

NOTES

~ *Evangelizing – Making Jesus Known* ~

- **Intro:** What is evangelism? Proclaiming what we *know* about God and our Christ . . . out loud (i.e. **Psalm 96** and **1John 1:1-5**).

- Why is this necessary?
 - To enable mankind to be reconciled to God (**2Corinthians 5:18-20**).
 - No one will hear if no one tells . . . (**Romans 10:12-15**).
 - To help build faith (**Romans 10:17**; 2 Timothy 3:14-17).
 - For *our* relationship with God & Christ (i.e. **Matthew 10:32**).
 - Jesus commanded it (**Matthew 28:19-20**)!

- Who has been called to evangelize? Everyone (1Peter 3:15-16)!

- How do we evangelize?
 - **Prepare** – be convinced (**2 Timothy 3:14-17** and **1Peter 3:15-16**).
We can't tell what we don't know or believe. That 'convincing' is rooted in discipleship, mentoring, Bible study, fellowship, etc.
 - Build **relationships**. Those you tell the Gospel message to must trust you. Remember, blind faith is useless. And, discipleship, which requires trust too, will only be possible through relationship
 - **Live** the life – walk the talk and be consistent!
 - **Use what you know**. Take advantage of your experiences.
 - Look for **opportunities**.
 - Again, relationships will help open the door to opportunities.
 - Charitable actions (giving of time, money, etc.).
 - Sharing personal testimonies and experiences. Go from the 'known' to the 'unknown' . . .
 - Consistency in godly behavior will prompt questioning (this may spark questions, but they still need to know 'why').
 - Be prepared to explain 'why' (1Peter 3:15-16).
 - **Support** those who do this full time (**3John 1:7-8**; **Philippians 4:14-19**; **1Corinthians 9:1-14**)

- **Summary:** We are *all* called to proclaim God's glory and spread the news of eternal life through Jesus. So, we learn and tell others what we know. We can also support evangelists. Those who do these things will enjoy a relationship with God and all it brings including the Spirit and salvation from judgment.

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Evangelism defined

Intro: What is evangelism? Proclaiming what we *know* about God and our Christ . . . out loud! Here are but a couple of biblical examples:

Examples:

[**Psalm 96**]

[**1John 1:1-5**]

We evangelize all kinds of things

Actually, we evangelize things all the time, taking up causes and pushing them passionately. For some, it's about announcing the disastrous effects of cancer or other illnesses to raise support. For others, it could be the perceived weather pattern changes or a fight against corruption. If only we were this passionate in evangelizing the nature of God and His salvation from judgment!

Why is evangelism necessary?

Why is this necessary in relation to God and our Christ? There are several reasons.

1. Keep the message alive

First, imagine that the message of God, His ways, or salvation from His judgment would die out after a generation or two if people stopped passing down the Word.

2. Build faith

Second, the knowledge we can pass or use to disciple others will help build faith.

3. Obedience

Third, obedience is how we prove we love our God and Christ.

4. Jesus commanded it!

Fourth, speaking of obedience, Jesus *commanded* us to tell others and disciple them, which takes us back to the first point . . . Let's look at these reasons for spreading the good news – the Gospel – in more detail.

Let's look in more detail . . .

- Reconciliation

1. To enable mankind to be reconciled to God. As ambassadors of God, we help reconcile mankind to God through Christ by telling others about the choice of life made available to them by our Christ's death and resurrection.

[**2Corinthians 5:18-20**]

- No one will hear otherwise

- Balanced message!

- The words build faith and disciple

- We must confess Christ before men . . . don't be disobedient!

- Jesus commanded us to tell and disciple!

2. No one will hear if no one tells . . . Again, the Word could easily die out if we don't tell others. And, we must tell the balanced truth – not just those things that 'tickle our ears'!

Without balance, the receiver of the message may gain a false sense of spiritual security while also perpetuating half-truths or falsehoods that could mislead others.

[Romans 10:12-15]

3. To help build faith. Evangelizing the Gospel message will give someone a basis upon which they can make a choice: serve God through Jesus . . . or perish.

Furthermore, the truth you learn and pass to others will help build faith and enable them to, in turn, disciple others.

[Romans 10:17] and [2 Timothy 3:14-17]

4. For *our* relationship with God & Christ. We must not be ashamed of the Gospel and a coward in telling others.

Jesus told us to spread this news; refraining from telling others the good news of God's salvation through the Christ will result in a disruption of the relationship we should have with God through Jesus.

This suggests that not telling others is disobedience that will have the same consequence as any other disobedience to God: judgment and hell.

[Matthew 10:32]

5. Jesus commanded it! Again, disobedience will have consequences . . .

[Matthew 28:19-20]

Who is to evangelize and disciple?
Everyone!

Fear of evangelizing

No such thing as blind faith . . .

Best approach:

- Be yourself
- Tell what you know and learn as you grow

Tip #1: Prepare

So, who has been called to evangelize? Everyone! Not only do we see this in Jesus' commandment, but also in the writings of the apostles.

Shortly, we'll see how Peter encouraged Jesus' followers to tell others about their hope and why they're convinced of salvation (1Peter 3:15-16).

How *do* we evangelize? The idea of going up to strangers and explaining about God and Christ can be daunting!! Fear and dread can creep in quickly just at the thought!

It doesn't have to be this way, though. Remember that true faith isn't blind. Anyone who accepts God's grace and enters into covenant with Him must be convinced – at least a bit – that God and His Christ indeed exist and offer this choice of life.

You'll find that the best way to approach evangelism is to just tell what you know; use your own experiences and explain what you've gained as you grow and learn. Anyone can do this!

Here are a few tips to help you move forward in evangelizing the Gospel:

1. **Prepare** – be convinced. We can't tell what we don't know or believe. That 'convincing' is rooted in discipleship, mentoring, Bible study, fellowship, etc.

[2 Timothy 3:14-17]

[1Peter 3:15-16]

- Align with the mature
- Study
- Belong to groups to hear and participate

Tip #2: Relationship

Tip #3: Walk the talk!

Tip #4: Use what you know

Sample message

- Align ourselves with someone one more spiritually mature.
- Conduct and attend Bible studies.
- Belong to small, medium, and large church groups to be exposed to testimonies, demonstrations of the Spirit of God, and application of God’s ways – all essential to building faith and obedience.

2. **Build relationships.** Those you tell the Gospel message to must trust you. Remember, blind faith is useless. And, discipleship, which requires trust too, will only be possible through relationship.
3. **Live the life** – walk the talk and be consistent! This will show others that you believe what you’re ‘selling’. After all, you wouldn’t obey what you don’t believe . . .
4. **Use what you know.** Take advantage of your experiences (everyone has a story to tell!).

Perhaps you were at your worst, cried out for help, and then openly received God’s Spirit in respond to true repentance.

And, you don’t have to be a Bible scholar to witness!

“Dude! I learned that the creator of the universe and everything in it will judge us one day for what our spirit does in our body. On our own, we’re doomed. But, the creator – God – asked one of the spirits He created to come to earth, live among us, be killed, and then be raised again to fulfill prophecies hundreds of years old! We call Him Jesus. Believing in His sacrifice and then following Him will keep us from the creator’s judgment and hell at the end of time. I’ve decided to follow Jesus and haven’t been the same since! Want to hear more!”

Tip #5: Look for opportunities

- Relationship
- Charity

- Sharing experiences

- Walk the talk – consistently

- Be prepared

5. Look for **opportunities**.

- a. Again, relationships will help open the door to opportunities.
- b. Charitable actions (giving of time, money, etc.).
- c. Sharing personal testimonies and experiences. Go from the ‘known’ to the ‘unknown’ . . .
- d. Consistency in godly behavior will prompt questioning (this may spark questions, but they still need to know ‘why’).
- e. Be prepared to explain ‘why’ (1Peter 3:15-16).

6. **Support** those who do this full time. There were only two scenarios when we see money being collected from the earliest Church members:

- a. To care for the brothers and sisters in Jesus.
- b. To care for traveling evangelists.

Closely tied to evangelism is benevolence – care of the traveling evangelists. Of course, those led to travel in the pursuit of spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus had to be sustained. The Bible highly suggests that the means of support for full-time traveling preachers came from likeminded followers and **not from those they ministered to.**

[3John 1:7-8]

[Philippians 4:14-19]

[1Corinthians 9:1-14]

Summary

Summary: We are *all* called to proclaim God's glory and spread the news of eternal life through Jesus. So, we learn and tell others what we know. We can also support evangelists. Those who do these things will enjoy a relationship with God and all it brings including the Spirit and salvation from judgment.

Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; Bring an offering and come into His courts. Worship the LORD in holy attire; Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns; Indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.” Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, and all it contains; Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy Before the LORD, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness. —Psalm 96.

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life – and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us – what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. —1John 1:1-5.

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. —2Corinthians 5:18-20.

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; “WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” —Romans 10:12-15.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ. —Romans 10:17.

“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.” —Matthew 10:32.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” —Matthew 28:19-20.

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. —2 Timothy 3:14-17.

But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. —1Peter 3:15-16.

For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth. —3John 1:7-8.

. . . You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. . . . And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 4:14-19.

. . . Do we not have a right to eat and drink? Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or do only Barnabas and I not have a right to refrain from working? Who at any time serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat the fruit of it? Or who tends a flock and does not use the milk of the flock? . . . for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things so that we will cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel. 1Corinthians 9:1-14.