

The Call To Evangelism

Ephesians

Eph 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, **evangelists**; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

KJV

Having lived 54 years and having been a Christian for 37 of those years, I have been in meetings with some amazing evangelists. Billy Graham, James Robinson, Arthur Blessed, Richard Hogue and Sammy Tippit would have been at the top of my list when I was young. I would add to that list James Kennedy and Adrian Rogers as I got older. I would always be astonished when the invitation was extended and so many people rose to go forward to receive Christ.

God gifts men. He gifts some men to preach and teach. He gifts some men to Pastor. He gifts men to evangelize. Sometimes God equips men with multiple gifts and uses them in different ways thru out their life.

Sometimes the gift is evident before He calls men. Sometimes the gift is only received after a man answers the call.

Each man that is called and that is gifted has as a double mission.

- He is to use His gift to preach, pastor, or evangelize.
- He is to use His gift to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

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Every saint is called to minister. Every saint is called to teach and make disciples, to pastor those they disciple, and to win the lost. Some saints are called and gifted to be leaders and specialists who equip the saints for these works of ministry.

If you are called to equip others, God will confirm your call thru your gifts, thru the church, thru the circumstances of life, thru your results, and thru your personal relationship with Him.

Are you called to be an evangelist? What a wonderful calling and gifting.

Philip was one of these gifted men.

Acts 21:8

8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of **Philip the evangelist**, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

KJV

How did Philip gain this reputation-by the works that he performed.

Acts 8:5-12

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

KJV

The gift affects the personality of men in such a way that they enter into conversations with others about Christ with very little effort.

Acts 8:26-39

26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

KJV

They are role models and a challenge for all of us with regards to witnessing.

We are not all gifted and called to be an evangelist, but we are called to do the work of an evangelist.

2 Tim 4:5

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, **make full proof of thy ministry.**

KJV

We are all called to do good works. But it is only by doing the work of an evangelist that we give full proof of our ministry.

To give full proof of our ministry means to fulfill our mission.

If we condemn those who are liberal in both their doctrine and lifestyle but we are not doing the work of an evangelist, there is not full proof of our ministry. If we are a bastion for righteousness but we do not make time to do the work of an evangelist, we are not fulfilling our mission.

Are you doing the work of an evangelist? Are you satisfied with your work? Is God pleased with your work?

Is there another work of ministry that should elicit from us a greater fear of God?

How many of us will stand before God with the knowledge that we failed our mission because we did not fulfill our primary mission?

To be a disciple of Jesus means to be like Jesus. It means to follow His example. Jesus came and he died to seek and save that which was lost. Jesus was a preacher, a teacher, a pastor and he performed many good works. But by what He said about himself, the parables he told, and the way He lived, we know that his primary mission was to seek and save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

KJV

The parable of the prodigal son

The story of the woman at the well

To be a genuine disciple of Jesus, we must make time for evangelism!

If I asked you if it is important to make time for bible reading or prayer or attending church or doing good works, you would not disagree.

Would you disagree if I said in the same way we need to make time for evangelism?

Jesus did and so should we if we are going to follow Him.

It is this calling that causes so many to make time to go on mission trips. In our hearts we know this is the greater work. It is a work that will never happen if we do not make time for it.

What does the Lord want you to do? How do you make time to do the work of an evangelist?

There are many ministries you can join to perform good works that serve the physical, educational, and moral needs of people.

But there are ministries whose mission is to engage the lost and share the gospel with them.

At Western Hills, bible clubs in the public schools is one of those ministries. Each week, some of our members conduct a bible club for inner city children at one of our local elementary schools. The mission of the club is to share the gospel with those who are lost.

I also want to suggest something else that we all like to do-eating. Jesus ate with the publicans and sinners.

Luke 15:1-2

15:1 Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

KJV

Start scheduling meals with sinners.

- [Make a list and keep it updated.](#)
- [Start scheduling meals with people on your list if you are uncertain about their eternal destiny. Make time for this at least once a week.](#)
- [Invite those who are seekers to do a bible study with you.](#)

If you are not received, dust off the soles of your feet and schedule a meal with the next person on your list.

There may be a better way you can make time for this.

- [Be flexible. Follow the cloud.](#)
- [Be determined. Do not give up.](#)
- [Be compassionate. \(Video by Penn Jillete\)](#)

Ask God to change your heart toward those who are lost. God does this by helping you see people the way He sees people.

He sees them as sheep without a shepherd.

He sees them as lost lambs.

He sees them as prodigal sons.

He sees them as children dying with cancer.

He sees them as young girls kidnapped and forced into prostitution.

He sees them as missing sailors lost at sea.

He sees them as captured soldiers behind enemy lines.

Your heart will not change until you see them as He sees them.

There will be no brokenness over their condition but only a condescending attitude of indifference.

There is no reason to go searching for them until you see them as He sees them and your heart has been changed. Your ingenuous will only drive them further into the darkness.

If we are compassionate, they will be drawn to the light within us which is Christ.

1.78 deaths per second in the world

107 deaths per minute

6,390 deaths per hour

153,000 deaths per day

56 million deaths per year

3.9 billion deaths per average life time (70 years)

Will you make time to do the work of an evangelist? Will you make time to save some of them?