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Equipping Christians for Biblical Evangelism

by
Duane L. Anderson



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Equipping Christians for Biblical Evangelism

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Equipping Christians for Biblical Evangelism

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Introduction
Equipping Christians for Biblical Evangelism

Biblical Evangelism is not a Church Program

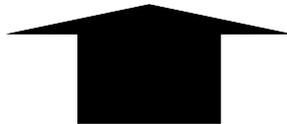
Most church programs for evangelism are confrontational

Church evangelism programs may have limited participation
Usually have a small percentage of total church involved



Church evangelism programs often focus on:

Contacting church visitors
Contacting people new to the area
(transfers seeking a new church)
One-time blitz of an area to distribute literature



Church evangelism programs are usually confrontational

Usually give a set of words and verses to share
Usually seek an immediate decision
or
May focus on literature distribution



Church evangelism programs are usually time specific

Usually happen at certain hours on a scheduled day of the week or month
Usually involve a small percentage of the people in the church
Usually function only during the hours scheduled

**Evangelism as a church program
usually has some or all of the above characteristics**

A program is better than nothing but it has real limitations!

I. Biblical Evangelism Must Begin in Our Heart

A. Biblical evangelism is rooted in the Old Testament

Matthew 22:37-40

“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

B. Biblical evangelism is our response to the Love of Christ

1 John 4:18-19

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.”

C. Biblical evangelism is learning to live for Christ instead of self

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.”

D. Biblical evangelism grows out of a heart of 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.’”

**loving God with our all our heart is commanded
loving our neighbor (the lost) as oneself fulfills the Old Testament
loving Christ casts out our fear and gives us boldness - Acts 4:29-31
loving Christ results in living our lives for Christ instead of self
loving Christ giving us a heart of compassion for the lost
loving Christ causes us to pray for laborers for the harvest**

II. Biblical Evangelism Must Transform Our Mind

A. Transforming our mind teaches us how to work with the Trinity

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God..”

B. Transforming our mind teaches us how to work with the Holy Spirit

John 16:8-11

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

1. the Holy Spirit convinces the world of the sin of unbelief - John 16:9

“Of sin, because they do not believe in Me”

Adam had to believe God or believe Satan

Genesis 2:16-17

“And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”

Genesis 3:4

“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”

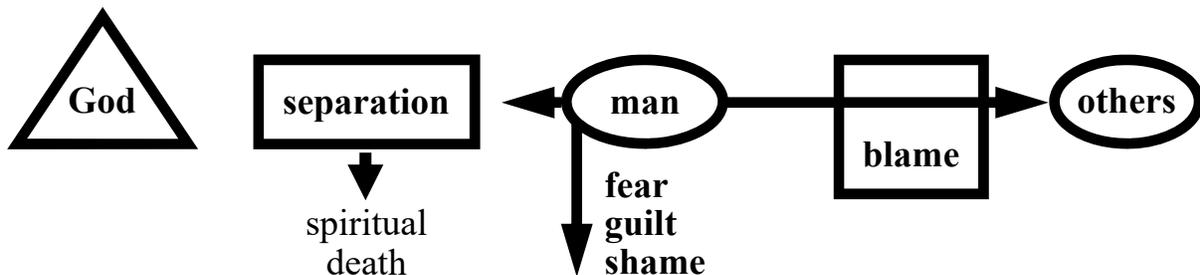
Adam chose to believe Satan and not believe God

Genesis 3:6

“So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Adam chose temporary pleasure over eternal consequences

Adam immediately experienced five consequences - Genesis 3:7-13



Adam passed on those consequences to all men

Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”

Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Man cannot reverse those consequences by his own efforts

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Titus 3:5

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Man must repent of the sin of unbelief

Acts 20:20-21

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Man must believe in the heart

Romans 10:9-10

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Man must receive by faith

John 1:12-13

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”



2. the Holy Spirit convinces the world that Jesus is the Righteous One - John 16:10
“Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more.”

Christ is no longer on earth so that people can see He is the Righteous One

Acts 1:9-11

“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.’”

Christ could pay for sin because He was without sin

1 Peter 2:21-24

“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin nor was deceit found in His mouth’; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

Pilate declared that he could find no fault in Jesus

John 18:38

“Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’ And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, ‘I find no fault in Him at all.’”

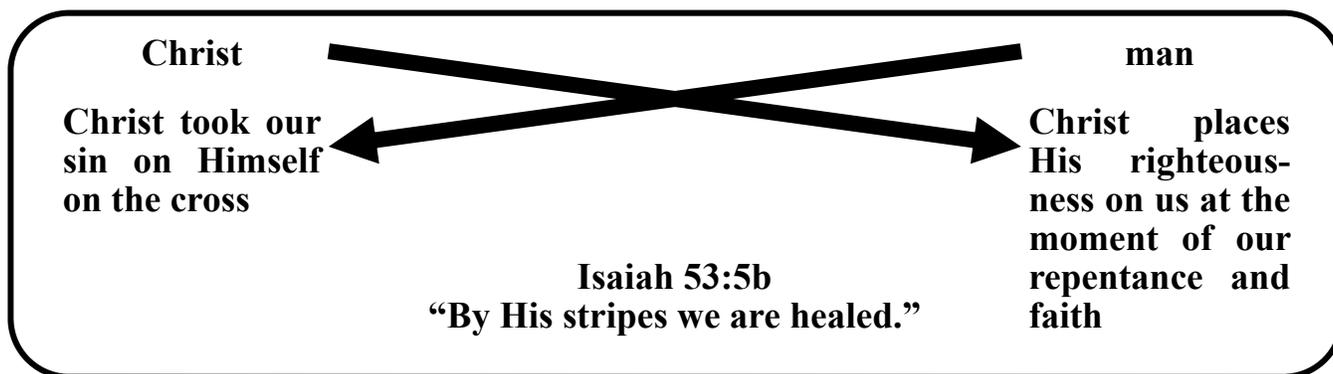
John 19:4

“Pilate then went out again, and said to them, ‘Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him.’”

Christ became sin for us

2 Corinthians 5:21

“For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



3. the Holy Spirit convinces the world that Satan has been judged - John 16:11
“Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

Christ was forsaken by the Father as He paid for our sin
Mark 15:33-34

“Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?’ which is translated, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”

The Father was satisfied with the payment that Jesus made
Isaiah 53:11

“He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”

1 John 2:1-2

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

Christ finished the payment for our sin and sealed the judgment of Satan
John 19:30

“So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

Satan knows that his time is short and wants to deceive as many as possible
Revelation 20:3

“And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

Revelation 20:8

“And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.”

Satan and those who continue to follow him will experience eternal judgment
Revelation 20:10

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Revelation 20:15

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Christ made the judgment of Satan certain by His death on the cross!

B. Transforming our mind teaches us how to work with the Father

John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The Father must draw people because we have all gone astray

Isaiah 53:6

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

The Father must draw people because no man seeks God

Romans 3:11

“There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.”

The Father must draw people as every part of the human spirit has been affected by sin

Natural light (what we can know of God from His creation)

Romans 1:19-20

“Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”

Conscience (what we can know about God from our conscience)

Romans 1:21

“Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

Wisdom (what we can know about God from wisdom)

Romans 1:22

“Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

Sensitivity (our capacity to be sensitive to God and others)

Romans 1:23

“And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

Creativity (our capacity to be creative in serving God and others)

Romans 1:24-25

“Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

man is spiritually dead and totally corrupted by sin!

C. Transforming our mind teaches us how to work with the Son
Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

The Son calls us to be sowers and reapers
Mark 4:26-29

“And He said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.’”

Christ calls us to be sowers of seed (the Word of God)
Mark 4:13-14

“And He said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word.’”

Christ calls us to water the seed
1 Corinthians 3:6

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”

Christ calls us to be reapers in His harvest
John 4:35-37

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’”

Basic principles for Biblical evangelism
(These principles will be explained more fully on the following pages)

The parable of the sower is the basic parable for all Biblical evangelism

we are to be sowing seed by going to others and sharing the Word of God
we are to be watering seed by persistently praying for the Lord to open hearts
we are to lift up our eyes and look on the fields around us
we are to gather fruit for eternal life

The parable of the sower is the basic parable for all Biblical Evangelism

Mark 4:13-20

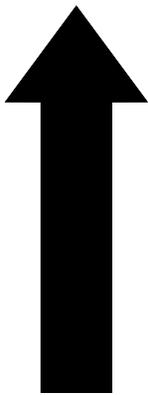
“And He said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.’”

We will only be sowers if we are sowing the Word of God

Romans 10:13-17

“For ‘whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.’ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, ‘LORD, who has believed our report?’ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Salvation



requires calling on the name of the Lord
requires believing faith
requires hearing
requires a messenger to bring the message
requires one who has been sent
requires hearing the Word of God



John 20:21

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

**We sow the seed (the Word of God), but the Trinity prepares the soil (hearts)
Mark 4:14**

“The sower sows the word.”

**Some hearts are like the hard path
Mark 4:15**

“And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.”

some immediately have Satan come and take away the Word sown in their hearts

**Some hearts are like the stony soil
Mark 4:16-17**

“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.”

some hear the Word and receive it with gladness, but it does not take root

**these are interested only for a time
these stumble when tribulation comes
these stumble when persecution comes**

**Some hearts are like stony soil
Mark 4:18-19**

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

some hear the Word, but other things choke the Word

**these things include the cares of this world
these things include the deceitfulness of riches
these things include the desires for other things
these things choke the Word and it becomes unfruitful**

Some hearts are like the good soil

Mark 4:20

“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

Matthew 13:23

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

some hear the Word and understand it

**they hear the Word of God
the Holy Spirit gives them understanding
they accept the message of the Gospel
their lives bear fruit as they learn to serve the Lord**

**We participate with the Trinity through our prayers for those with whom we share
1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

**we pray that the Lord will give them a heart to really hear the Word
we pray that the Holy Spirit will help them understand the Word**

**We participate with the Trinity by praying the Lord will open their hearts
Acts 16:14**

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

we pray the Father will draw them and open their hearts

**We participate with the Trinity by praying that they will respond
Acts 20:20-21**

“How I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

we pray that they will come to Christ in repentance and faith

III. Biblical Evangelism Will Transform Our Actions

A. Transforming our heart and mind gives us a concern for others

1. we will begin to pray for our relatives and share the Word with them

John 1:40-42

“One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ).’ And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, ‘You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone).”

the first thing Andrew did was bring his brother to Christ

2. we will begin to pray for our friends and share the Word with them

John 1:45-47

“Philip found Nathanael and said to him, ‘We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’ And Nathanael said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, ‘Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!’”

the first thing Philip did was bring his friend to Christ

3. we will begin to pray for co-workers and share the Word with them

Luke 5:27-29

“After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.”

the first thing Levi (Matthew) did was bring his co-workers to Christ

4. we will begin to pray for neighbors and share the Word with them

Mark 1:17, 29, 33

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’ ...²⁹Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ...³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door.”

Andrew and Peter began to reach out to neighbors and other acquaintances

5. we will begin to pray for strangers and share the Word with them

John 6:8-9

“One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him, ‘There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?’”

Andrew got acquainted with a boy and brought him to Christ

6. we will begin to share with other ethnic groups and share the Word with them

John 12:20-22

“Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.”

Andrew got acquainted with some Greeks and he brought them to Christ

7. we will begin to pray for the nations and share the Word with them

Acts 1:14, 2:4-6, 41

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. ...⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.”

the entire first church got acquainted with others and brought them to Christ

8. we pray and show those who become Christians how to share the Word

Acts 2:46-47, 8:1-4

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

“Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen *to his burial*, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”

the entire early church went everywhere preaching the Word!

IV. Biblical Evangelism Equips Us to Share the Word

(Christ showed the disciples various ways to become fishers of men)

A. Christ showed the disciples how to use confrontation in evangelism
(Christ only used this approach with those who thought they were good enough)

1. this included a Pharisee like Nicodemus

John 3:1-7

“There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again.’”

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a Jewish religious leader

Nicodemus recognized that Jesus had come from God

Nicodemus was immediately confronted by Christ

Nicodemus lacked understanding and thought about physical birth

Nicodemus had no understanding of the need for spiritual birth

Nicodemus had no understanding of what it meant to be born of the Spirit

Christ gave Nicodemus an opportunity to experience salvation

John 3:14-18

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Christ introduced His coming death on the cross

Christ introduced His reason for coming into the world

Christ offered eternal life as a free gift received by belief

Christ said that He had come to provide salvation to all who believe

Christ said that all who do not believe are already condemned

2. This included a rich young ruler who wanted to inherit salvation

Mark 10:17-23

“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’ So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” And he answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.’ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, ‘One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.’ But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!’”

this young man came running to Christ
this young man wanted to inherit eternal life
this young man called Christ “good”
this young man heard that only God is “good”
this young man heard the commandments that relate to man
this young man said that he had kept all of these commands
this young man was loved by Jesus so Jesus told him what he lacked
Jesus knew that his money was his idol
Jesus told him to go and get rid of his idol
Jesus told him to come and take up the cross
Jesus told him to come and follow Him
Jesus saw that he wanted earthly treasure
Jesus saw that he was unwilling to believe
Jesus saw that he was unwilling to receive heavenly treasure
Jesus saw him walk away in sorrow and not believe
Jesus said it is hard for those with riches to enter the kingdom of God

3. This included a lawyer who tested Christ

Luke 10:25, 29, 36-37

“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’...²⁹But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ ...³⁶So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?’ And he said, ‘He who showed mercy on him.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

Christ made it clear that to inherit eternal life one must have a pure heart

Christ let the lawyer reveal by his words that his heart was not pure

B. Christ and others showed disciples how to use clarification in evangelism

1. this included both listening and asking questions

Luke 2:46-47

“Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.”

Mark 12:28-34

“Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, ‘Which is the first commandment of all?’ Jesus answered him, ‘The first of all the commandments *is*: “Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” This is the first commandment. And the second, like *it*, *is* this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ So the scribe said to Him, ‘Well *said*, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.’ Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ But after that no one dared question Him.”

Christ listened so that He could clarify understanding
Christ asked questions to help others think carefully
Christ took time to answer the questions of others
Christ clarified where people were in their understanding

2. This included inviting people to search the Scriptures

John 5:37-39

“And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”

Christ invited people to search the Scriptures to find out what was true
Christ said the Scriptures would explain what the Father said about Him
Christ said that the Scriptures also testified of Him

3.this included inviting people to search the Scriptures daily

Acts 17:11-12

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

**the Bereans were fair-minded
the Bereans received the Word with all readiness
the Bereans searched the Scriptures daily
the Bereans wanted to know if what Paul said was right
the Bereans had many who believed in Christ
those who believed included many Greeks
those who believed included prominent women and men**

4. this included explaining the Scriptures

Acts 8:29-37

“Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ And he said, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this: ‘He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.’ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, ‘I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?’ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’”

**Philip was led by the Holy Spirit
Philip listened to find out what the man understood
Philip was available to explain what was not clear
Philip explained the Word of God, not his opinions
Philip made sure the man truly believed in Christ**

C. Christ showed disciples how to use compassion in evangelism

1. this included one chosen to be one of the twelve disciples

Christ called Levi (Matthew) while he was working as a tax collector

Luke 5:27-28

“After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.”

Christ chose a hated tax collector to be one of His disciples
Christ called Matthew while he was collecting taxes for the Romans
Christ gave new life and new hope to a hated tax collector
Christ chose to invest His life in a hated tax collector

Christ was invited by Matthew to meet his co-workers

Luke 5:29-30

“Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, ‘Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?’”

Matthew knew how to help his co-workers meet Christ
Matthew had a great feast to help his co-workers meet Christ
Matthew and a great number of co-workers were at that feast
Matthew and his co-workers were rejected in their culture

Christ explained His purpose for coming to this earth

Luke 5:31-32

“Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance.’”

Christ showed acceptance to tax collectors and sinners
Christ said He did not come to call the righteous
(There is none righteous, no, not one. - Romans 3:10)
Christ did come to call sinners to repentance

2. this included a Samaritan woman

a. Christ took the initiative to make the first contact

John 4:5-7

“So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’”

**Christ sat where He could meet people
Christ chose to make contacts with those He met
Christ reached out to people of other cultures
Christ showed acceptance by drinking from her container**

b. Christ accepted hostility without feeling personally rejected

John 4:9

“Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.’”

**many people feel rejected because of their ethnic group
many people feel rejected because of their culture
many people feel rejected because of their religion
many people feel rejected because of their lifestyle**

c. Christ was prepared to share the gift of God

John 4:10-14

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?’ Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’”

**Christ developed her curiosity
Christ was prepared to answer questions
Christ compared physical and spiritual life
Christ offered eternal life**

d. Christ was prepared for defensiveness about sin

John 4:15-18

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come here.’ The woman answered and said, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You have well said, “I have no husband,” for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”

Christ focused on reaching the family
Christ accepted the woman’s defensive attitude
Christ complemented the woman for telling the truth
Christ accepted the woman and her sinful past
Christ thanked her for speaking the truth

e. Christ make the distinction between where we worship and who we worship

John 4:19-24

“The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

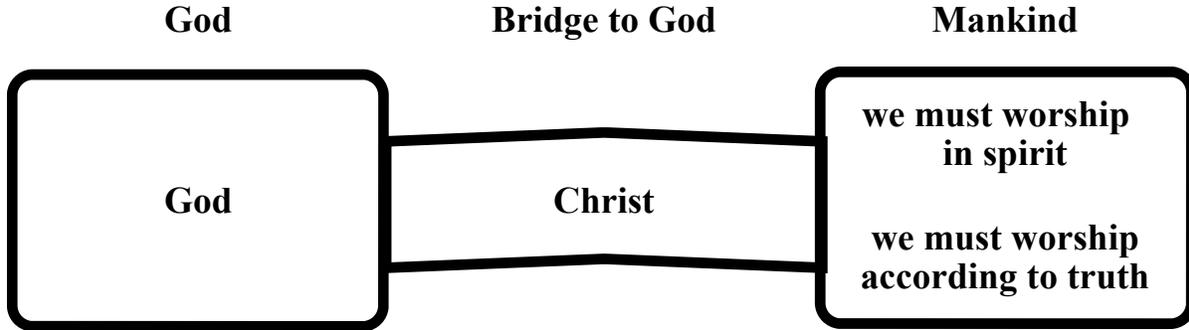
Christ heard the woman say that worship happened in a place
Christ explained that worship is not based on a particular place
Christ explained that worship is not based on religion
Christ explained that true worship is based on worshipping the Father

true worship must come from our spirit
true worship must be according to truth

f. Christ focused on introducing people to Himself

John 4:24-26

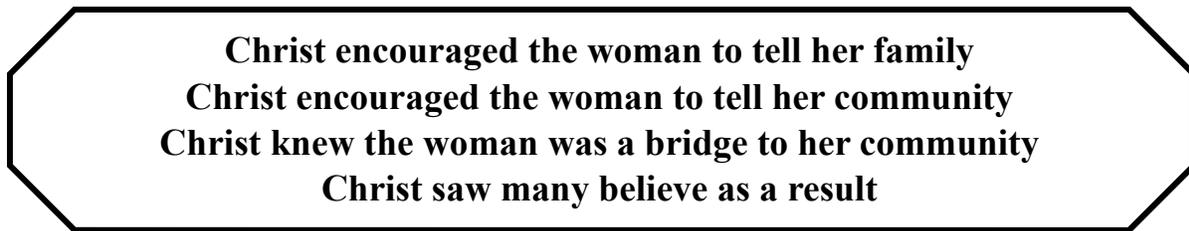
“God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to Him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When He comes, He will tell us all things.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I who speak to you am *He*.’”



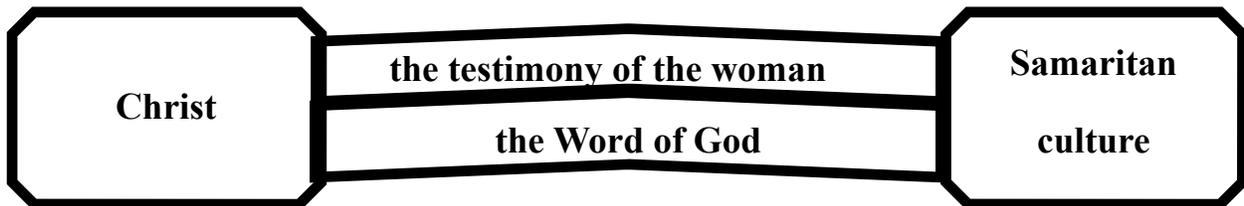
g. Christ encouraged the woman to discuss Christ with her family, friends and community

John 4:28-30, 39-42

“The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, ‘Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?’ Then they went out of the city and came to Him. ...³⁹And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, ‘He told me all that I *ever* did.’ So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word. Then they said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”



Bridges to bring Christ to another culture



3. this included a woman caught in the act of adultery

a. Christ met a woman who was condemned by her culture

John 8:2-4

“Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act.’”

Christ saw the scribes and Pharisees publicly humiliate the woman

Christ knew it takes two people to be caught in the very act

Christ knew the second person that was also guilty of adultery

b. Christ revealed the hypocrisy of the men who brought the woman

John 8:5-9a

“‘Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?’ This they said, testing Him, that they might have *something* of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with *His* finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, ‘He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.’ And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard *it*, being convicted by *their* conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest *even* to the last.’”

Christ purposely ignored their accusations

Christ wrote on the ground (possibly the Law)

Christ told any sinless person to throw the first stone

Christ gave them all time to be convicted by their own conscience

c. Christ gave the woman new life and new hope

John 8:9b-11

“And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, ‘Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said to her, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.’”

Christ spoke with love to the woman

Christ heard her recognize Him as Lord

Christ set her free from her sin and shame

D. Christ led Paul to show how to use Creation for Evangelism

1. Paul preached about Jesus and the resurrection in Athens

Acts 17:16-20

“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,’ because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, ‘May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.’”

**Paul saw that the city was totally given to idols
Paul spoke daily in the marketplace to those that He met there
Paul spoke in the marketplace about Christ and the resurrection
Paul was asked to explain what He was teaching**

2. Paul began with creation in Athens

Acts 17:22-25

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.’”

**Paul said he took time to observe what the people believed
Paul observed their objects of worship And found an altar:
TO THE UNKNOWN GOD
Paul said He would explain who that God is
Paul said that God is the Creator of all things
Paul said God is Lord of heaven and earth
Paul said God does not live in buildings made with hands
Paul said that God is not worshiped with men’s hands
Paul said that God does not need anything
Paul said God is the giver of life and breath**

3. Paul showed that it is the Creator who gives life to all things

Acts 17:26-29

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising.”

**Paul said God created all peoples of the earth
Paul said God placed people in different places
Paul said that God created people to seek Him
Paul said that God is not very far from any of us
Paul said that in God we live, move and have our being
Paul said that we are the offspring of God
Paul said God is not like gold, silver or stone
Paul said that God cannot be something shaped by art
Paul said God cannot be shaped by man’s devising**

4. Paul finished with repentance and the resurrection

Acts 17:30-34

“Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, ‘We will hear you again on this *matter*.’ So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”

**Paul said God now looked beyond their spiritual blindness
Paul said that God now commands all men everywhere to repent
Paul said that God will judge the world in righteousness
Paul said God will judge the world by the Man He has appointed
Paul said that God had raised this Man from the dead
Paul saw those listening that day give different responses**

**some mocked
some wanted to learn more
some joined Paul and believed**

V. Biblical Evangelism Focuses on Prayer

A. Prayer for those who are not yet Christians

2 Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

When we are driven by fear:

1. we are experiencing the results of Adam's fall - Genesis 3:7-13
2. we will fear people instead of fearing God - Romans 3:18
3. we will focus on the law (or man's rules - Romans 3:19-20) when we are no longer under the law - Galatians 3:24-25
4. we will serve out of fear instead of love - 2 Timothy 1:7

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.

When we are led by the love of Christ:

1. we no longer live for ourselves - 2 Corinthians 5:15
2. we no longer regard people according to the flesh - 2 Corinthians 5:16
3. we realize that we are new creations - 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. we realize that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:18
5. we realize we have been given the word of reconciliation - 2 Corinthians 5:19
6. we realize that we are ambassadors for Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:20
7. we realize that we have received the righteousness of God in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:21
8. we pray for boldness to speak the Word of God - Acts 4:13, 29-31; Ephesians 6:19-20; Philippians 1:20

I. we will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our relatives

He first found his own brother...and he brought him to Jesus. - John 1:41-42

Started Praying for: Prayer Answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Adapted from: "Love Motivates" (page 1 of 2) Updated: July 2023
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II. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our friends

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Joseph.”...Philip said to him, “Come and see.” - John 1:45-46

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

III. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our co-workers

As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow me.” ...Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. - Matthew 9:9-10

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

IV. We will pray and share the Good News of Christ with our neighbors

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John...And the whole city was gathered together at the door. - Mark 1:29-33

Started Praying for: Prayer answered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

B. Prayer for the Lord to prepare hearts

1 Corinthians 3:6

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”

1. we pray that the Lord will prepare hearts as we sow the seed

Mark 4:14

“The sower sows the word.”

we are to be faithful sowers of the seed - the Word of God

a. God says that His Word will not return to Him void

Isaiah 55:8-11

“‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.’”

God’s thoughts are greater than our thoughts

God’s ways are greater than our ways

God’s thoughts are heavenly, while ours are earthly

God’s Word accomplishes His purposes just like the rain

God’s Word is given to us to make us effective sowers of the Word

God’s Word will be like food to those who receive the Word

God’s Word will not return to Him void

God’s Word will accomplish what He pleases

God’s Word will prosper in the place to where He sends it

b. God says that His Word is living and powerful

Hebrews 4:12

“For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

God says that His Word is living and powerful

God says that His Word cuts both ways

God said that His Word divides between the soul and the spirit

God says that His Word discerns the thoughts of the heart

God says that His Word discerns the intents of the heart

2. we pray the Lord will prepare hearts as we water the seed

Ephesians 4:15-16

“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

**we water the seed by speaking the truth in love
we water the seed by continuing to grow up into Christ
we see others water with us because we are a body
we become effective as each part does its share
we see God build the body as we water in love**

C. Prayer for the Lord to open hearts

Acts 16:13-14

“And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

**we go where we can meet people
we spend time with them discussing the Word of God
we pray that the Lord will open the hearts as we share
we see the Lord open hearts**

D. Prayer for us to speak the Word with boldness

Ephesians 6:17-20

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

**we use the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God
we continually pray and make our requests in the Spirit
we pray that the Lord will give us the words to speak
we pray that we will open our mouth boldly
we pray that we will make the mystery of the Gospel clear
we pray that we will be good ambassadors for Christ
we pray that we will speak the Word of God boldly**

VI. Biblical Evangelism Means Learning to Work with the Trinity

A. The ministry of the Trinity in evangelism

The Holy Spirit convicts

John 16:7-11

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Father draws

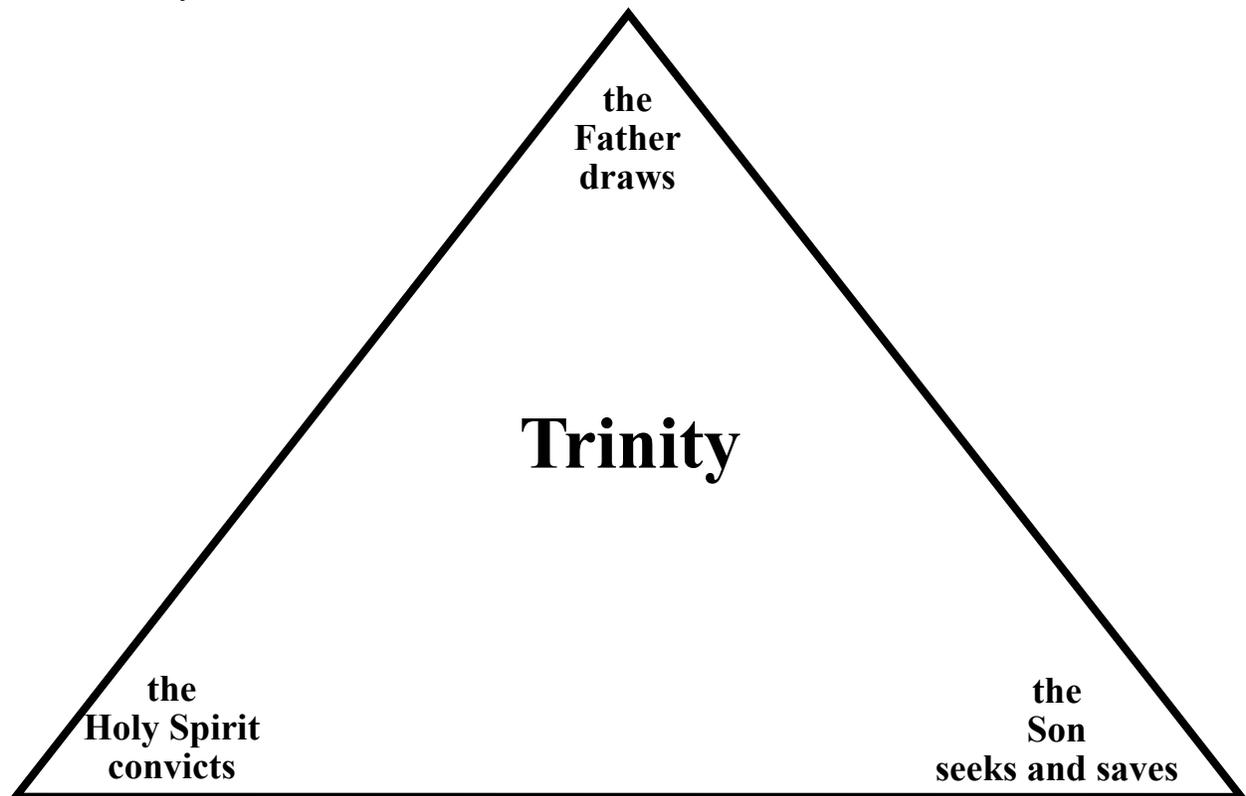
John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Son seeks and saves

Luke 19:10

...for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.



This diagram is adapted from page 1 of the manual "Working with the Trinity in Evangelism and Follow-up"
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**B. Working with the Holy Spirit in evangelism
John 16:7-11**

**Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit
John 16:7**

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

Christ promised that the Holy Spirit would do three things for the non-Christian

**The Holy Spirit convicts or convinces
 (“Convict” means *to convict or to convince*)
John 16:8**

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

**1. the Holy Spirit convinces of the sin of unbelief
John 16:9**

“Of sin, because they do not believe in Me.”

the one sin that keeps people out of heaven is the sin of unbelief

**The Holy Spirit convinces of the fact that Jesus Christ is the Righteous One
John 16:10**

“Of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more.”

**Christ is now in heaven and so people cannot see Him
Since people cannot see Christ:
(The Holy Spirit convinces people that Jesus is the Righteous One)**

**The Holy Spirit convinces that Satan is already judged
John 16:11**

“Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

**Satan thought he had won when Christ died
Satan knew He had lost when Christ rose from the dead
Satan is on death row awaiting the carrying out of that sentence
all those who choose to continue to follow Satan
will share in his judgment**

Working with the Holy Spirit in evangelism from the book of Genesis

The sin of unbelief illustrated

Believe God or Believe Satan Genesis 2:17

“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3:4

“Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”

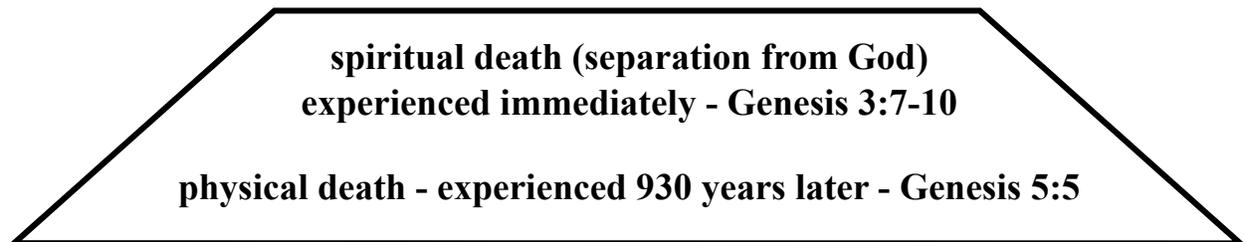
The *choice* Adam and Eve faced

Believe God



Believe Satan

The consequences of unbelief



2. the Righteous One promised Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Christ



Satan



when Christ died, Satan thought he had won
this was like a bruise to the heel of Christ

3. the judgment of Satan Genesis 3:15—see verse above

when Christ rose again, Satan knew he was judged
this was a fatal blow to the head of Satan

C. Working with the Father in Evangelism
John 6:44

1. the Father draws people to Christ
John 6:44

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Some may only show a temporary interest because of their own needs
Mark 4:2-9

“Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: ‘Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And it happened, as he sowed, *that some seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. And some *seed* fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. But other *seed* fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.’ And He said to them, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”

Some are like seed by the wayside
they have no interest and Satan immediately takes away what they hear
Mark 4:15

“And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.”

Some are like seed on the stony ground
they show an immediate interest but take no Root
Mark 4:16-17

“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.”

Some are like seed among thorns
they have their interest choked by Riches or the Problems of Life
Mark 4:18-19

“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

2. the Father draws all who He has chosen

John 6:37

“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

Some are like seed on the Good Ground

Mark 4:20

“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

**hear the Word - to hear so that there is understanding
accept the Word - to take to oneself or to accept
bear fruit - to be fruitful or bear fruit of itself**

The Father works through the Word

Acts 17:11

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.”

3. the Father leads people to accept the Word

Acts 17:12

“Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men.”

Christ causes our lives to become fruitful

John 15:7-9

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

**we work with the Father as we share the Word of God
we work with the Father as we help people search the Scriptures
we work with the Father as we abide in Christ
we work with the Father as we pray for the will of the Father
we bring glory to the Father by bearing much fruit
we work with the Father as we become His disciples
we work with the Father as we abide in the love of Christ**

D. Working with the Son in Evangelism

1. the Son seeks those who are lost

Luke 19:10

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

2. the Son saves those who are lost

Luke 15:4

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

**the Son seeks the sheep that is lost
the Son seeks until He finds the sheep that is lost**

The Son brings the sheep with rejoicing

Luke 15:5

“And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing.”

**the Son finds His lost sheep
the Son carries His sheep
the Son rejoices**

The Son invites us to join with Him in rejoicing

Luke 15:6-7

“And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

**the Son invites His friends to rejoice with Him
the Son invites others to rejoice with Him
the Son invites the angels to rejoice with Him
the Son is filled with joy when one repents**

VII. Biblical Evangelism Is Obeying the Great Commission

A. Understanding the Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

One Command

**make disciples
matheteuo (3100)**

Three participles which tell us how to obey that command

**going (to all - Mark 16:15)
baptizing (all who repent - Acts 2:38-41)
teaching (them to obey all that Christ commanded - Matthew 7:24-27)**

Where should this command be carried out?

**among all the nations (ethnos)
among all the ethnic and people groups
Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8**

Whose power should we depend on?

We cannot depend on our own strength

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing...”

We must depend on the power Christ provides

“Lo, I am with you always”

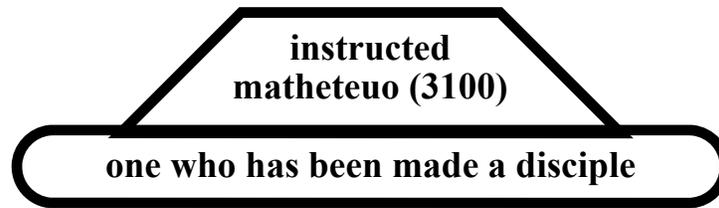
Acts 1:4-5, 8

“And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. ...⁸But 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.”

B. Making disciples defined

Matthew 13:52

“Then He said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure *things* new and old.’”



A person who has been made a disciple of the kingdom of God is like:

**a householder - the head of a spiritual household or family
(to have a spiritual family, we must be a spiritual parent)**
a spiritual newborn - 1 Peter 2:2
a spiritual toddler - 1 Corinthians 13:11
a spiritual child - 1 John 2:13; Luke 2:40
a spiritual young man - 1 John 2:13-14
a spiritual parent - 1 John 2:13-14; 1 Corinthians 4:14-17

has a treasure - that treasure is the Word of God
1. involves hearing the Word of God - Romans 10:17
2. involves reading the Word of God - Revelation 1:3
3. involves studying the Word of God - 2 Timothy 2:15
4. involves memorizing the Word of God - Psalm 119:11
5. involves meditating on the Word of God - Psalm 1:1-3

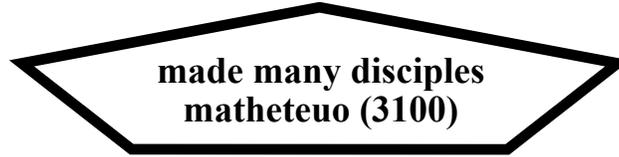
**brings out of that treasure things that are new
(is continuing to learn new things)**
a learner's attitude - Philippians 3:7-14
growing in Christ's righteousness
growing in knowing Christ
keeping our eyes focused on the goal

**brings out of that treasure things that are old
(can teach the basics of Christianity)**
a spiritual mother provides tender care - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9
a spiritual father provides example and teaching - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

C. Making disciples continually practiced in the book of Acts

Acts 14:21

“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.”



The early church started with at least 120 disciples

Acts 1:15

“And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said...”

The early church focused on making disciples

Acts 6:1a

“Now in those days, *when the number of the disciples was multiplying.*”

The early church focused on multiplying disciples in Jerusalem

Acts 6:7

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

The early church focused on making disciples throughout Judea and Samaria

Acts 9:38

“And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring *him* not to delay in coming to them.”

The early church focused on making disciples in Antioch

Acts 11:26

“And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”

The early church focused on making disciples everywhere

Acts 16:1-2

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium.”

making disciples was the key ministry of the early church

D. Making disciples defined by Paul

Disciple making is not mentoring

The word “mentor” was first introduced to the world by Homer in his *Odyssey*. Mentor was the name of the slave (paidagogos) who was given the responsibility of raising the son until he reached maturity in the *Odyssey*. Historically the Greeks used the word (paidagogos) to speak of the slave who was assigned the responsibility to raise the child until puberty. The “paidagogos” usually focused on severe discipline to prepare the boy for manhood. The Greeks felt that raising a child was not the work of a parent but just the work of a slave. Today, many people have the same attitude.

In recent years, the world has placed great emphasis on the role of mentoring in the business world. As a result, in recent years, many Christians have started to use the word “mentoring” to describe their concept of how to make a disciple. (Isn't it interesting how the church often tries to follow the world, which has absolutely no concept of spiritual life and spiritual maturity, to describe spiritual ministry.)

However “paidagogos” is only used three times in the New Testament and it is always used in a negative sense. Making Disciples is not providing a “mentor” to help a Christian in his development. Notice how the word “paidagogos” is used in the New Testament.

Galatians 3:24-25

“Therefore the law was our tutor (paidagogos) *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a **tutor.**” (paidagogos)

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand **instructors** (paidagogos) in Christ, *yet you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

The Old Testament Law caused us to recognize our sin so that we came to Christ. However, we have been set free from the Old Testament Law. Just like in Corinth, many Christians try to help others grow as Christians by laws, instead of through love and example. We Make Disciples by inviting others to imitate our lives. We motivate others by the Love of Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

E. Disciple making is spiritual parenting

Characteristics of the parenting of Paul of the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, *yet you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

**Paul warned them as beloved children
Paul became a father instead of a mentor
Paul taught them to imitate his example
Paul sent Timothy to remind them of his ways
Paul was consistent in his teaching everywhere**

Characteristics of the parenting of Paul, Silvanus and Timothy in Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. *You are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

**they provided the gentle care of a nursing mother
they shared their lives and not just the Word of God
they provided an example of godly Christian living
they provided encouragement and challenge to a worthy walk**

F. Disciple making must focus on developing “adult sons”

Spiritual maturity is the goal of disciple making

Newborn babes - 1 Peter 2:2

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby...”

Spiritual toddlers

1 Corinthians 3:1-3, 13:11; Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 5:11-14

(everything it says about the spiritual toddler is bad)

Spiritual children

Spiritual young men

Spiritual parents

1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who* is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who* is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

Spiritual maturity requires helping Christians become “adult sons”

An “adult son” is a Christian who gives as well as receives

Titus began as a new convert of Paul - Galatians 2:3

Titus became a spiritual son to Paul - Titus 1:4

Titus provided rest to the spirit of Paul - 2 Corinthians 2:12-13

Titus provided encouragement to Paul - 2 Corinthians 7:5-7

Titus brought joy to Paul - 2 Corinthians 7:13-15

Titus ministered on behalf of Paul - 2 Corinthians 8:6

Titus had the same concern for others as Paul - 2 Corinthians 8:16

Titus was viewed as a partner by Paul - 2 Corinthians 8:23

Titus walked with the same spirit as Paul - 2 Corinthians 12:18

Christ illustrated the transition as Christians become “adult sons”

A child is provided with supervision - Galatians 4:1; Matthew 4:18-22

A friend shares plans and reproduces - John 15:12-16

A brother is treated as an equal partner - John 20:17-23

an “adult son” is one who has become an equal partner in ministry

VIII. Biblical Evangelism Happens As We Depend on the Power of the Holy Spirit

Isaiah 11:2

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

The seven-fold fullness of the Holy Spirit:

the Spirit of the LORD
the Spirit of wisdom
the Spirit of understanding
the Spirit of counsel
the Spirit of might (power)
the Spirit of knowledge
the Spirit of the fear of the Lord

**Depending on our own strength
causes us to:**

**Be entangled in a yoke of bondage
Galatians 5:1**

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

**Fail to love our neighbor
Galatians 5:14-15**

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”

we fail to love
we speak words that hurt
we speak words that wound
we speak words that destroy

**We can now depend on the Spirit of
the LORD**

**The Spirit gives us liberty
2 Corinthians 3:17-18**

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

**The Spirit helps us serve through love
Galatians 5:13**

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

we do not use our liberty to
satisfy self

we use our liberty to
serve others
by sharing the Gospel

**Depending on our own strength
causes us to:**

**have self-seeking in our hearts
James 3:14-16**

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there.”

**Our hearts are not yielding to the
Holy Spirit**

**this causes us to have bitter envy
this causes us to be self-seeking
this causes us to boast
this causes us to lie**

**We depend on the wisdom of the
world**

**this wisdom is earthly
this wisdom is sensual
this wisdom is demonic**

**This wisdom produces fruit
from a sinful heart**

**confusion
every evil thing**

**We can now depend on the Spirit of
wisdom**

James 3:17-18

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

**We are now able to share the wisdom
from above which is:**

Pure
truly pure from every fault
Peaceable
brings peace with it
Gentle
fair, mild and gentle
Willing to yield
easily obeying
Full of mercy
*full of kindness and good will
toward the afflicted*
Full of good fruits
full of works which are excellent
Without partiality
*does not discriminate or separate
self from others*
Without hypocrisy
*wisdom that is sincere and does
not deceive*

This bears the fruit of a pure heart

**we sow the fruit of
righteousness
we bear fruit that causes others
to experience peace with God**

Depending on our own understanding causes us to:

**Fail to understand and do the will of the Lord
Ephesians 5:17**

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.”

**Fail to depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us
John 14:26**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

**Have a spirit of fear of sharing the Gospel
2 Timothy 1:7**

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

**instead of depending on the Spirit to speak the Word of God with boldness
Acts 4:8, 12-13**

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ...¹²Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.’ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”

they saw their boldness!

We can now depend on the Spirit of understanding

1 Corinthians 2:9-13

“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

Spiritual understanding does not come from:

**the things we see
the things we hear
the things we develop from our own thoughts**

Spiritual understanding is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit

**the Spirit of God understands the things of God
the things of God cannot be known except by the Spirit
all Christians have the Spirit of God living within them
the Spirit of God helps us to know the things freely given by God**

**Depending on our own counsel
causes us to:**

Depend on the counsel of this world

**There is no comparison between the
counsel of the world
and the counsel of God**

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

God’s thoughts



man’s thoughts

God’s ways



man’s ways

**Our thoughts and opinions are very
inferior to the Word of God**

Hebrews 4:12

“For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The Word of God:

**is living and powerful
divides between soul and spirit
discerns the thoughts of the heart
discerns the intents of the heart**

**We can now depend on the Spirit of
Counsel**

To open our spiritual eyes

Psalm 119:18

“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”

the Spirit opens our eyes

To guide us into all truth

John 16:12-13

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

the Spirit guides us into all truth

**To help us declare the whole counsel
or purpose of God**

Acts 20:27

“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

**the Spirit of Counsel
helps us to interpret the Word of
God so that people can learn to
follow the counsel of God**

To know what to speak

1 Corinthians 2:13

“These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

**Depending on our own power
causes us to:**

Experience a spirit of fear

1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

we will speak from a heart of fear

We will fail to speak the truth in love

Ephesians 4:15-16

“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

**we may fail to speak the truth
we will fail to speak in love
we will not depend on the Head**

**The power of God is greater than our
own power**

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

In our own power we can do:

Nothing

We can depend on the Spirit of Power

God has given us the Spirit of Power

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.”

**The Spirit gives us power to share
the message of Christ:**

**in our Jerusalem
among our friends and acquaintances
in our Judea
among others of our ethnic or cultural background
in our Samaria
among those of a different ethnic or cultural background
to the ends of the earth
*among those of different languages, cultures and religions***

The Spirit gives us boldness to speak

Ephesians 6:18-20

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”

**we pray in the Spirit
we pray for the words to speak
we pray for boldness to speak
we share the good news of the
Gospel with boldness
we are able to be obedient to God
by speaking**

**Depending on our own knowledge
causes us to:**

**Lack love for others
1 Corinthians 13:2**

“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, but have not love, I am nothing.”

**knowledge can help us know much
knowledge may cause us to lack love**

**Develop wrong inner attitudes
1 Corinthians 8:1**

“Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.”

**knowledge drives us to build up self
Godly love leads us to build up others**

**Depend on the knowledge of this
world which leads to:**

1 Timothy 6:20-21

“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace *be* with you. Amen.”

**profane babblings
vain babblings
contradictions
which can cause us to stray
concerning the faith**

**We can depend on the Spirit of
Knowledge**

**The Spirit of Knowledge helps us to
know the will of God
Colossians 1:9-10**

“For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

The knowledge of His will:

**is given with all wisdom
is given with all spiritual
understanding
helps us to walk worthy of God
helps us to fully please Him
makes us fruitful in every good
work
causes us to increase in the
knowledge of God**

**The Spirit of Knowledge helps us to
come to a full knowledge of Christ
Ephesians 4:13**

“Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

**this knowledge helps us to grow
to spiritual maturity
this knowledge helps us to grow
in Christlikeness**

Depending on self causes us to:

Walk in the fear of people instead of walking in the fear of the Lord
Luke 22:60-62

“But Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are saying!’ Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”

deny Christ
by our words and actions
be reminded of our fear and shame
feel guilty before Christ
feel like a failure

Stay inside our buildings instead of take the Gospel to the lost
John 20:19-21

“Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace *be* with you.’ When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’”

The disciples shut the doors in fear

Christ sent us to take the Gospel

We were given power from on high
Luke 24:49

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

we witness in the power of the Spirit

Fear of the Lord casts out fear of man
1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”

perfect love casts out fear

Fear of the Lord prepares us for opposition to the Gospel
1 Peter 3:14-16

“But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, *you are* blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled’ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.”

we are given strength to suffer
we do not have to fear threats
we do not need to be troubled
we are able to share the Word
we are able to explain our hope
we are able to speak in meekness
we are able to have a good conscience

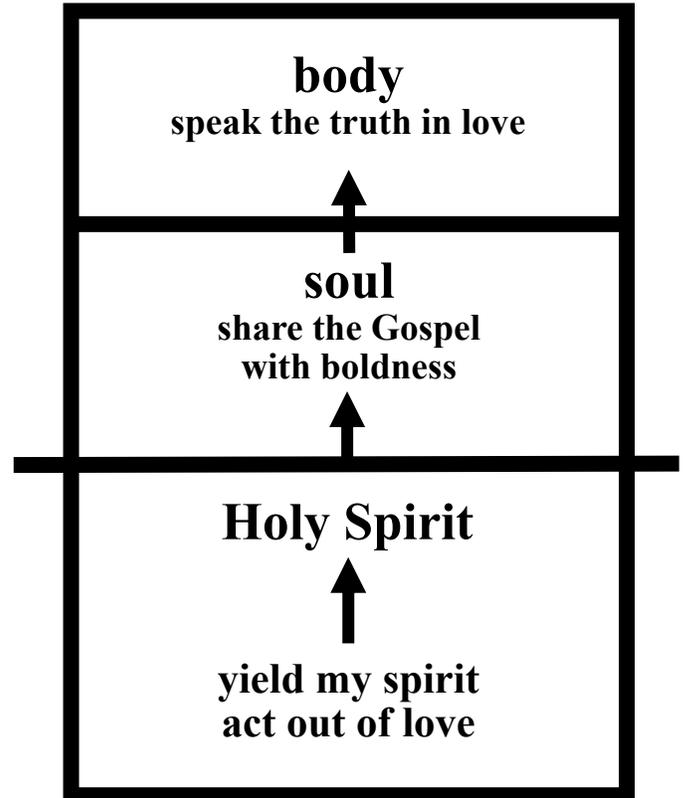
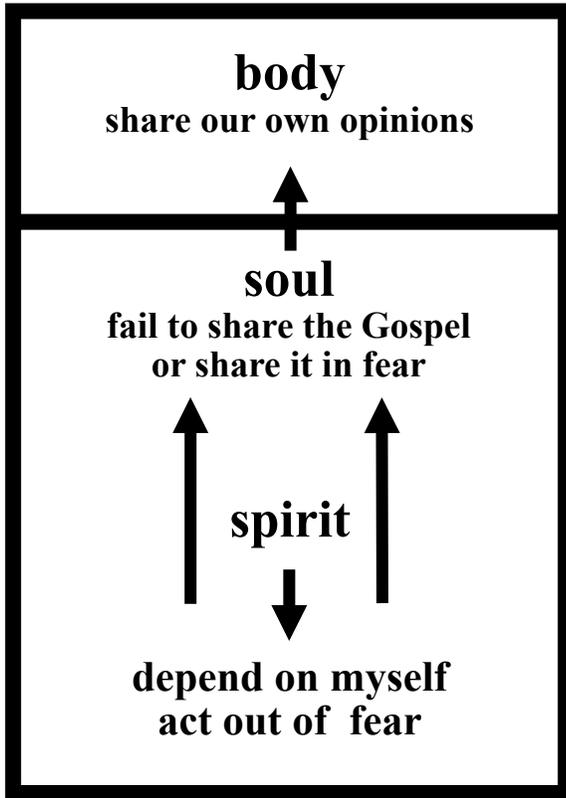
As Christians, we now have a choice of how we share the Gospel

We will act out of fear when we depend on our own strength

We will act out of love when we present ourselves to God

Romans 7:14-25

Romans 8:1-39



depend on our own strength

yield our spirit to the Holy Spirit

Our Choice

**Driven by our own fear
Romans 7:18-19**

**Motivated by the love of Christ
2 Corinthians 5:14-17**

**We can do nothing
John 15:5
John 21:3**

**We will carry out the will of God
Acts 8:4
Acts 9:31**

IX. Biblical Evangelism Gives Us Boldness to Cross Barriers

The Holy Spirit gives us boldness and power to witness

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.

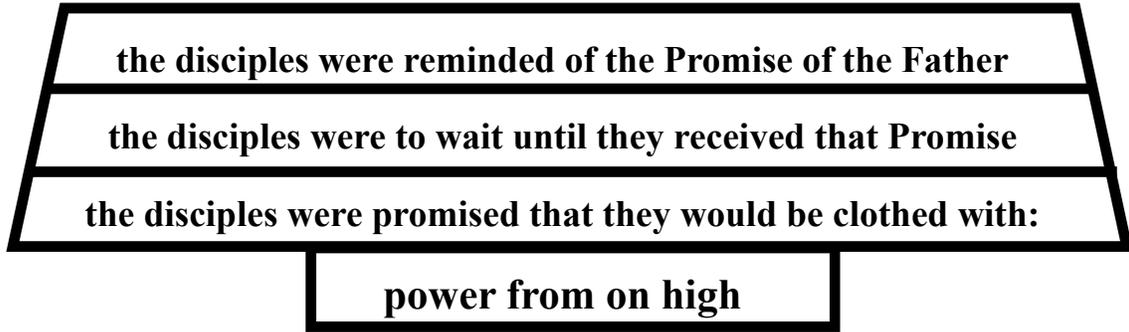
Barriers which we cross to reach out to the people in each of these areas

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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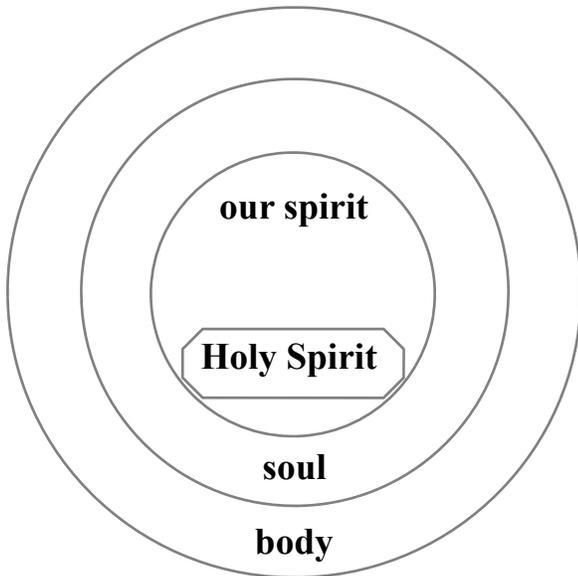
A. Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

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



**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**

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B. Learning to cross the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers

1. 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?

2. 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 11:19-20

“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. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.”

Acts 16:6-9

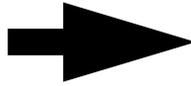
“Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to 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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C. Learning to cross the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion

- 1. 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

- 2. 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**

- 3. 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

- 4. 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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**5. 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

**6. 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:**

**true worship is not based on a place
true worship is not based on any religion
true worship is based on worshipping the Father
(who is the Creator of all things)**

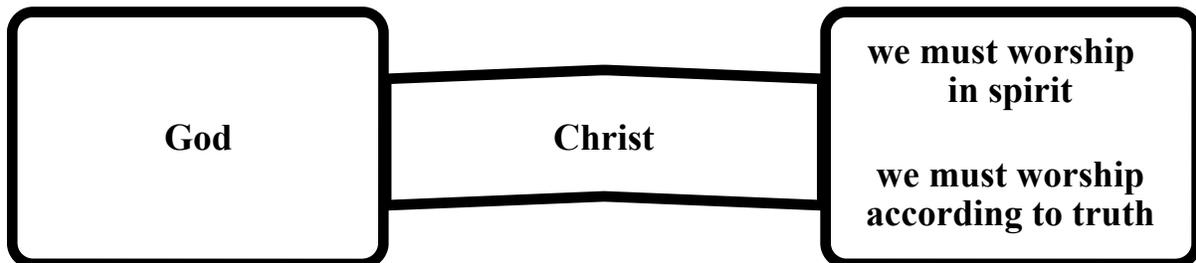
**true worship must come from our spirit
true worship must be according to truth**

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

God

Bridge to God

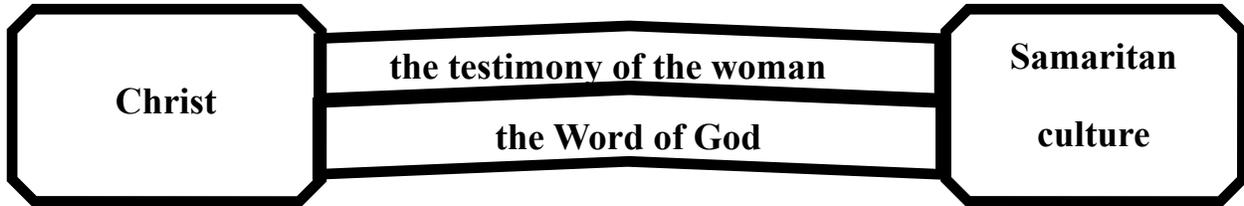
Mankind



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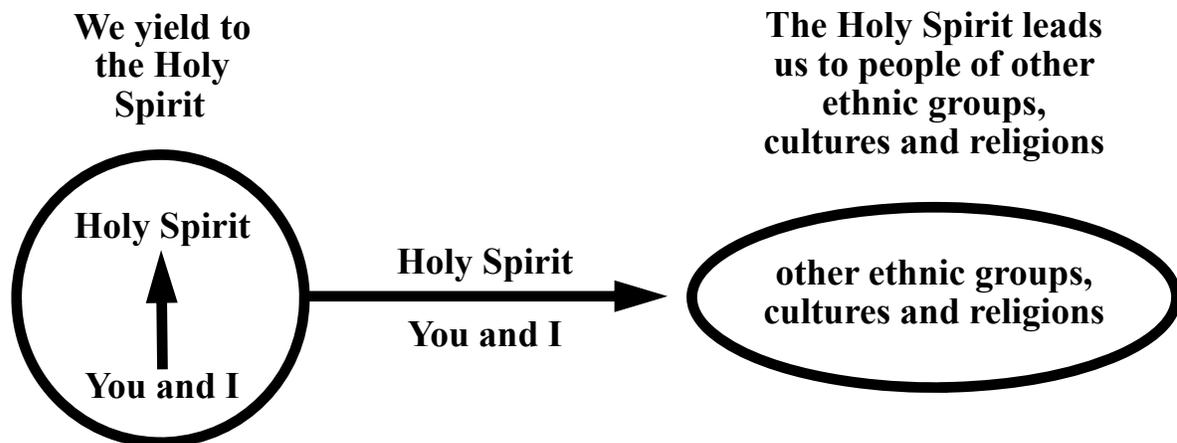
8. we must allow time for the person of another culture to discuss Christ with their family, friends and community
John 4:28-30, 39-42

The bridges to bring Christ to another culture

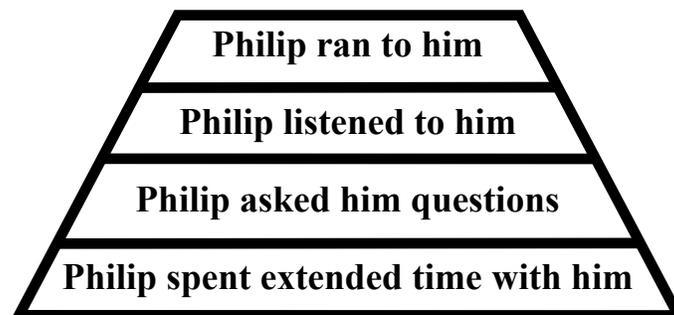


9. we must depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to a different ethnic group, culture or religion

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



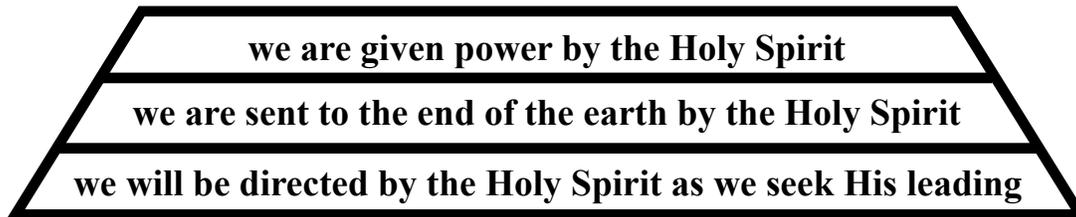
10. we let the Holy Spirit guide our contacts and lead in building bridges
Acts 8:30-34



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

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



2. 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

3. 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 babbler	the group that called Paul a babbler 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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X. Biblical Evangelism Means Helping New Christians Become Stable Christians

A. We help new Christians through the four keys to spiritual stability

Acts 2:42

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

Apostles' Doctrine

growth in understanding the life and teachings of Christ

Fellowship

growth in understanding the shared life we have in Christ

Breaking of Bread

growth in understanding the meaning of the New Covenant

Prayers

growth in learning to communicate with Christ

B. We help new Christians by becoming spiritual parents to New Christians

1 Corinthians 4:15

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.”

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

spiritual parents are often lacking for new Christians
spiritual parents provide the love of a nursing mother
spiritual parents provide the example of a godly father

1. spiritual parents are needed to help the new Christian grow

1 Corinthians 4:14-17

“I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn *you*. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *you do not have* many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

a spiritual parent gives warnings (but does not shame)

**a spiritual parent is concerned for a child’s total
development**

(an instructor was a slave who only took a child to school)

a spiritual parent provides an example to follow

a spiritual parent enlists others to help new Christians grow

2. spiritual parents have a goal to bring new Christians to maturity

1 Peter 2:2

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

Ephesians 4:14

“That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.”

1 John 2:12-14

“I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. I write to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, because you have known the Father. I have written to you, fathers, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the wicked one.”

Newborn Babes	Toddlers	Children	Young Men	Fathers
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3. spiritual parents have the concern of a nursing mother

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”

spiritual parents show tender love (cherish) their spiritual children

spiritual parents have a strong longing for their spiritual children

spiritual parents are willing to share their lives

spiritual parents consider their children very dear

spiritual parents are willing to sacrifice for their children

4. spiritual parents have the caring concerns of a father

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12

“You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

spiritual parents provide an example to follow

**this example is a godly example
this example shows what is right
this example is a blameless example**

**spiritual parents encourage their spiritual children
spiritual parents comfort and console their spiritual children
spiritual parents urge their spiritual children to a worthy walk**

C. We help new Christians who have been wounded in spirit

1. understanding the wounds to the human spirit

Proverbs 15:13

“A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.”

Proverbs 17:22

“A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”

Proverbs 18:14

“The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?”

a broken spirit is produced by sorrow of heart

“broken” - to wound or crush

a broken spirit dries the bones

“dries” - to be ashamed, confused or disappointed

a broken spirit has nothing to sustain it

“who can bear” - has nothing to hold it up

2. wounds heal as a Christian builds on a new foundation

1 Corinthians 3:11

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 2:6-7

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

3. wounds heal as a Christian takes root in the love of Christ

Ephesians 3:17-19

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

4. wounds heal as a Christian learns to speak the truth in love

Ephesians 4:15

“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.”

5. wounds heal as a Christian learns to minister to others

Ephesians 4:16

“From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

XI. Biblical Evangelism Will Transform Our Lives and Our Churches

**Paul prayed that the Lord would transform all Christians
Ephesians 3:14-19**

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”

Paul prayed five key things for all Christians:

**that we would be strengthened with might through His Spirit
that Christ might dwell in our hearts through faith
that we would be rooted and grounded in love
that we would know the love of Christ which passes knowledge
that we would be filled with all of the fullness of God**

**Paul explained what God is able to do through our lives
Ephesians 3:20-21**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

God is able to do:

**exceedingly
abundantly
above all we can ask
above all we can think**

**according to the power working in us
to God be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus**

The Lord will add to the church

Acts 2:46-47

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved

The Lord will multiply disciples

Acts 6:7

“Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem

The Lord will multiply churches

Acts 9:31

“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”

**the churches multiplied in Judea
the churches multiplied in Galilee
the churches multiplied in Samaria**

The Lord will develop reproducing churches

Acts 16:1-5

“Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.”

**the churches became sending churches
the churches were developing sister churches**