

MIN 123 - THE LOCAL CHURCH in EVANGELISM

ALSOM

ORIENTING INFORMATION ...

The Great Commission

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”. (Matthew 28:19–20)

The Great Commission is often misunderstood.

“Go” - is not a verb. It is a participle, best translated “as you are going”.

- **“As you are going”** throughout life, throughout the nations.
 - God’s People will now be composed of all Followers of Jesus, no matter what their ethnicity or national origin.
 - God’s New Covenant in Christ is the fulfillment of all OT promises.
 - Abraham’s seed are people from every nation, Jew-and-Gentile, by GRACE through FAITH. Ethnicity is completely irrelevant.
 - *(Later we see that this begins in our Jerusalem (home community), then proceeds into Judea (our region, similar (perhaps) to us, into Samaria (people unlike us), to the ends of the Earth.)*

“Make disciples” - THE CONTROLLING VERB OF THIS PASSAGE. *That is, this is the heart and focus of Christ’s Great Commission, **discipleship**.*

- **“Make”** - the fundamental work of the church. An action of God’s People and Leaders
- **“Disciples”** - learners, students, who put into action what they are taught. Followers of the Great Shepherd / Rabbi / Messiah / God’s Son / Jesus.
 - NOTE: God’s children are born of God - regeneration.
 - **BUT, DISCIPLES ARE MADE ... MADE BY OTHER DISCIPLES.**

“Baptizing” - in the name of the One True Triune God. The entrance point, identifying us as Followers of Jesus, members of God’s People (family).

“Teaching” - the foundation of discipleship, therefore the central function of the Church: TEACHING.

“Obey” - the process of discipleship requires obedience. Putting the commands of Christ and word of God into action.

“As you are going” is controlled by **“make disciples.”** Christ clearly portrayed his followers as ALWAYS MAKING DISCIPLES as they go through life, and doing this to the ends of the Earth.

Christ’s Followers are always making disciples, from their local community, through their region, into people groups like them and not like them, all the way to the ends of the Earth.

Obeying the Great Commission - making disciples - means by definition that we must be doing evangelism in the local church.

Evangelism, like everything else in the life of the believer and the church, depends on obeying the Great Commission by making disciples. *Effective evangelism flows from effective discipleship.*

Evangelism is NOT complete until we have made the “converts” into effective disciples of Jesus.

“Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation”. (Mark 16:15)

- It is generally believed by Bible Scholars that Mark 16:9-20 was added much later than the other scriptures of Mark.
- Why?

Evidence of a Late Date for Mark 16:9–20 ...

1. About one-third of the significant Greek words in these verses do not appear elsewhere in Mark or are used differently from Mark’s usage prior to Mark 16:9.
2. The Greek literary style is different from the rest of Mark.
3. Matthew and Luke parallel Mark until Mark 16:8. The pattern then changes notably, suggesting that the copy of Mark available to Matthew and Luke did not contain verses 9–20.
4. Does the evidence that suggests Mark 16:9-20 was added later mean that those verses should be viewed as having less authority?

No, the full text of Mark gained recognition and acceptance by the early church as authoritative and inspired **BECAUSE of the portions repeated in the other Gospels and Acts.**

Common Elements of the Great Commission in Matthew and Mark

1. Going

The church cannot rest while any group of people waits for the redemptive message of Jesus. We must go to them.

2. Proclaiming

The message must be orally communicated. While Mark uses the word *proclaiming*, Matthew uses the verb *teaching*.

3. Baptizing

Water baptism is not an optional ritual. It is confirmation to the believer that he or she has passed from death to life, and an outward testimony of God’s inward work.

(NOTE: All of this is a part of, or the fruit of, effective discipleship ... teaching people to obey Jesus.)

The Great Commission in Luke/Acts and John

How are the Great Commission passages in Luke, Acts, and John distinct from those in Matthew and Mark?

- The Great Commission passages in Luke, Acts, and John are not written in the form of a command as they are in Matthew and Mark. Luke and John simply recorded Jesus’ instructions to His disciples concerning their mission.
- In Luke, Acts and John the Holy Spirit takes center stage. In these books Luke and John recorded Jesus’ instructions in the context of the Holy Spirit’s empowerment. (*Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21*)

Preaching is proclaiming the word of God and the gospel message, correctly interpreted and correctly applied.

The New Testament clearly shows that preaching the Word of God is the primary means by which the Church achieves its mission.

The Great Commission is a call for all believers to personally share the gospel with the lost.

Analyzing the Great Commission

- **Note:** A Great Commission Church will be committed to reaching every kind of person in its community as well as contributing to the cause of reaching the lost in all the world through prayer, financial support, and sending its own people to pastor, to teach, to plant new churches, and to the mission field.

The Great Commission Cycle

1. Proclaiming the gospel
2. Leading people to a decision to follow Christ
3. Discipling them to become evangelists

There are two constant components of the Great Commission; evangelism & discipleship.

Understand the Term - *Pre-Evangelism Discipleship: What is it?*

- It is teaching, equipping, and preparing believers to evangelize others.

Question: When is the cycle of evangelism and discipleship complete?

- When disciples become evangelists ... sharing the good news in some way.

Question: What part of the Commission Cycle needs to be our primary focus?

- Different people will be at different points in this cycle
- Some will be actively sharing their faith while others are being disciplined into sharing

The Evangelist's Ultimate Objective - *Proclaim Christ with wisdom so others will believe.*

Colossians 1:28

The Ultimate goal is that each disciple is presented before the Lord holy, blameless, and beyond reproach - complete in Christ - at the end of life on this earth.

Col 1:28 "We proclaim him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom,"

Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. "

Hooks and Nets: Methods of Evangelism

Hooks

- Evangelizing with "hooks" specifically targets certain homogeneous groups of people, such as youths, Somali immigrants, senior citizens, children, and single parents.
- Homogeneous - alike; of a common kind; having many things in common.

Nets

- Evangelizing with "nets" casts a wide net to reach and include all kinds of people in its community.

Question: Which Evangelistic strategy should you use? There are a number of variables:

It depends on your style of ministry:

- Do you appeal to broad demographic groups?
- Do you have a changing demographic community?
- Do you have a personality that is given more to a "contemporary" / younger crowd?
- Do you appeal to the wealthy, the poor, the educated, the middle class, the traditional, ...?
- Demographic - People-type: Such as Retired people; Suburbanites; Millennials; etc.

Wal-Mart vs Publix's model:

Whole Foods vs Piggly Wiggly model:

Which one is most effective? *That depends on where you are, who you're with.*

The Great Omission

The "why" and the "how" of the Great Commission.

The Great Commission

➤ **What is it?** *The "what" of the Great Commission.*

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20).

The Great Omission (what is often left out)

➤ **The Why?** -

- Divine authority: Commanded to go and make disciples
- The dire human spiritual condition

➤ **The How?** -

- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, baptizing, and TEACHING God's Word & obedience

Most people understand the "What" of the Great Commission, but fewer people understand the "Why" and "How" of the Great Commission.

The Human Condition

1. **Humanity is lost.**

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

2. **Eternity is certain.**

"They will go away to punishment, but the righteous to life" (Matthew 25:46, emphasis added).

3. **Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation.**

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

These are the three reasons that Jesus issued to us the Great Commission

Old Covenant and New Covenant: The Holy Spirit and Believers

<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
<i>Temporary</i> —The Holy Spirit was given for a time to complete a specific task.	<i>Permanent</i> —The Holy Spirit would be with believers forever and abide, or remain, with them.
<i>On</i> —The Holy Spirit would come upon prophets, priests, judges, and kings.	<i>In</i> —The Holy Spirit has come to be in God's people, present with them always.

The Holy Spirit's work in the Saints functioned somewhat differently in the Old Testament than He did in the New Testament.

The Old Testament writers taught about the Spirit of God, but the people of that day could not fully understand the Holy Spirit until Jesus came and deepened their understanding of and prepared their hearts to receive Him.

Christ's body was created in the Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, he was anointed and empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit at his baptism, he performed miracles through the Spirit's power, and the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead, transforming his body into a new creation body.

Christ poured out the Spirit upon his followers at Pentecost, marking them as God's True People, the end-time temple and dwelling place of God's Presence on the Earth, empowering them for life and service.

Jesus' Teaching

Contrasting Parable Pairs

Productive soil	Unproductive soil
Wheat	Weeds
Good Samaritan	Those who passed by
Tax collector	Pharisee
Merciful master	Unforgiving servant
Wise maidens	Unwise maidens
Builder on rock	Builder on sand

As Jesus ministered to the people He often used parables to express to the people the truths of God.

Parables: ...

A Parable is a story that is taken from daily life to illustrate an ethical or spiritual truth.

- The word "parable" comes from two Greek words (para and ballo), which together mean "to throw alongside."
- **A parable compares a known truth and an unknown truth by throwing them alongside each other.**
- Through parables Jesus used the natural realm to call attention to what previously had been hidden in the spiritual realm.

When teaching, preaching, or sharing the gospel, you can share parables of your own from the everyday lives of your listeners.

Grounds for Evangelism - Mark 4:1-20

Unproductive Soil

- **Hard ground**— preconditioned to failure; the hard ground is unprepared to receive the seed.
- **Shallow ground**— produces only superficial commitment; when affliction or persecution arises, plants lack spiritual strength.
- **Thorny ground**— weeds (worries of the world, deceitfulness of riches, desire for material things) grow faster than the plant and choke the genuine life that was growing.

Productive Soil

- **Good ground**— rich, fertile, receptive, softened hearts that produce an abundant harvest.

This shows us the four different types of soil that represents the four different types of hearers to which you will minister.

This also shows us that not every person we minister to is going to be successful.

Why “The Parable of the Sower”?

1. Jesus called it “The Parable of the Sower,” not “The Parable of the Soils.” He said, “**Hear then the parable of the sower**” (Matthew 13:18).
2. The large proportion of content devoted to unproductive soil does not necessarily indicate that the soils are the major focus of Jesus’ lesson.
3. Jesus clearly directed this teaching to His disciples as the future sowers of His message—the ones to whom He would entrust His mission on earth.
4. The parable should be viewed as part of the fabric composed of a group of parables, all of which focus on the ultimate spiritual harvest. *Together they realistically assess challenges and hardships, but they do so in the context of the abundant ultimate harvest God will produce through the obedience of the sowers.*

Why did Jesus use the story of “The Parable and the Sower?”

Knowing about the different kinds of hearers (hearts) that the disciples would encounter would keep them from expecting total success 100 percent of the time and keep them from becoming discouraged.

Ecc 11:4-6 “4 Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

6 Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.”

Cast the Seed Regardless of the Soil

Jesus’ Example

As ministers, the best example that we can pattern our ministry after is Jesus ...

- *Opportunity – Recognize every opportunity*
- *Focus – The individual*
- *Message - Jesus*

Recognize Every Opportunity

People Are Thirsty

Recognize people’s spiritual thirst (Woman at the Well)

- “Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water’” (John 4:10).

Recognize the source of spiritual satisfaction

- “Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life’” (John 4:13–14).

People are thirsty!!!...

- As ministers of the Lord it is imperative that we recognized the spiritual hunger and thirst in the hearts of people.

- As Ministers it's important that we remember where to direct people to quench their spiritual thirst – Jesus.

Finding a Focus of Interest

1. Listen effectively.
2. Practice “response evangelism.”
 1. Do not just follow a predetermined evangelistic routine, but personalize the message to respond to the interests, needs, and situation of a nonbeliever.
3. Make creative connections.
 1. Rely on the Holy Spirit to help you liken people's interests and desires to their deepest needs: purpose for living, forgiveness of sins, and everlasting life.
4. Be easy to understand.
 1. Use vocabulary the person will be familiar with, not theological vocabulary or Christian jargon.
 2. “Translation Please”
 1. *Effective, persuasive communication of the gospel must start with something that is known and understood by your audience.*
 2. *However, be careful to be true to who you are. Don't try to be something you're not lest you appear fake.*

“Theology Vocabulary and Christian Jargon” - Unchurched people will NOT understand.

- Under the Blood
- Born Again
- Redeemed
- Sanctified
- Repent
- The Gospel
- Witness

RELATIONAL EVANGELISM - Friendship / Relationship Usually Comes First

*In Scripture and in history, in every culture, effective evangelism usually depends on effective PRE-evangelism: **relationships with family, friends, and community.***

People are often drawn to a transformed life of a Jesus-follower who is walking in obedience to God, and in love toward God and toward others.

Who you ARE will either undercut or underscore what you SAY.

Your WITNESS must be consistent with your WORK and your WAYS.

Your character, lifestyle, and personality will either add great weight to what you say or will empty your witness of all power.

HAVE YOU PROVEN YOURSELF TO BE SOMEONE OF CHARACTER, CHRIST-LIKE LIFESTYLE, and LOVING PERSONALITY to your friends and family?

Are you known to be someone who focuses on JESUS or on POLITICS, MONEY, POWER, SELF?

Believers and local churches MUST take a long-term view of evangelism ...

- Are we by our acts of kindness, compassion, truthfulness, and service *breaking up the hard ground* / resistant hearts of our community?

- Are we continuing in this lifestyle as we *plant seeds* of Christ-like behavior and gospel witness as our community begins to see our righteous, loving, compassionate lives?
- Are we year after year *watering the gospel witness* that we have planted with continual creative acts of kindness, service and compassion?
- *IF SO, the days will come when the reaper overtakes the sower and God gives us a harvest of souls.*

NOT every believer is called to preach on street corners or even be constantly speaking a gospel witness. However, every believer IS CALLED to ...

- LIVE a life of obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit,
- A life of love that shows Jesus to the lost
- Ready to share the gospel whenever anyone asks why we are so different
- Ready to support the evangelistic / discipleship ministries of the local church by labor and in giving.

Key Points to Remember When Sharing the Gospel

The Great Diversion—Religion

Do not allow yourself to get diverted!

The Real Issue—Relationship

Relationship with God MUST be the central theme in any evangelistic presentation.

The Central Message—Jesus

Evangelism is introducing people to the risen Christ, a living Lord, a personal savior and friend.

- **Why isn't religion a beneficial topic to discuss when evangelizing?**
 - Religion can be very divisive
- **It's important to stress relationship with God when witnessing.**
- **Is it always a bad idea to discuss religious practices when witnessing?**
 - Maybe okay sometimes, it's important to be sensitive as to identify its proper place in a discussion.

Jesus' Promise - Holy Spirit Empowerment

The Holy Spirit's Role in Evangelism

The Essential Empowerment

Don't leave home without it: Tarry in the city of Jerusalem and wait to be "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

The Priority of Heaven

Jesus redirected attention from the concerns of time to those of eternity and the task before them. The Holy Spirit Baptism will empower believers for their mission and so must take priority over secondary theological questions.

The Helper

Although Jesus was returning to heaven and would no longer be with His followers physically, He promised to send them "another Helper"—One who would empower believers and help them accomplish the Great Commission.

As Jesus was preparing to leave the Church in the hands of the Disciples He informed them as to how they were going to perform the mission that He left them with – *The empowerment of the Holy Spirit.*

The Nature and Purpose of the Spirit's Power

1. *The Gift of Adequacy*

The Holy Spirit gives us power to live in obedience to God day by day.

2. *Evidence of the Spectacular or Supernatural*

Occasionally the Spirit gives power to perform extraordinary signs or miracles. Most of the time, the power we need in everyday life is *neither spectacular nor sensational*, but it is supernatural—beyond our natural abilities.

3. *Power for a Purpose*

The essential purpose of the Spirit's empowerment is so we can be witnesses for Jesus, in word AND deed (the way we live).

Four Purposes of Tongues

1. Confirmation (Acts 10:46)
2. Adoration (1 Corinthians 14:15–16)
3. Edification (1 Corinthians 14:26)
4. Intercession (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18)

Acts 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.”

There were three dramatic signs which accompanied the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit:

- Sound of a wind,
 - Tongues of fire (a blanket over the whole “church”, then splitting into flames over each individual worshipper),
 - Speaking in tongues.
- Note: two of those signs never occurred again, but the third – speaking in other tongues – is in use today and it is the initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In the OT, when the Law was given, and when Tabernacle and Temple were dedicated, God's glorious Presence came.

- Fire of God came to write the Law on Sinai,
- Shekinah glory of God - God's fiery Presence - came to dwell in the Holy of Holies,
- The Wind of God's breath came at creation and upon Adam, at new creation after the Flood, the Exodus deliverance, at the crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land
- All were signs of God's Life-Giving Presence, signs of God coming to DWELL, coming to mark his People and the Place where he would dwell, the place where new creation LIFE was received, where humanity came to meet God, and have sins forgiven.
- That is what the Wind and Fire symbolize here:
 - The fulfillment of all of the OT types of God's coming upon the followers of Jesus,
 - giving them the resurrection life of God, as Adam had received old creation life,
 - placing them into the new creation,
 - marking them as the True People of God,
 - the Spirit coming to live IN God's People, writing the Law upon their hearts,
 - the final end-time Temple where God's Presence would dwell,
 - where humanity would experience the results of God's Sacrifice, and
 - where humanity would meet God.

- That is why the Wind and Fire are never repeated: They were a once-for-all SIGN, the antitype demonstrating that those OT types were forever fulfilled in the Church.

Evangelism in Peter's Preaching

Peter's Themes

As you follow the ministry and testimony of Peter two central themes that run through his message:

1. Who Jesus is
2. Why Jesus gave His life

1 Cor. 15:12-18 *"¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."*

Why is it essential to Christianity that Christ is the crucified and risen Son of God?

What you say to those who believe that Jesus was merely a good man, a great teacher, or even an important prophet?

If Jesus is not everything He claimed to be then He is not who He says He is, and our preaching is useless, and our faith is in vain.

Why Christ Gave His Life

1. Each of us has sinned and is separated from God (Romans 3:23).
2. The punishment for sin is death (Romans 6:23). Without His sacrifice, our spirits, which live forever, would be in everlasting punishment in hell.
3. God sent His Son to pay the penalty for our sins (John 3:16). He was sinless, the only perfect sacrificial Lamb who could die in our place (John 1:29).
4. Now He offers everlasting life to anyone who receives Him (John 3:16).

Themes about Jesus in Mark

First Half (Mark 1:1 through 8:30): Who Jesus Is

- By the succession of His miraculous works
- By continually confronting the reader to make a decision concerning who Jesus is
- ***Second Half (Mark 8:31 through Mark 16): Why Jesus Gave His Life***
- Mark 8:31
- Mark 9:31
- Mark 10:33–34, 45

Three Confessions In Mark

1. "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1).
2. "'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Peter answered, 'You are the Christ'" (Mark 8:29).

3. “When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’” (Mark 15:39).

The primary source of Mark’s gospel is Peter. And since Peter denied Jesus three times, it appears that Mark placed an increased emphasis on the confession of Jesus as Lord in his book.

Evangelism in Paul’s Teaching

Paul was once a persecutor of the Church who became an Apostle and preacher of the Word.

Due in part because of him, the fire of evangelism spread from Jerusalem to Antioch and out into the gentile Roman Empire.

Paul’s message had one focus: “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). His message was clear, the methods were practical and effective.

And even though it was two thousand years ago, his methods are as effective today as they were then.

*Three Components of a Comprehensive Witness

1. Vocal witness—what we say
2. Vital witness—how we say it
3. Valid witness—who we are

In Aristotle’s book *Rhetoric* he outlined three components of effective public speech:

1. **Logos**, translated “the word” refers to *the content* of our message.
2. **Pathos**, from which we get the English words *passion* and *pathetic*. It has to do with *feeling and emotion*. (Aristotle believed that the emotion with which content is communicated is an integral part of the message).
3. **Ethos**, from which we get the word *ethnic*. This refers to what *kind of person the speaker is*. A speaker’s reputation and character are vital to the message.

What is the most important validation of a believer’s witness? **Credibility & Character.**

Evangelism Principles (1 Corinthians 3:5–8)

1. ***The potential is in the soil.***

We cannot predict or control who will respond or how productive the harvest.

2. ***The privilege is the servant’s.***

Evangelism involves God’s servants planting and watering the message in every way possible, knowing that God is the harvester. He gives us the privilege of entering into His work.

3. ***The power is in the seed (God’s Word).***

The primary power in evangelism is not in the messenger but in the message of God’s Word.

The Believer’s function in the task of evangelism -

Communicate God’s Word; plant and water the seed in obedience to God, who causes the growth.

Four Kinds of Power in God’s Word:

1. ***The Power of Regeneration***

1 Peter 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17

2. ***The Power of Sanctification***

Ephesians 5:25–27; Hebrews 4:12

3. **The Power of Transformation**

Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18

4. **The Power of Multiplication**

Matthew 13:8, 31–32

Regeneration = To be Born Again

Sanctification = to be set aside for the purpose of God

Transformation = to be reformed/ to change in form, appearance or structure

Multiplication = to make many, increase in number

Three Elements of Paul's Mission (Colossians 1:28–29)

1. The message—Jesus. “We proclaim him” (1:28).
2. The method—warning and teaching.
3. The means—dependence and discipline.

Col 1:27-29 “28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.”

The three elements of Paul's Mission as outlined in this text is.... SLIDE

Paul's Evangelism Practices

Six Practices for Effective Evangelism (Colossians 4:2–6)

1. Pray for open doors.
2. Share Christ clearly.
3. Be wise with outsiders.
4. Make the most of opportunities.
5. Speak with grace.
6. Respond individually.

Col 4:2-6 “2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

Message to Believers - Remember the Importance of Clarity

“We would like to see Jesus”. (John 12:21)

When we peel back the layers of all of our evangelistic effort it all comes down to this statement: “people simply want to see Jesus.”

Therefore, always Share Christ in the **CLEAREST** manner possible!!!

Question - What are some memorable Christian bumper stickers, posters or billboards you've seen?

To be an effective witness for Christ, we must communicate the gospel message clearly.

With this in mind, how effective are Christian bumper stickers and billboards?

Limited space requires brief messages. Be careful, although they may sometimes be effective to capture people's attention, sometimes these messages tend to be clever and confrontational at the expense of clarity.

GOSPEL TRANSLATOR - MAKING THE GOSPEL MORE CLEAR TO UNBELIEVERS

TERM	MISCONCEPTION	BETTER TRANSLATION
Salvation/saved	From what?	God has a purpose and plan for our lives; His best purpose for our lives cannot be realized unless we first deal with our sin and need for forgiveness.
Repent	Concept of penance	Change direction. "You need to have your heart and life changed."
Christian	Political connotations	Believer or follower of Christ
Born again	Has become commonplace, confusing	Talk of a spiritual birth, of having our heart changed, starting a new life.

Col 4:5-6 "5 Be **wise** in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity." As Christians in today's society we need to be sensitive in our communication of the gospel message. Many un-churched people don't understand our church lingo.

How to Make the Most of Every Opportunity

1. Through a faithful prayer life, grow spiritually alert to divine appointments.
2. Seize opportunities that present themselves.
3. Build/Initiate opportunities.

A Guide to Grace

1. **Communicate a message of grace.**
Speak of God's grace and Christ's sacrifice rather than focusing on someone's sins.
2. **Display a gracious manner.**
Validate your spoken witness with kindness.
3. **Demonstrate gracious acts.**
Let your good works be evident to the world around you so that God will be glorified.

Evangelism Guidelines (Colossians 4:2–6)

1. **Pray for open doors.**
"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message."
2. **Share Christ clearly.**
"Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."
3. **Be wise with outsiders.**
"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders."
4. **Make the most of opportunities.**
"Make the most of every opportunity."
5. **Speak with grace.**
"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt."
6. **Respond individually.**
"...so that you may know how to answer everyone."

Motivation for Evangelism

Paul's Three Levels of Motivation (Romans 1:14–16)

1. *Obligated*

“I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish” (Romans 1:14).

2. *Eager*

“That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome” (Romans 1:15).

3. *Unashamed*

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

Rom 1:14-16 “¹⁴I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last,^[e] just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

COMPELLED, CONVINCED, COMMITTED

Paul always felt obligated to the spiritually lost. He felt compelled by the love of Christ to share the gospel.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 “¹⁴For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

CHRIST’S LOVE ...

- **Compelled / Constrained** – Eager, arrested, to be taken with; Driving inner force.
- **Convinced** - BECAUSE we are convinced ... because of Scripture AND his experience, what Paul knew of Christ’s love compelled him.
- **Committed** - to Christ. Paul, and all who learn the Scripture AND experience salvation in Christ, are committed to live for Christ and no longer for themselves.

Pastoral Leadership in Evangelism

The Pastor is the central figure for evangelism in the Church. He must lead the effort of evangelism by example; the rest of the church will follow his lead

If the Pastor is not personally involved in evangelism the church will not be.

Every wise Pastor will encourage their laity to engage themselves in Evangelism.

Every wise Pastor will work to create avenues of ministry for the laity in their church.

Three Keys to Maintaining Devotion

To maintain the zeal of devotion to the Lord, we need three things:

1. a constant, fresh supply of the Word;
2. a free flow of the Spirit in our prayer life; and
3. continuous cleansing from sin and self-will

How to Involve Believers in Evangelism

Even motivated believers often find it easier to become involved with evangelism if they are presented with a simple plan or program in which to participate. Some examples:

- Ministries to meet specific spiritual needs—single parents, the divorced, the unemployed, etc.
- Community prayer ministry
- Special sermon series

Maintaining Evangelism

Four Characteristics of Churches that Reach and Retain People

- **A church of the Word**
The seed for the harvest is always the gospel message.
- **A church of the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit**
The Spirit's presence empowers a church as nothing else can.
- **A church on a mission**
A church on a mission affords people the opportunity to live out God's purpose in their lives.
- **A church that loves**
Many people will stay if they can find even one friend. Be friendly!

PROSELYTIZING IS NOT EVANGELISM

In America, particularly in heavily church areas like the South, Christians often play “musical chairs” with their churches.

- They move from church to church based on their desires, feelings, and selfishness.
- **This is because they completely misunderstand God's expectations for believers and God's definition of the local church.**

Proselytizers and proselytes are, by definition, poorly disciplined and poorly formed ...

- Proselytizers and proselytes are usually more formed by America's sinful culture of individualism, selfishness, and consumerism than by the biblical values of loyalty and Christ-likeness.
- Proselytizers and proselytes are more formed by the performance-entertainment / customer oriented culture than by Scripture and by Christ.

Some churches consider the members of other churches to be their primary “mission field.”

- They plan events, build programs, hire staff all in order to build a better sheep-trap than the other churches in their community.
- Some pastors and leaders actually encourage their people to invite Christians who are actively attending other churches to leave their churches.

Church growth that comes from proselytizing is unbiblical, ungodly, and unhealthy.

Proselytizing is ALWAYS wrong and unethical. Proselytizing is NOT evangelism.

God's word describes the local church as a Close-knit Community of Covenant Keeping Love.

God expects people to be in covenant with, and to be loyal to, their local church.

Church-Planting Models

1. *Mother Church Model*

The mother church releases people and resources as part of the initial startup for the new church.

2. *Internal Church Plant Model*

The host church provides its facilities to be used by a church plant.

3. *Satellite Model*

The sending central church sends a pastor and people to another location in its geographic area (town or city) to start a new work. The satellite church shares the vision and ministry style of the central church.

4. *Cathedral Model*

The sending cathedral church sends a church planter and people to work in another location in its geographic area to start a new work. The branch church has its own vision and ministry style.

5. *Sectional Model*

A number of churches within a specific section or district agree to plant a church together.

6. *Embedded Team / Implanted Team Model*

A team of people / couples who sense a call to plant a church in a community, commit to each other and their church or district to give a number of years to the effort, get jobs in the community, embed themselves there as a church planting team for the long haul, with or without outside support.

Evangelism in the Pulpit

Evangelism begins in the pulpit with the proclamation and teaching God's Word.

We need the Spirit's empowerment to communicate the need.

The Spirit's Role in Communicating God's Word

1. *Inspiration*

The authors who wrote the Bible needed the Holy Spirit's inspiration when they committed God's message to writing.

2. *Illumination*

To fully and accurately proclaim the truth of the Bible, a preacher needs the illumination of the Spirit.

3. *Application*

Those who preach must communicate the Word of God under the Holy Spirit's anointing with vocabulary, concepts, and symbols that are relevant to today's culture and generation, but without drifting from the unchanging truths of God's Word.

Question: What is Biblical Exposition?

Biblical Exposition is a method of preaching or teaching that strictly adheres to the original meaning, intention or message of a passage.

Three Objectives of a Pentecostal Service

Objective	Component that accomplishes objective
Inspire	Worship
Instruct	The ministry of the Word
Incite	The altar

How to Give Inspired Altar Calls

1. Invite people in faith.
2. Invite with clarity.
3. Have the congregation stand.
4. Have trained altar counselors ready.

From Disciple to Disciple

Areas of Instruction for New Believers

1. ***The Bible—Our Spiritual Food***
 - Bible reading (Matthew 4:4)
 - Bible study (Acts 17:11)
 - Bible meditation (Colossians 3:16)
2. ***Prayer—Communion with God***
 - Pray for God's purposes (1 John 5:14).
 - Pray in faith (Hebrews 11:6; Mark 11:24).
 - Pray in Jesus' name (John 14:13).
3. ***A Spiritual Family—We Need Each Other***
4. ***Letting Others Know—Proclaiming Christ with Deeds and Words***
 - Water Baptism
 - Witnessing
5. ***Our Helper—the Holy Spirit***

Comprehensive Discipleship

1. Bible knowledge (2 Peter 1:8; Matthew 4:4)
2. Character development (Romans 12:1–2)
3. Ministry involvement (James 1:22)

These are the areas of development into which we are to lead new Christians.

Discipleship Opportunities in the Church

1. Pulpit ministry
2. Sunday school
3. New-believers' classes
4. Small groups
5. One-on-one discipling

These are areas of training and ministry involvement into which we can lead new Christians.

World Missions

We must teach new converts the need for World Missions

Foundational Pillars of our AG Mission

1. *Reaching*

We proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to the spiritually lost in all the world through every available means.

2. *Planting*

We establish churches following the New Testament pattern.

3. *Training*

We train leaders throughout the world to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to their own people and to other nations.

4. *Touching*

We touch poor and suffering people with the compassion of Jesus Christ and invite them to become His followers.

Threefold Method for Missions Ministry

1. ALL the church
2. Taking ALL the gospel
3. Into ALL the world

Fundamentals of Faith Promises

1. *The Biblical Foundation*

2 Corinthians 8 and 9

2. *Preparing the Congregation*

Educate, re-educate, motivate, promote, pray

3. *Presenting the Faith-Promise Challenge*

Are six-month pledges better than twelve-month pledges?

4. *Maintaining Faith-Promise Giving*

Mention faith promises every time an offering is received.

The Church in Mission

Assemblies of God Mission Statement

1. Evangelism: To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world.
2. Worship: To be a corporate body in which man may worship God.
3. Discipleship: To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.
4. Demonstrating Compassion: To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

Results in Ministry

1. We get what we pray for.
2. We get what we preach.
3. We get what we prioritize.

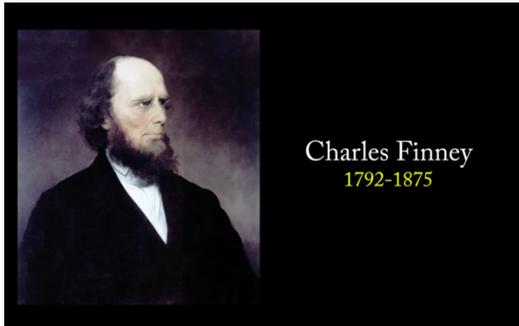
Two Secrets of Spiritual Success

1. Seek the Lord.
2. Keep doing the right things.

The Difference Between Evangelism and “Revivalism”

The concept of an “evangelist” who comes to a church to preach a “revival” is a new concept in church history.

Revivalism was a product of the Second Great Awakening. Revivalism’s “creator” was Charles Finney. Revivalism had positive and negative effects on American evangelicalism that continue to this day.



THE SECOND AWAKENING and REVIVALISM

Charles Finney was the primary inventor / popularizer of “Revivalism” and the “new measures,” the new ways of defining revival and conducting services.

POSITIVE IMPACTS of REVIVALISM: ...

1. Moved the church away from the passivity of early 19th Century American Calvinism.
2. Emphasized prayer, work, witness, including for laity. Lay work and witness.
3. Cottage prayer meetings, door-to-door witnessing, led by laity, including by women.
4. *Later emphasis on perfection was intended to focus on spiritual formation through the person and power of the Holy Spirit. Finney was seeking to correct the lack of permanence in earlier conversions.*

Practical applications of the Bible and the Teachings of Christ on personal lives and on society that flowed from Finney’s movement:

1. Abolitionism – anti-slavery crusades; Oberlin College was founded and became an important part of the underground railway helping slaves escape to the North.
2. Temperance Movement
3. Women’s work in the Church and rights in society
4. Sabbath-keeping – Christians and the state should honor the Sabbath ... Sundays should be reserved for rest and God. Eventually, “Blue laws” - outlawing commerce on Sundays - were passed across the nation.
5. Manual labor schools to train men and women in skilled crafts and trades

THE NEW MEASURES INVENTED by FINNEY and REVIVALISM: ...

1. You may “will” to be saved when you hear the gospel - you have the ability to simply “make a decision for Christ” whether or not you “feel” a great “conviction” of sin.
2. Preacher should stir your emotions and move you to a decision
3. Invented the “anxious bench” / mourners bench, the “altar” to which repentant sinners were called to come forward, kneel, and receive Christ.
4. Invented the altar call - calling sinners to come forward to receive Christ.
5. Taught that “revival” could be created by the “right use of the right means”
6. Later Finney had an emphasis on a second work of the Holy Spirit empowering progress to moral perfection (an attempt to correct the highly emotional easy “conversions” of his earlier ministry that resulted in many “converts” falling away from Christ).
7. Revivalism / Revivalist - Finney’s ministry created the concept of a “revivalist” as someone who travels to churches for extended meetings in order to use the New Measures (emotional preaching, stirring hearer’s emotions to move them to “decision”, encouraging

simply making a decision for Christ as an act of your “will”, the emotional altar call, marketing / advertising the meetings, etc.).

NEGATIVE IMPACTS of REVIVALISM ...

1. Persuasive communication, stirring of emotions, and manipulation through fear replaced the Holy Spirit’s conviction
2. “Conversions” were faster, more numerous, more superficial, resulting in less impact on society
3. An emphasis on “numbers” - the number of people converted or attending became the primary standard for a successful “revival” or church.
4. Careful instruction in Scripture and careful discipleship were not emphasized enough
5. Human decisions and emotions were not permanent
6. Lapses / backsliding were also faster, more numerous
7. When “converts” lapsed, because they thought they had actually been “saved” and had truly known Christ they became resistant to the gospel, thinking they had already “tried” church.

Later in life, Finney admitted his methods produced many false conversions, shallow Christians, backsliders, and made people suspicious and resistant to future gospel witness.

Despite these and other problems that continue to this day, the New Measures gained a permanent place in populist American Christianity.

“Revivalism” now focuses more on giving the spiritual life of a local church a “shot in the arm.” It does not truly focus on evangelism.

Most revival meetings are no longer truly evangelistic, most “evangelists” are really “revivalists”, and such meetings should be far more carefully defined, redefined, and prepared for than is normally the case.

“Revivals” or evangelistic meetings do have their place in the church’s overall plan of evangelism.

HOWEVER, long term, they are the least effective method of local church evangelism.

(READING and RESOURCES on EVANGELISM ... NEXT PAGE ...)

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EVANGELISM EXPLOSION - EVANGELISM TRAINING

<https://evangelismexplosion.org>

BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION - EVANGELISM TRAINING

<https://billygraham.org/what-we-do/discipleship-training/online-training/>