

Crossing Barriers for Evangelism

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Understanding our: Meaning of each of these areas for us today

Jerusalem	Jerusalem was the city where Christ spoke these words. Our Jerusalem is our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others that we know or have met.
Judea	Judea was the area surrounding Jerusalem and could be compared to our county or metropolitan area. Our Judea is the people of our culture in our county or metropolitan area that we do not know.
Samaria	Samaria was a nearby area and the people were from a different ethnic group, a different culture and had a different religion. Our Samaria is the people in our surrounding area who are of a different ethnic group, culture or religion.
end of the earth	The end of the earth involves all people who are not in one of the groups previously mentioned.

Barriers which we cross to reach out to the people in each of these areas

Jerusalem	the barrier of our own fear
Judea	the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers
Samaria	the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion
end of the earth	the barrier of learning another language or going to another part of the world

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From page 2 of the manual "Evangelistic Bible Studies"

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Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

**Recognize that we have no power to witness on our own
Luke 24:46-49**

The disciples were reminded of the Promise of the Father

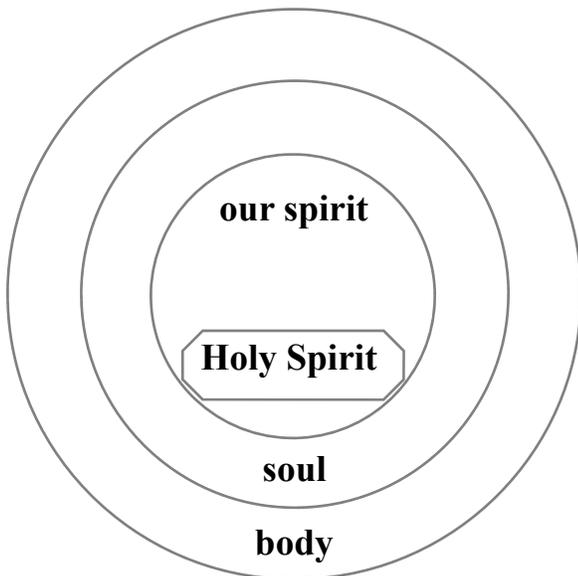
The disciples were to wait until they received that Promise

The disciples were promised that they would be clothed with:

Power from on high

**Understand the source of our power is the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8**

- 1. We were given the Holy Spirit as a gift at the moment of salvation -
Acts 2:38; Romans 8:14-16**
- 2. We will accomplish nothing if we try to witness in our own strength -
John 15:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30-32**
- 3. We will witness with boldness if we witness in the power of the Holy Spirit
2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31**



**when we depend on our own strength,
we quench and grieve the Holy Spirit**



**when we are filled with the Spirit,
we speak the Word of God boldly**

Learning to cross the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers

We must be motivated to get acquainted with strangers by the love of Christ
2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.



We will get acquainted with strangers as we are moved with compassion
Matthew 9:36-38

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Do we see people as Christ saw people?

We will get acquainted with strangers as we let the Holy Spirit lead us
Acts 8:4

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.
Acts 11:19

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

Acts 16:6-9

Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

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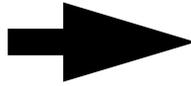
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Learning to cross the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion

**We must lift up our eyes and see these other groups
John 4:35**

the sin of prejudice kept the disciples from even seeing the spiritual needs of the Samaritans



prejudice and lack of love will keep us from seeing the spiritual needs of other cultures around us

**We must take the initiative to make the first contact
John 4:5-7**

**we go where we can meet people who need Christ
we choose to make contacts with those people**

**We must accept their hostility without feeling personally rejected
John 4:9**

**many people feel that they have been rejected because of their ethnic group
many people feel that they have been rejected because of their culture
many people feel that they have been rejected because of their religion
many people feel they have been rejected because of their lifestyle**

as a result, we must be prepared to accept their hostility and show love as Christ showed love

**We must always be prepared to share the gift of God
John 4:10-14**

**develop curiosity
be prepared to answer questions
compare physical and spiritual life
offer eternal life**

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**We must be prepared for defensiveness about sin
John 4:15-18**

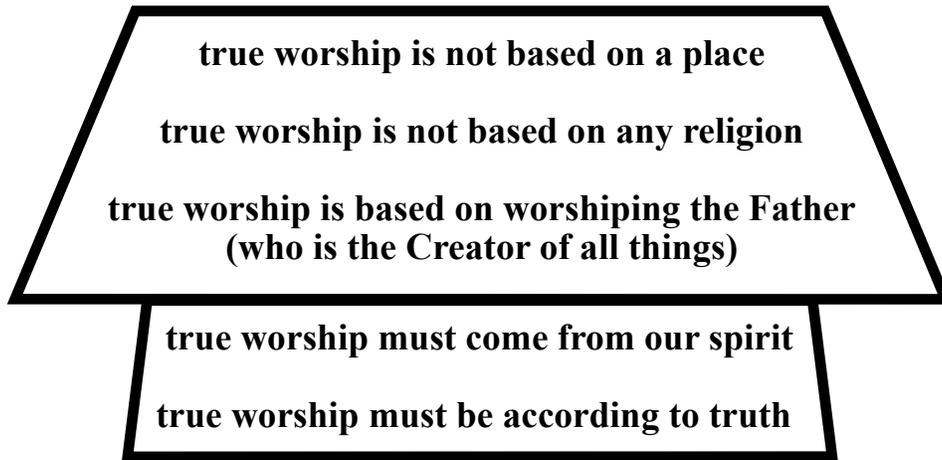
focus on reaching the family, especially the husband, in evangelism

be prepared to accept the fact that the person may have a sinful past

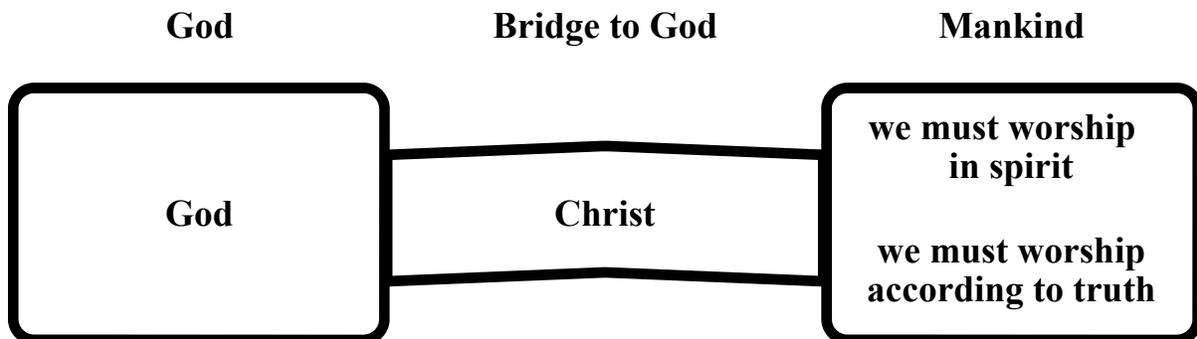
compliment the person for telling the truth

**We must distinguish between where we worship and who we worship
John 4:19-24**

**Many people will question what religion is right
We must carefully show that:**

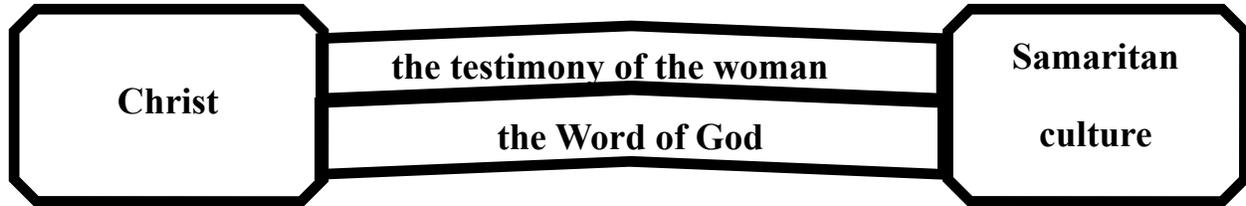


**We must remember that our purpose is to introduce people to Christ
John 4:24-26**



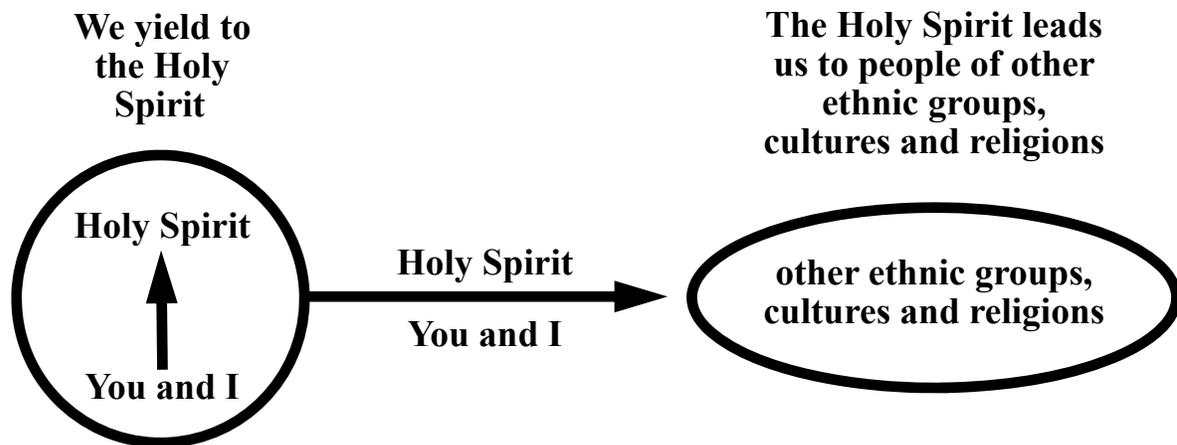
We must allow time for the person of another culture to discuss Christ with their family, friends and community
John 4:28-30, 39-42

The bridges to bring Christ to another culture

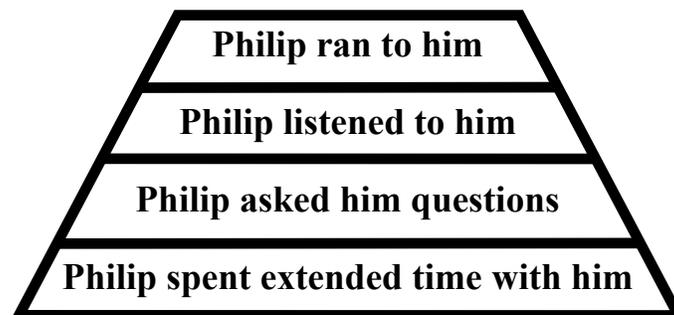


We must depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to a different ethnic group, culture or religion

Philip was led by the Spirit as he went to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:4-5, 8:29



We let the Holy Spirit guide our contacts and lead in building bridges
Acts 8:30-34



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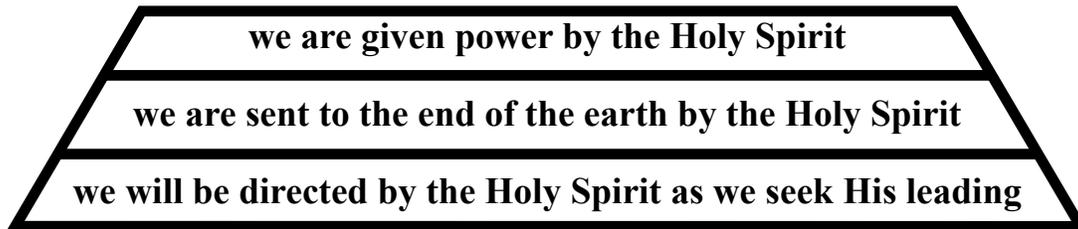
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Learning to cross the barrier of another language or going to another part of the world

**We must remember that we are sent and given power by the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:8, 13:1-3**



**We may meet three different groups of people in another part of the world
Acts 17:16-17**

the three groups	their beliefs	where we meet them
Jews	believe in the Old Testament	in the synagogue
Gentile worshipers	believe in the true God	in a place of worship
everyone else who happens to be there	believe in their own gods and philosophies	in the marketplace, their homes or any other place

**We need to understand the backgrounds of the people in the marketplace
Acts 17:18**

the various people

the various ideas of these people

the Epicureans	this group had given up on finding truth and were just living for pleasure
the Stoics	this group said that they could be self-sufficient and lived a very disciplined life
those who called Paul a babler	the group that called Paul a babler were those who mocked and made fun
those who called Paul a proclaimer of foreign gods	this group was those who had a fear of evil spirits or were involved in various forms of idol worship (the word “foreign gods” is “demons” in all other uses)

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