weary, tired, exhausted", or "to labor with wearisome effort". And the word for "struggle" is often used to describe the strenuous exertion that goes into an athletic competition or a fight. Paul fought and labored to the point of exhaustion to present believers mature in Christ. Discipleship cost him greatly, and it should cost us as well – but there is no reason for 'spiritual burn-outs' when we go about discipleship with the wisdom of God.

#### 5. The Power of Discipleship: His Energy.

Paul ads a very profound reference to his toiling and struggling by saying: "I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me." While discipleship takes a lot of energy, the good news is that the Lord gives us His – and in increasing and

being renewed in this God-given energy, we are to feed on the wholesome and nutitious Word of God which fills us with power to continue. You can't burn your energy in your physical body and not eat to replace that energy – soon you will grow weak as your body continiously draws on energy from within – this is true for our spiritual bodies too; we need to feed it spiritual food. We toil and struggle, yet we have God's Word to depend on. No matter how experienced you are in discipleship, it is crucial that you are constantly coming to the Lord to ask for His energy and power through devoting yourself to studying the Word and in prayer. The more you grow in discipling others, the more you will realise that you must relentlisly rely on the Lord – for in the end, we are all to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling [*Philippians 2:12*], no one can work it out for us.

## **End Notes**

As a Christian author, I spend endless hours in compiling study manuals and ebooks to equip others as leaders to teach their members – and in much of what I write about is found on biblical teachings of on going discipleship. This of course goes and in hand with timeless research and studying the Word of God; and while I enjoy compiling this materials; I can personally say that the greatest reward is in evangelizing and discipling people – seeing how the Word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit in people's lives transforms them from glory to glory. Nothing can compare to physically sharing the Word of God with others.

I therefore admonish you to get into the Spirit and step out in evangelizing your world and discipling those you win to Christ. Ultimately, experience the working of the Lord in your life as lives are transform in front of your very life – and remember, although we are stepping out in obedience to the Lord's commandment, it is ultimately the Lord Who is reconciling the world back unto Himself through you.

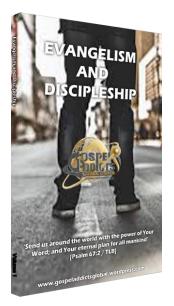
"2 [No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody. 3 You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts"

- [2 Corinthians 3:2-3 / AmpC]

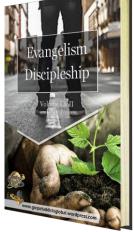
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# **Bonus Article:**The Perfect Stranger in You



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

expres-sion 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 under-stand 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

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 overwhelm-ing 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 some-thing 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!

### 1 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [January - June]

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	
Morning Evening	Morning Evening	Morning Evening	
1	1	1	
31 Matt.21:33-22:14 Ex. 20-21		31 Luke 6:40-56 Josn. 1-9	
APRIL	MAY	JUNE	
Moming   Evening	Moming         Evening           1 □ Luke 24:19-35         □ 2Sam. 9-11           2 □ Luke 24:36-53         □ 2Sam. 12-14           3 □ John 1:1-18         □ 2Sam. 15-17           4 □ John 1:19-51         □ 2Sam. 20-21           6 □ John 3:1-21         □ 2Sam. 22           7 □ John 3:22-36         □ 2Sam. 23-24           8 □ John 4:1-26         □ 1Kgs. 1           9 □ John 4:27-54         □ 1Kgs. 2-3           10 □ John 5:1-30         □ 1Kgs. 4-6           11 □ John 5:31-47         □ 1Kgs. 9           13 □ John 6:0-24         □ 1Kgs. 10-11           14 □ John 6:60-71         □ 1Kgs. 10-11           14 □ John 6:60-71         □ 1Kgs. 15-17           16 □ John 7:1-24         □ 1Kgs. 15-17           16 □ John 8:12-30         □ 1Kgs. 20-21           18 □ John 8:12-30         □ 1Kgs. 20-21           18 □ John 8:48-59         □ 2Kgs. 1-3           20 □ John 9         □ 2Kgs. 4-5           21 □ John 10:1-21         □ 2Kgs. 6-7           22 □ John 10:22-42         □ 2Kgs. 10-12           24 □ John 11:17-57         □ 2Kgs. 16-17           26 □ John 12:1-19         □ 2Kgs. 16-17           26 □ John 13:31-30         □ 2Kgs. 20-22           28 □ John 14:15-31	Morning   Evening	

How to use this reading plan: example [Matt. is the book / 5 is the chapter /: indicates verses / - indicate from chapter -or- verse to chapter -or- verse]

## 1 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [July - December]

JULY	AUGU	ST	SEPTE	MBER
Morning Evening	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
1	1	□ Psa. 56-59         □ Psa. 60-63         □ Psa. 64-67         □ Psa. 68-69         □ Psa. 70-73         □ Psa. 78         □ Psa. 78         □ Psa. 82-84         □ Psa. 85-88         □ Psa. 90-93         □ Psa. 99-901         □ Psa. 102-103         □ Psa. 102-103         □ Psa. 104-106         □ Psa. 107-108         □ Psa. 113-116         □ Psa. 113-116         □ Psa. 119:113-176         □ Psa. 120-127         □ Psa. 128-134         □ Psa. 135-138         □ Psa. 139-141         □ Psa. 146-150         □ Pro. 1-2         □ Pro. 3-4	1	Pro. 8-9
31 Rom. 5:12-21 Psa. 52-55	31 🗌 1Cor. 15:1-34	☐ Pro. 5-7		
OCTOBER	NOVEM	BER	DECE	MBER
Moming         Evening           1 □ Eph. 6:10-24         □ Isa. 9-10           2 □ Phil. 1         □ Isa. 11-12           3 □ Phil. 2:1-18         □ Isa. 13-14           4 □ Phil. 2:19-3:11         □ Isa. 15-18           5 □ Phil. 3:12-4:3         □ Isa. 19-22           6 □ Phil. 4:4-23         □ Isa. 23-24           7 □ Col. 1:1-23         □ Isa. 25-26           8 □ Col. 1:24-2:25         □ Isa. 27-28           9 □ Col. 2:6-23         □ Isa. 29-30           10 □ Col. 3:1-4:1         □ Isa. 31-32           11 □ Col. 4:2-18         □ Isa. 33-34           12 □ 1Thes. 1-2:16         □ Isa. 35-37           13 □ 1Thes. 1-2:16         □ Isa. 38-39           14 □ 1Thes. 2:17-3:13         □ Isa. 38-39           14 □ 1Thes. 5         □ Isa. 40-41           15 □ 1Thes. 5         □ Isa. 42-45           16 □ 2Thes. 1         □ Isa. 42-45           17 □ 2Thes. 2         □ Isa. 44-45           18 □ 2Thes. 3         □ Isa. 48-49           19 □ 1Tim. 1         □ Isa. 50-51           20 □ 1Tim. 2         □ Isa. 50-51           21 □ 1Tim. 4         □ Isa. 59-60           24 □ 1Tim. 5         □ Isa. 64-66           25 □ 2Tim. 1         □ Isa. 64-66	2	☐ Jer. 48-49 ☐ Jer. 50-51 ☐ Jer. 52 ☐ Lam. 1-2 ☐ Lam. 3-5 ☐ Ezek. 1-2 ☐ Ezek. 3-4 ☐ Ezek. 5-7 ☐ Ezek. 8-10 ☐ Ezek. 11-12	Moming  1	□ Ezek. 16 □ Ezek. 17-19 □ Ezek. 20-21 □ Ezek. 22-23 □ Ezek. 24-26 □ Ezek. 27-28 □ Ezek. 31-32 □ Ezek. 31-32 □ Ezek. 33-34 □ Ezek. 35-36 □ Ezek. 37-38 □ Ezek. 39-40 □ Ezek. 41-42 □ Ezek. 43-44 □ Ezek. 45-46 □ Ezek. 47-48 □ Dan. 1-2 □ Dan. 3-4 □ Dan. 5-6 □ Dan. 7-8 □ Dan. 7-8 □ Dan. 11-12 □ Hag. □ Zech. 1-3 □ Zech. 1-3 □ Zech. 1-3 □ Zech. 1-3 □ Zech. 1-11 □ Zech. 12-14 □ Mal. 1-2 □ Mal. 3-4

Some Chapters flow into the next: example [Rev. 13:11-14:20 = Revelations chapter 13, verse 11 to chapter 14, verse 20]

# 2 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [January - June / Year 1]

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Morning Evening	Morning Evening	Moming Evening
Moming   Evening	Moming   Evening	Moming   Evening
100 A 1 1 1 2 A	SE 57570	98:331
APRIL <u>Morning</u> <u>Evening</u>	MAY <u>Moming</u> <u>Evening</u>	JUNE <u>Morning</u> <u>Evening</u>
1	1	1

# 2 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [July - December / Year 1]

i i	ULY	AUGUST AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
2650 25	2257 (525)	10095 49	1000 28	Sept. Sept.	
Moming  1	Evening  Deut. 29 Deut. 30 Deut. 31 Deut. 32 Deut. 33 Deut. 34 Josh. 1-2 Josh. 3-4	Moming  1	<u>Evening</u> ☐ Judg. 7 ☐ Judg. 8 ☐ Judg. 9 ☐ Judg. 10 ☐ Judg. 11 ☐ Judg. 12 ☐ Judg. 13-14 ☐ Judg. 15-16	Moming  1	Evening  1Sam. 20 1Sam. 21 1Sam. 22 1Sam. 23 1Sam. 24-25 1Sam. 26-27 1Sam. 28 1Sam. 29
9	☐ Josh. 5 ☐ Josh. 6 ☐ Josh. 7 ☐ Josh. 8 ☐ Josh. 9 ☐ Josh. 10 ☐ Josh. 11 ☐ Josh. 12 ☐ Josh. 13 ☐ Josh. 14 ☐ Josh. 15 ☐ Josh. 16-17	9  Luke 14:25-35 10  Luke 15:1-10 11  Luke 15:11-19 12  Luke 15:20-32 13  Luke 16:1-12 14  Luke 16:13-18 15  Luke 16:19-31 16  Luke 17:11-10 17  Luke 17:11-19 18  Luke 17:20-30 19  Luke 17:31-37 20  Luke 18:1-8	☐ Judg. 17 ☐ Judg. 18 ☐ Judg. 19 ☐ Judg. 20 ☐ Judg. 21 ☐ Ruth 1-2 ☐ Ruth 3-4 ☐ 1Sam. 1 ☐ 1Sam. 2 ☐ 1Sam. 3 ☐ 1Sam. 4 ☐ 1Sam. 5-6	9  Luke 22:14-23 10  Luke 22:24-34 11  Luke 22:35-43 12  Luke 22:44-53 13  Luke 22:54-62 14  Luke 22:63-71 15  Luke 23:1-12 16  Luke 23:13-25 17  Luke 23:26-33 18  Luke 23:34-43 19  Luke 23:44-56 20  Luke 24:1-12	☐ 1Sam. 30 ☐ 1Sam. 31 ☐ 1Sam. 32 ☐ 1Sam. 33 ☐ 1Sam. 34 ☐ 2Sam. 1-2 ☐ 2Sam. 3-4 ☐ 2Sam. 5-6 ☐ 2Sam. 7-8 ☐ 2Sam. 9-10 ☐ 2Sam. 11-12 ☐ 2Sam. 13-14
21	☐ Josh. 18 ☐ Josh. 19 ☐ Josh. 20-21 ☐ Josh. 22 ☐ Josh. 23 ☐ Josh. 24 ☐ Judg. 1 ☐ Judg. 2-3 ☐ Judg. 4 ☐ Judg. 5 ☐ Judg. 6	21  Luke 18:9-17 22  Luke 18:18-27 23  Luke 18:28-34 24  Luke 18:35-43 25  Luke 19-1-10 26  Luke 19:11-19 27  Luke 19:20-27 28  Luke 19:28-40 29  Luke 19:41-48 30  Luke 20:1-8 31  Luke 20:9-18	☐ 1Sam. 7-8 ☐ 1Sam. 9 ☐ 1Sam. 10 ☐ 1Sam. 11-12 ☐ 1Sam. 13 ☐ 1Sam. 14 ☐ 1Sam. 15 ☐ 1Sam. 16 ☐ 1Sam. 17 ☐ 1Sam. 18 ☐ 1Sam. 19	21	☐ 2Sam. 15-16 ☐ 2Sam. 17-18 ☐ 2Sam. 19-20 ☐ 2Sam. 21-22 ☐ 2Sam. 23-24 ☐ 1King 1 ☐ 1King 2 ☐ 1King 3 ☐ 1King 4 ☐ 1King 5
8697 76	OBER	5275 107	EMBER	8983 CST	EMBER
Moming  1	Evening    1King 6   1King 7   1King 8   1King 9   1King 10-11   1King 12   1King 13   1King 14   1King 15   1King 16   1King 17-18   1King 20   1King 20   1King 21   1King 21   2King 1-2   2King 3   2King 4   2King 5   2King 6   2King 7-8   2King 9   2King 10   2King 13-4   2King 13-4   2King 15-16   2King 17-18   2King 19-20   2King 23   2King 23   2King 23	Moming  1	Evening    1Chr. 1   1Chr. 2   1Chr. 3   1Chr. 4   1Chr. 5   1Chr. 6   1Chr. 7   1Chr. 8   1Chr. 10   1Chr. 11   1Chr. 12   1Chr. 13   1Chr. 14   1Chr. 15   1Chr. 16   1Chr. 17   1Chr. 18   1Chr. 19   1Chr. 21   1Chr. 21   1Chr. 21   1Chr. 21   1Chr. 25   1Chr. 26   1Chr. 27   1Chr. 28   1Chr. 29   2Chr. 1-2	Moming  1	Evening    2Chr. 3-4   2Chr. 5-6   2Chr. 7-8   2Chr. 9-10   2Chr. 11-12   2Chr. 15-16   2Chr. 15-16   2Chr. 17-18   2Chr. 21-22   2Chr. 21-22   2Chr. 23-24   2Chr. 25   2Chr. 26-27   2Chr. 30   2Chr. 31   2Chr. 32   2Chr. 33   2Chr. 33   2Chr. 35   2Chr. 35   2Chr. 36   Ezra 1   Ezra 2   Ezra 3-4   Ezra 6   Ezra 7   Ezra 8   Ezra 9-10   Neh. 1-2

## 2 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [January - June / Year 2]

JAN	UARY	FEBR	UARY	MA	RCH
Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
1	Neh. 3	1	□ Job 34-35 □ Job 36-37 □ Job 38-39 □ Job 40-41 □ Job 42 □ Psa. 1-2 □ Psa. 3-4 □ Psa. 5-6 □ Psa. 7-8 □ Psa. 9-10 □ Psa. 11-13 □ Psa. 14-16 □ Psa. 17-18 □ Psa. 19-20 □ Psa. 21-22 □ Psa. 23-24 □ Psa. 25-26 □ Psa. 27-28 □ Psa. 29-30 □ Psa. 31-32 □ Psa. 31-32 □ Psa. 33-34 □ Psa. 37 □ Psa. 38-39 □ Psa. 40-41	1	Psa. 48-49 Psa. 50-51 Psa. 52-54 Psa. 55 Psa. 56 Psa. 57-58 Psa. 61-64 Psa. 65-66 Psa. 67-68 Psa. 67-68 Psa. 71-72 Psa. 73 Psa. 74 Psa. 75-77 Psa. 78 Psa. 79-80 Psa. 81-82 Psa. 83-84 Psa. 85-86 Psa. 87-88 Psa. 89 Psa. 90 Psa. 91 Psa. 92-93 Psa. 94 Psa. 95-96 Psa. 97 Psa. 98-100 Psa. 101-102 Psa. 103
31 Acts 14.0-10	□ 300 32-33	<u>.</u>		31 Rolli. 3. 12-21	F 5a. 103
		223	MARK.	8-5	00000
Morning 1 □ Rom. 6:1-11 2 □ Rom. 6:12-23	<u>Evening</u> ☐ Psa. 104 ☐ Psa. 105	M/ <u>Moming</u> 1 □ 1Cort. 3:1-9 2 □ 1Cort. 3:10-22	E <u>vening</u> ☐ Psa. 143-144  ☐ Psa. 145-146	JU <u>Morning</u> 1 □ 1Cort. 15:20-28 2 □ 1Cort. 15:29-39	Evening Prov. 28 Prov. 29

## 2 YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN [July - December / Year 2]

JULY		AUG	SUST	SEPTI	EMBER
Morning	<u>Evening</u>	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
1	Isa. 20   Isa. 21   Isa. 22   Isa. 23-24   Isa. 25   Isa. 26   Isa. 27   Isa. 29   Isa. 30   Isa. 31   Isa. 32   Isa. 33   Isa. 34   Isa. 35   Isa. 36   Isa. 36   Isa. 37   Isa. 38   Isa. 39   Isa. 40   Isa. 41   Isa. 42-43   Isa. 44   Isa. 45   Isa. 45   Isa. 46   Isa. 47   Isa. 48   Isa. 49   Isa. 49   Isa. 50   Isa. 50   Isa. 50   Isa. 52	1	Isa. 53   Isa. 54   Isa. 55   Isa. 56   Isa. 56   Isa. 58   Isa. 60   Isa. 61   Isa. 62   Isa. 63   Isa. 64   Isa. 65   Isa. 66   Jer. 1   Jer. 2   Jer. 3   Jer. 4   Jer. 5   Jer. 6   Jer. 7   Jer. 8   Jer. 7   Jer. 8   Jer. 10   Jer. 11-12   Jer. 11-12   Jer. 14   Jer. 15   Jer. 16   Jer. 17   Jer. 18-19	1	Jer. 20   Jer. 21   Jer. 22   Jer. 23   Jer. 24   Jer. 25   Jer. 26   Jer. 27   Jer. 28   Jer. 29   Jer. 30   Jer. 31   Jer. 32   Jer. 33   Jer. 34   Jer. 35   Jer. 35   Jer. 36   Jer. 37   Jer. 38   Jer. 39   Jer. 40   Jer. 41   Jer. 42   Jer. 42   Jer. 43   Jer. 44   Jer. 45   Jer. 47   Jer. 48   Jer. 49
ОСТ	OBER	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Moming 1 ☐ Titu. 1:1-16 2 ☐ Titu. 2:1-15 3 ☐ Titu. 3:1-15	<u>Evening</u> ☐ Jer. 50 ☐ Jer. 51 ☐ Jer. 52	Moming  1	MBER  Evening  □ Ezek. 33  □ Ezek. 34  □ Ezek. 35	Morning 1 □ Rev. 5:1-14 2 □ Rev. 6:1-10 3 □ Rev. 6:11-17	Evening  Joel 2 Joel 3 Amos 1
4   Phil. 1:1-9 5   Phil. 1:10-25 6   Heb. 1:1-14 7   Heb. 2:1-9 8   Heb. 3:1-11 10   Heb. 3:1-11 10   Heb. 3:12-19 11   Heb. 4:1-16 12   Heb. 5:1-14 13   Heb. 6:11-20 15   Heb. 7:11-28 17   Heb. 8:1-13 18   Heb. 9:1-10 19   Heb. 9:1-10 19   Heb. 9:1-18 20   Heb. 10:19-39 22   Heb. 11:1-16 23   Heb. 11:17-40	□ Ser. 52 □ Lam. 1 □ Lam. 2 □ Lam. 3 □ Lam. 4-5 □ Ezek. 1-2 □ Ezek. 3 □ Ezek. 4 □ Ezek. 5-6 □ Ezek. 7 □ Ezek. 10-11 □ Ezek. 12-13 □ Ezek. 14-15 □ Ezek. 16 □ Ezek. 17 □ Ezek. 18-19 □ Ezek. 20 □ Ezek. 21 □ Ezek. 22 □ Ezek. 23	4   1Pet. 2:13-25 5   1Pet. 3:1-12 6   1Pet. 3:1-12 7   1Pet. 4:11-19 8   1Pet. 5:1-14 9   2Pet. 1:1-12 10   2Pet. 1:13-21 11   2Pet. 2:1-22 12   2Pet. 3:1-18 13   2Pet. 1:1-10 14   1Joh. 1:1-10 15   1Joh. 2:1-14 16   1Joh. 2:15-27 17   1Joh. 3:11-24 19   1Joh. 3:11-24 19   1Joh. 5:1-21 20   1Joh. 5:1-21 21   2Jon. 22   3Jon. 23   Jude 1:1-11	Ezek. 36 Ezek. 37 Ezek. 38 Ezek. 39 Ezek. 40 Ezek. 41 Ezek. 42 Ezek. 43 Ezek. 44 Ezek. 45 Ezek. 46 Ezek. 47 Ezek. 48 Dan. 1-2 Dan. 3-4 Dan. 5-6 Dan. 7-8 Dan. 7-8 Dan. 9-10 Dan. 11-12	4 Rev. 7:1-10 5 Rev. 7:11-17 6 Rev. 8:1-13 7 Rev. 9:1-10 8 Rev. 9:11-21 9 Rev. 10:1-11 10 Rev. 11:1-10 11 Rev. 11:11-19 12 Rev. 12:1-10 13 Rev. 12:11-17 14 Rev. 13:1-10 15 Rev. 13:11-18 16 Rev. 14:1-10 17 Rev. 14:1-20 18 Rev. 15:1-8 19 Rev. 16:10-21 21 Rev. 17:1-10 22 Rev. 17:1-18 23 Rev. 18:1-12	Annos 1

