

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

EVANGELISM

A. What is evangelism?

1. J. I. Packer, *...evangelism is to present Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to sinful people, in order that they may come to put their trust in God through Him, to receive Him as their Savior, and serve Him as their King in the fellowship of His Church.*
2. Donald Whitney, *Evangelism is communicating the Gospel...This is true whether your words are spoken, written, or recorded, and whether they are delivered to one person or to a crowd.*
3. R. C. Sproul, *Evangelism is making the Gospel* (the message of Jesus, His person, and His life, death, resurrection and ascension) *known.*

B. What is not evangelism?

1. It is not living your life as an example.
2. It is not building relationships with people.
3. It is not giving one's personal testimony.
4. It is not inviting someone to church.
5. R. C. Sproul, *These things may be good and helpful, but they are not evangelism. They may lay the groundwork for evangelism. They may allow others to relate to us, or they may cause someone to be curious about why we live the way we do. But they are not evangelism, because they don't proclaim the gospel. They may say something about Jesus, but they do not proclaim the person and work of Christ.*

C. Thoughts on evangelism

1. Leighton Ford, *Evangelism is a cross in the heart of God.*
2. John Wesley, *I look upon all the world as my parish.*
3. Mary Slessor, *Christ sent me to preach the gospel and he will look after the results.*
4. John Stott, *Ultimately, evangelism is not a technique. It is the Lord of the Church who reserves to Himself His sovereign right to add to His Church.*

PRINCIPLES IN EVANGELISM

A. Evangelism is expected

1. Matthew 28:19-20, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*
2. 1 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
3. Acts 1:8, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

B. Evangelism is empowered

1. The power of evangelism is the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:8, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
2. The power of the Gospel is in the message not the messenger.
 - a. Romans 1:16, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - b. Romans 10:17, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
3. The one who lives the Christian life in obedience exhibits the power of the Gospel, 2 Corinthians 2:15-17, *For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17 For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.*

C. Evangelism is personal

1. It is sharing the Gospel.
2. It testifying to the impact of the Gospel on one's life.

D. Evangelism requires prayer

1. For laborers, Luke 10:2, *And he said to them, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*
2. For opportunity, Colossians 4:3, *At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ...*
3. For clarity, Colossians 4:4, *...that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.*

4. For boldness, Acts 4:29, *And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,*
5. For success, 2 Thessalonians 3:1, *Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you,*

E. Evangelism requires wisdom

1. Definition: Wisdom in evangelism is common sense with pure motives.
2. Wise points
 - a. Start where they are.
 - b. Be personable.
 - c. Don't argue, 2 Tim. 2:24-26, *And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*
 - d. Know your material, Acts 17:2-3, *And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.*

F. Evangelism is a divine activity

1. God seeks man for salvation
 - a. John 6:44, *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*
 - b. Luke 19:10, *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*
2. The Triune process of salvation
 - a. The Father planned salvation, 2 Thessalonians 2:13, *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*
 - b. The Son provides salvation, Hebrews 10:12, *But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,*
 - c. The Spirit produces salvation, Titus 3:5, *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*

JESUS IS THE MESSAGE IN EVANGELISM

A. Who Jesus is

1. He is fully God
 - a. Attributes of God
 - 1) Eternal, John 8:58, *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*
 - 2) Omnipresent, Matthew 18:20, *For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.*
 - 3) Omniscient, Colossians 2:3, *...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
 - 4) Immutable (does not change), Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - b. Responsibilities of God
 - 1) Creator, John 1:3, *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - 2) Forgives sins, Luke 7:48, *And he said to her, Your sins are forgiven.*
 - 3) Raises the dead, John 11:43-44, *When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out...*
 - 4) Executes judgment, John 5:22, *The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,*
 - c. Names which imply deity
 - 1) I am, John 8:58, *Jesus said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.*
 - 2) The Alpha and Omega, Revelation 22:13, *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*
 - 3) Immanuel, Matthew 1:23, *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us).*
 - 4) The Word, John 1:1-3, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
 - d. Jesus is called God, John 1:1, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
 - e. Relationships revealing His deity
 - 1) Baptismal formula, Matthew 28:19, *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*
 - 2) Apostolic benediction, 2 Corinthians 13:14, *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

- 3) Oneness with the Father, John 10:30, *I and the Father are one* (one substance - not one person).
 - 4) He is worshiped, Matthew 14:33, *And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."*
2. He is fully man, as well
 - a. Hypostatic Union: He is one person with two nature, divine and human, Colossians 2:9, *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*
 - b. Kenosis: This is the relationship of the two natures constituting one person
 - 1) His divine power was veiled, not surrendered on earth, Philippians 2:6-7, *though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*
 - 2) He lived among men as a man with human limitations, Hebrews 4:15, *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
- B. What Jesus did
1. Definition of the Gospel, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*
 2. The results of Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension
 - a. It is vicarious: Jesus died for the sins of others, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - b. It is satisfaction: Jesus satisfies the law of God and fulfilled all the demands of the law, Matthew 5:17, *Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*
 - c. It is propitiation: Jesus' payment appeases the wrath of God, 1 John 2:2, *He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*
 - d. It is atonement: Jesus' death made payment for the sins of others, Matthew 20:28, *...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*
 - e. It is redemption: Jesus delivers man from slavery to sin, Galatians 3:13, *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-*
 - f. It is reconciliation: Jesus delivers man from enmity to friendship with God, Colossians 1:21-22, *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*

COMMANDS FROM PAUL CONCERNING THE GOSPEL, 2 TIMOTHY 1:7-14

- A. First command : Suffer hardship for the sake of the Gospel (7 - 12)
1. Don't be ashamed (7-8b)
 - a. Of the Gospel (7-8a), **for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,**
 - 1) Because God has not given us a spirit of fear but power (boldness) and love and self-control (7)
 - 2) Since it is the testimony of our Lord
 - 3) Suffering not shame is to characterize Timothy's ministry
 - b. Of Paul who is a prisoner for the sake of Jesus Christ (8b), **...nor of me his prisoner,**
 - 1) Paul was imprisoned for his faithful testimony.
 - 2) Timothy had no reason to be embarrassed by Paul's condition.
 2. Proclaim the Gospel which is worth any hardship (8c-12)
 - a. Because it is the plan of God (8c-9)
 - 1) For service (8c), **but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,**
 - a) It is the power of God which enables one to endure hardship.
 - b) It is the power of God which enables one to faithfully proclaim the Gospel.
 - c) 2 Timothy, 2:3, Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
 - 2) For salvation (9a), **who saved us**
 - a) God saves independently of the work of mankind.
 - b) Salvation is a point in time experience, justification.
 - c) John Stott, *Salvation is due to God's grace alone, not to man's merit; not to our works performed in time, but to God's purpose conceived in eternity...nothing can quiet our fears for our own stability like the knowledge that our safety depends ultimately not on ourselves but on God's own purpose of grace.*

- 3) For holy living based on God's calling from eternity past (9b), *and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,*
 - a) Our holy calling is sanctification, a move toward conformity to Christ.
 - b) His grace was given before the world began by His decree.
 - c) It was based on the future work of Jesus.

b. Because it is the work of Christ (10), *and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel,*

- 1) He defeated death
 - a) *abolished death*, to put a stop to, no longer operative.
 - b) Death has lost its sting through the resurrection of Jesus Christ because it no longer holds Christians captive.
- 2) He is the giver of eternal life
 - a) We now have new life in this world and immortality in the world to come.
 - b) It was brought to light at the empty tomb.

c. Because it is the message of Paul (11-12)

1) The Gospel was His calling (11), *for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher,*

- a) Paul was appointed a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gospel.
- b) His role in life was to be a communicator of the greatest message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c) Are we committed to proclaiming the Gospel?

2) The Gospel gave him confidence despite suffering (12)

- a) that he can endure suffering because of His relationship with Christ (12a), *which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed*

- 1] Paul's life in Christ was based on sure knowledge of the truth of the Gospel.
- 2] *know*, Greek word which speaks of knowledge beyond a doubt, not based on experience alone.
- 3] Kenneth Wuest, *...a knowledge of what God is in Himself which makes Him absolutely dependable in any circumstances. It is like hammering a nail through a board and clinching it on the other side. It is there to stay.*

- b) because God fully guards what was entrusted to him (12b), *and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.*

1] *convinced,*

- a] Louw-Nida, *to convince someone to believe something and to act on the basis of what is recommended.*
- b] Jesus convinced Paul on the road to Damascus.

2] *guard what has been entrusted to me,*

- a] Specifically, this probably refers to a spiritual gift entrusted to Timothy by Paul.
- b] Generally, God will keep us secure in our privilege of proclaiming the Gospel.

3] *until that Day*

- a] The day when one is face to face with Christ by death or by Rapture.
- b] 1 Corinthians 3:13, *each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.*
- c] What will we have to show for our time on earth as children of God?

B. Second command: Be accurate in communicating the Gospel (13)

1. Right Content (13a), *Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me*

- a. Paul emphasized the apostolic stamp that the message must bear.
- b. Timothy is called to preserve and transmit the message faithfully.
- c. So are we - the importance of knowing what we believe and the ability to proclaim it faithfully.

2. Right attitude and motive, (13b), *In the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus*
 - a. A messenger of the Gospel must share it in the proper manner.
 - b. The manner of presenting the Gospel
 - 1) By faith in Christ alone
 - 2) By the love of Christ
 - 3) That is: Our presentation of the Gospel must be centered in a love for Jesus Christ and a love for those for whom Christ died empowered by His sacrificial love for us.

- C. Third command: Guard the Gospel from those who would distort the message (14), *By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.*
 1. *guard the good deposit*
 - a. *guard* is a military term meaning to *defend, to keep watch.*
 - b. *The good deposit*
 - 1) Some would say *the good deposit* is his salvation but God is the One Who guards our souls.
 - 2) Based on the context, I believe he is speaking of the message and his responsibility to preach and preserve it.
 - 3) Kenneth Wuest, *Timothy is to guard, watch, and defend the truth once for all delivered to the saints in view of the defection from the truth that was even then in its inception in the early Church.*

 2. The means of guarding the Gospel
 - a. By dependence upon the Holy Spirit who has preserved the message and continues to do so.
 - b. By participating with the Holy Spirit
 - 1) Through prayer
 - 2) Through diligent study of the Word (know what you believe)
 - 3) Through obedience in proclaiming the revealed truth of the Gospel.

TYPES OF GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS

- A. Roman Road
 1. Man is a sinner, Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
 2. The penalty of sin is death, Romans 5:12, *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned*
 3. Christ died to pay the penalty, Romans 5:8, *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 4. You must trust Christ, Romans 10:9, *...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

- B. Theological
 1. God is holy, 1 Peter 1:14-16, *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*
 2. Man is unholy, Ephesians 2:13, *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*
 3. Christ satisfied God's justice, Galatians 3:13, *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-*
 4. You must trust Christ, John 3:36, *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

- C. Anti-Works
 1. Man has sinned, Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
 2. Man can't save himself, Romans 3:20, *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.*
 3. Christ alone can save you, John 14:6, *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
 4. You must trust Christ, Acts 16:31, *Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.*

- D. Need-Centered
 1. God loves you, John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
 2. Man has sinned, Romans 3:23, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
 3. Christ died for sin, Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
 4. You must trust Christ, Acts 4:12, *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

E. Evangelism Explosion

1. Introductory questions

- a. Have you come to the place in your spiritual life that you know for certain that if you were to die today that you would go to heaven?
- b. If you were to stand before God, and He were to say to you, *Why should I let you into my heaven?* What would you say?

2. Gospel points

a. Grace

- 1) Heaven is a free gift, Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- 2) It can't be earned or deserved, Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

b. Man

- 1) All are sinners, Romans 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- 2) Man cannot save himself, Matthew 5:48, *You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

c. God

- 1) He is merciful, 1 John 4:8, *God is love.*
- 2) He is just, Exodus 34:7b, *who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.*

d. Christ

- 1) Who He is, John 1:1, 14, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- 2) What He did, 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.

e) Faith

- 1) What it is not, James 2:19, *You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*
- 2) What faith is, Acts. 16:31, *And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.*

F. Close (for any Gospel presentation)

1. Objections - deal with any reasons why commitment should not be made now.
2. Clarity - don't confuse issue which is placing trust in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.
3. Commitment - ask the person to trust Christ.
4. Assurance - John 6:47, *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*

CONCLUSION

A. Priority of evangelism

1. John Stott, *The church is under orders. Evangelistic inactivity is disobedience.*
2. Donald Whitney, *Godliness requires that we discipline ourselves in the practice of evangelism...All Christians are not expected to use the same methods of evangelism, but all Christians are expected to evangelize.*

B. Productivity of evangelism

1. Robert Louis Stevenson, *Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.*
2. Juha Rähkä, *If we spread the Gospel, Jesus will spread the salvation.*

- C. Content of evangelism, Francis Schaeffer, *The true basis for faith is not the faith itself, but the work which Christ finished on the cross. My believing is not the basis for being saved—the basis is the work of Christ. Christian faith is turned outward to an objective person: 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved.'*