

# Spiritual Discipline: Evangelism

April 2015

If you have ever had anyone accept Christ when you've shared the Gospel, you understand how exhilarating and intoxicating that experience is. Being there in the spiritual "birthing room" as someone repents of their sin, turns to Jesus and is born into the Kingdom, is a feeling that can't be replicated. And yet nothing causes more eye-dropping, foot-shuffling anxiety among Christians than talking about our responsibility to evangelize. Many Christians would say they are confident they are obeying the Lord when it comes to Learning, Worship, or Bible Intake. But I don't know a single Christian who would say, "I am as evangelistic as I should be." The main reason we don't witness for Christ in ways that would be effective and relatively fear-free is simply because we don't discipline ourselves to do it.

When most of us hear the word "evangelist," it conjures up unpleasant images: hellfire and brimstone Bible thumpers, pushy salesmen types, slick, money-grubbing televangelists, cult-like figures, hustlers, or con men. We may unwittingly fall into the trap of not sharing our faith with others for fear of being identified with these disreputable types. But how do we fulfil the command to share the gospel while avoiding offending others? The answer begins with relationships.

A Christian who maintains an ongoing personal contact with a nonbeliever is often more effective because that Christian is able to show his or her whole life as a witness. Our friends will almost always more easily relate to us than someone they do not know, and the trust that is built up through a relationship helps create open doors for sharing God's truth.

## Common Misconceptions About Evangelism:

### 1. I Need to Have the Gift of Evangelism

Evangelism is unique in that it is both a Spiritual Gift and a command. Acts 1:8 is clear that all Christians are given the Holy Spirit in order to be witnesses to the entire world. Some are uniquely gifted for special service.

### 2. I Need to Be a Bible Scholar

In John 9, the blind man needs no special training or evangelism classes. Within hours, maybe even minutes, of meeting Jesus, he bravely tells others what happened to him and what he knew of Jesus.

### 3. I Need to Have All the Answers

Everyone has questions about the Bible, and spiritual things. The goal of evangelism is not to answer their every question - it is to share the gospel of Jesus and how it can change their life.

### 4. I Just Need to Invite Someone to Church

There is nothing wrong with bringing people to church to hear the Gospel, but most often God uses the teachable moments in our everyday lives as invitations to share our faith. We must look for those moments.

### 5. I Can Just Let My Good, Moral Life Reflect Christ

True, if we witness only with our words while we live as poor examples, the unsaved will not be convinced of the power of the gospel. But, if we witness only through our lives, people may not know the reason for our hope.

### 6. If the Person Doesn't Accept Christ, I Have Failed

It may help to regard our task as similar to that of the postal service. They measure success by the careful and accurate delivery of the message, not by the response of the recipient. Whenever we share the gospel, (which includes the summons to repent and believe) we have succeeded.

Throughout the month of April, live out the spiritual discipline of Evangelism by working through the items below and discussing them with your 222 Group.

- Identify one unsaved person in your sphere of influence and intentionally share a verbal witness with him/her.
- What is the most difficult issue for you in sharing the gospel with those around you? How can your 222 Group help you improve in this area?
- Go to [ministrygrid.com](http://ministrygrid.com) and in the "Have a Membership Code?" field type in the following code: **XHCQAM**. Create a free profile, if first time user. View the online video on Bible Study and discuss with your 222 Group.
- Answer the following question: "What is one thing you can do to be more disciplined in evangelism?"