

# EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM

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## THE BIBLICAL WAY TO EVANGELISE

In the Bible, the Greek “*euaggelizo*” (i.e. to evangelise) is translated “**bring good tidings**” or “**preach the gospel (or good news)**”.

Evangelism (i.e. preaching the Gospel/Good News of salvation in Christ) is most effective (i.e. fruitful and enduring) when it is done according to God’s Word. Today we have claimed the power of the Holy Spirit for evangelizing in new ways that do not have bearing with the Scriptures. It is not certain that the Holy Spirit will work with us when we abandon His written Word for our innovated ways. We are also losing faith in the simple Gospel message preached by witnessing disciples but rather seem to have more confidence in **techniques/methods** and **technologies/materials**.

The Church is **equipped** (instructed in the Word, endowed with power and invested with authority) and **sent** on a mission to season the earth by:

1. preaching the saving Gospel of Christ (i.e. evangelise) to every creature in every nation (Mk 16:15-18),
2. bearing witness to their experience of Christ (i.e. testify of Jesus) to the uttermost ends of the earth (Act 1:8),
3. shining the light of good works (as Christ’s representative) to the world (Matt 5:13-16) and
4. distinguishing themselves as Christ’s disciples by loving one another as Christ loved them (Jn 17:20-24).

If the Church fails to do this seasoning mission, it loses its purpose of existence before God and is trampled upon and despised by men. If we fail to fulfil the necessity to preach the Gospel then woe is on us (1Cor 9:16).

**Preaching** must go with **teaching** and **exemplifying** (Matt 28:18-20). A preaching ministry wins believers but a teaching and exemplary ministry reproduces disciples who are altogether believers, followers, witnesses, preachers and teachers of the Christ and His Gospel. Notice that even the world does not propagate unbelief and ungodliness only through advertisements but also through formal education and informal upbringing and influence.

## THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

The message of the Gospel is not about an accumulated system of traditional regulations (formalities) nor is it about an accumulated system of rational speculations (philosophies), rather it is about the Person and Kingdom of Christ: to depend on His saving grace (**faith**) and follow His infallible guidance (**obedience/love**), in order to partake of the joy of His Kingdom (**hope**). For this reason the preaching of the Gospel is:

1. offensive to the Jew because it demystifies the formalities of sacrosanct Jewish tradition;

2. foolishness to the Greeks because it contradicts the idolatrous Greek science and philosophy;
3. but wisdom and power unto salvation to believers, whether Jew or Greek (1Cor 1:21-25).

The Gospel of Christ as revealed in the Scripture is backed by the divine power of the Holy Spirit to (Jn 16:7-11):

1. **convince** people about the futility of worldliness and the beauty of godliness;
2. **constrain** people to turn to or be covenanted to Christ;
3. **convert** people from their manner of life to the imitation of Christ;
4. **change** the effect of circumstances and substances on believers either by logical consequence or by extraordinary miracles (Psa 1; Mark 16:18; 3Jn 2).

As Gospel **preachers** we proclaim God's testimony about Christ, but as **witnesses** we confirm God's testimony with our own exemplary life and testimony of personal experience of Christ's saving **grace** and guiding **truth** (Jn 1:14; Col 1:6).

The core Gospel MESSAGE OF ETERNAL SALVATION taught by Christ and preached by Him and His Apostles (Mk 1:14-15; Lk 24:46-49; Acts 2:38-39; 17:30-31) is this:

#### Act 16:31

(31) And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house.

**The coming of Christ** (The Messianic "**Seed**" of Abraham and of David Act 13:33-35; Gal 3:8) **marked the time** for the fulfilment of all prophecies about God's loving (gracious) **promise** to "**bless all Nations** Act 3:26 (with uttermost grant of Eternal SALVATION from sin i.e. Eternal Life from death)".

This saving "**blessing**" comes as:

- **remission** of sin and shame by Christ's death and blood,
- **deliverance** from demons and damnation by His resurrection and ascension,
- **bestowal** of the Holy Spirit, Who has been fully given to –
  - ✓ **empower** us unto **conforming** to the image of Christ, as SONS of God (Joh 1:12; Rom 8:9-17) and
  - ✓ **assure** us of **possession** of God's glorious Kingdom as HEIRS (Gal 4:1-7; Eph 1:13-14).

This saving blessing is **graciously granted** to anyone who

- **repents** (is **turned** Acts 20:21) to be **converted** from sin/ignorance and

➤ **believes (trusts in/relies on Act 11:21) to be covenanted with Jesus as “the CHRIST/MESSIAH”.**

{i.e. the One divinely **ANOINTED** as the **Son of God** (Luk 1:35; Heb 1:5) to be **Lord over all** and **Saviour of all** (Isa 49:6) and shall come to be the **Judge of all** (John 5:25-29): as prophesied by all the Prophets and proved by Him in His life, death and resurrection (Act 17:31; Rom 1:4)}.

Believe this GOOD NEWS and you are graciously reconciled to God and saved in Christ, AND YOU ARE BORN FROM ABOVE i.e. GIVEN THE POWER TO BE A SON UNTO GOD (Joh 1:12; Joh 3:5; Joh 3:16).

**Simply and directly put, The Gospel presentation goes something like this:**

**Beloved,**

**I have this Great News for you, please do something urgent about it.**

**If you turn-to-trust Jesus as Lord over your life now, you’ll be saved!**

**Do you know God loves you so much so, He is zealous to SAVE you from depravity, damnation, death and the devil in order to graciously BLESS you with ETERNAL LIFE?**

**Do you know Jesus Christ came and died a bloody death in order to pay the ultimate price for your eternal salvation unto glory?**

**Do you know God reaches out with His love for you to RETURN to Him and receive this free favour by putting your FAITH/BELIEF/TRUST in Jesus Christ to be your Lord in all things and Saviour from all sin, since He is “the Christ” and “the Son” of God?**

**Do you know if you accept God’s gracious offer by your simple faith NOW, you’ll immediately receive the SAVING GRACE of both PARDON from sin and spiritual POWER of sonship over sin for Eternal Life in Christ?**

**Please turn-to-trust Jesus as Lord over your life now, and you’re saved!**

**That’s all.**

**Congratulations!**

*Many other things may also be said for explanation, exhortation and testimony to convince our hearers as Peter and Apollos did in Acts 2:40 and 18:28. Yet this CORE MESSAGE about the offer of CHRIST’S SAVING POWER must not be lost in the midst of methods, argument, compassion and dialogue.*

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM**

Evangelism belongs to the proclamatory aspect of the tripartite New Testament **Apostolic Tradition or *Paradosis*** 2Tim 1:13-14; 2Thes 2:15 and 3:6; Jude 3, which are:

- a. *Kerygma* – the preaching or **proclamation** of the facts, promises and invitation of the Gospel of Christ Luke 1:2; Mark 16:15. This is about the evangelistic **MESSAGE of Christ** we must hear and believe **to be saved**.

- b. *Didache* – the teaching (i.e. explanation or **interpretation**) of the Person, words and works of Christ 1Cor. 15; Eph 3:3-5. This is about the **MEANING** of the **MYSTERY of Christ** we must understand **to know God and His Ways**.
- c. *Praxis* – the practical **application** of Christ in our lives **imitating** the practices and patterns of order, holiness, love and conduct left by the Apostles in their following Christ (Matt 28:20; 2Thes 2:15; 3:6-7). This is about the exemplary pattern of **MORALS, MINISTRY and MANNERS of Christ** we must do and imitate **to walk in the Spirit**.

**Effective Evangelism therefore:**

1. Must preach the true, simple, full, Gospel no matter how foolish/complex and weak/hard it may sound, for this alone has the power to save (1Cor 1:18, 21).
2. Must go with discipleship teaching Matt 28:19-20 (Not only winning souls but reproducing soul-winners). This is the method used and commanded by Jesus Christ.
3. Must go with exemplary Christian Presence: by Shining the light and Salting the earth through Good Works (Matt 5:13-16) and Victorious Witnessing (Rev12:11).
4. Must go with watchful prayerfulness for open doors and utterance (Eph 6:19; Col 4:3).
5. Must go with the faith that Christ will confirm His Gospel with the convincing power of the Holy Spirit (Not faith in methods/techniques and materials/technologies, though these are helpful).
6. Must go with the driving burden for the salvation of the lost and perishing (1Cor 9:16; Rom 9:10).
7. Must not be ashamed of the Gospel but have confidence in the message and the power of the Gospel (Rom 1:16; 1Tim 1:8).
8. Must involve every believer (Eph 4: 11, 12, 16; 2Cor 4:13) and influence every programme and activity of the Church in the society (1Cor 14:23-25).
9. Is the primary purpose of the Gift of the Holy Spirit –  
*“and they shall prophesy”* Acts 2: 17-18  
*“the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy”* Rev 19:10  
*“and you shall be my witnesses”* Acts 1:8.

***Failure to evangelize for salvation of souls in Christ will:***

- ***Intensify darkness, wickedness and suffering on earth;***
- ***Aggravate agonies and regrets in hell Lk 16:27-28;***
- ***Rob believers of their victory over the devil Rev 12:11.***

***But saving of souls through Evangelism will:***

- ***Propagate righteousness on the earth Ps 22:30-31;***
- ***Increase people of goodwill and peace to bring joy in the world;***
- ***Exacerbate the joys of those in heaven Rev 4 and 5;***
- ***Accrue to our spiritual fruitfulness which is not only in godly character but also in souls won to Christ (John 15:5-8, 16). The material fruitfulness of the womb (Ps 127:3) and of the hand (Deut 28:11) are temporal gifts or blessings for here and not for hereafter.***

Last Updated September 30, 2011

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