

Spiritual Gifts - Evangelism
Calvary Chapel of Wilmington
Equipping the Saints Series

Workbook Session #4

Scripture Reading: Eph. 4:11-16

Additional readings are provided within the individual sections.

Scripture Focus: Eph 4:1-3

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Our English word “evangelist” comes directly from the Greek language with only minor modifications. We occasionally encounter words like this in both the Old and New Testament, words which are brought from one language into another with only minor changes in form. Apostle (from “apostolos”) and baptism (from “baptizo”) are other words which have undergone a similar transfer from Greek to English.

Definition: Evangelist from “euaggelistes: one who preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ

The word “evangelist” is only used these 3 times in the New Testament.

Read Acts 21:8; Eph.4:11 and II Tim. 4:5.

a. What is Phillip called in Acts 21:8?

b. What special word is used to designate the evangelist of Eph. 4:7-11?

c. What work is Timothy encouraged to do?

Comment: The New Testament uses 2 words for preach/preaching:

a. euaggelistes – This word is almost always used of the good news concerning the Son of God as proclaimed in the gospels.

b. kerusso - to be a herald, or, in general, to proclaim, to preach

If the topic of the herald in the passage is the gospel, then the use of kerusso in this case is equivalent to that of an evangelist.

a. II Tim. 1:11 What was Paul called to be?

b. Acts 26:14-20 What was Paul's message?

II. Spiritual Gifts

A. Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:7-16

What is the topic of this passage?

Who gives the gift of "Evangelist"?

Who receives the gift?

Of what value is this gift to the one receiving it?

Who is this gift for?

What does this gift achieve (what is its purpose)? Eph. 4:11ff; Acts 26:18

a. Eph. 4:11ff

b. Acts 26:18

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____

III. The Gospel

A. Scripture Reading: I Cor. 15:3-5

What is the gospel?

B. Who is the gospel for?

a. Lk. 4:18; Matt. 11:5

b. Mk 1:38

c. Mk. 16:15

d. Lk. 24: 46-48

C. Where is the gospel to be preached?

a. Matt. 28:19-20

b. Acts 5:42

c. Acts 8:14, 25

d. Acts 8:26

In general, where would you say the gospel is to be preached?

IV. Gift versus Responsibility

Consider the question: If you do not have the “gift of evangelism,” does that mean that you are not responsible to witness to others? (Some would say that it is the work of the apostle and evangelist.)

Read the scriptures identified below and answer the question that immediately follows.

1. Acts 1:8 Who will be the witnesses?

To whom will they be witnesses?

2. Acts 1:15 How would you classify the witnesses?

About how many persons were present in this account?

3. Acts 2:3-4 Who did the Holy Spirit sit upon?

4. Acts 8:1-4 Who were the ones who were preaching the Word?

5. John 16:7-11 What happens when the Holy Spirit comes?

Who does the Holy Spirit use to accomplish this work?

6. II Tim. 4:5 What did Paul encourage Timothy to do?

Was Timothy an “evangelist”?

From your readings above, does the child of God who does not have the “gift of evangelism” have a responsibility to witness to the lost? Explain your answer.

V. Evidences of the Evangelist

Read the following scriptures and respond to the questions immediately following:

1. I Thess. 1:5-8

What evidences did Paul say were evident when the gospel came to the Thessalonians?

2. Lk. 9:6

What evidence accompanied the preaching in this passage?

3. Acts 8:5-13

What evidences accompanied Phillip's preaching?

4. Acts 16:25-34

What evidences did the Philippian jailor and his family experience?

5. Acts 13:4-5

Did "signs" accompany Paul and Barnabas when they preached at Salamis?

There are many more passages we could review.

From the ones reviewed above, what would you say are the accompanying evidences of an evangelist?

VI. How can you know if you have the gift of Evangelism?

In Ephesians 4: 11-16, Paul tells us that some* will have the “gift” of Evangelism.

This indicates to me that not all will have this gift.

1. Sometimes a gift of the Spirit is given through the laying on of hands. Note Paul’s exhortation to Timothy (I Tim. 4:14) to not neglect the gift that is in you by prophecy with the laying on of hands of the elders.

It is possible that the elders may lay hands on a person and know prophetically that they have the gift of evangelism.

2. The evangelist will lead others to Christ. An evangelist is daily witnessing to people and is continually leading people to the Lord. It just seems to be a natural part of their makeup. If this is not happening for you, and you’re walking with the Lord, it is likely that you do not have this gift.

3. When God calls a person to a ministry, he equips them in many ways. Two of the much-needed equipments are heart issues...a love for people and passion to see them saved. If you see strong evidence in this area, you may have the gift of evangelism.

4. Evangelists have a “ministry results” focus. They will want to know: “How many people have been saved in your ministry?” (Compare the ministry of the teacher who is looking to the needs of the body and will identify areas of training in the church that are needed. Another example is a person who has a ministry in finance. His focus will be on the financial numbers – Is the church operating “in the black”?)

* Note: The work of the evangelist leads to the birth of a new babe in Christ. This new Christian will need nurturing, care, comfort, instruction, training in righteousness, etc.

In the army, I was told that for every one soldier we put on the front line to do the actual fighting, 10 were needed to provide the support that this one fighting soldier would need. This included provision for such basic needs as food, shelter, transportation, clothing, weapons, training, etc.

My observation from being in the church for several decades is that a similar ratio exists within the ministries of the church. (I haven’t seen any scripture passages that indicate the actual ratio of evangelists to other ministries.) I see far more persons called to support the functions of the church (e.g. pastors, teachers, helps) than the number of those called to be evangelists.

I suspect that the ratio of evangelists with respect to other members in the church may be higher (e.g. 1:20) than the army's 1:10 ratio.

VII. Practical Suggestions

- 1. The key to effective evangelism is to build a bridge into someone's life across which Christ can walk into their heart. This means that the most effective method of evangelism is to build relationships. Remember that your life needs to be the first witness they see.**
- 2. Evangelism is a way of life, the way we live. Each day, the Christian should be prepared and watching for opportunities to share their faith.**
- 3. Think of evangelism as sowing seeds. Sometimes you may get to put in the sickle and reap a harvest but, more often than not, you are sowing the seed of the Word and the crop is not yet ready to be harvested.**
- 4. Learn how you best witness.
Learn and discern where your opportunities are.**
- 5. Ask God to give you opportunities to share your faith.**
- 6. Be a good listener. People are more likely to listen to you if you show a willingness to listen to them. Often, what they say will provide an open door for the gospel. Don't be thinking about what you are going to say next while they are talking. Let the Spirit guide you.**
- 7. Have a genuine interest in people. Don't witness just because that's what good Christians do.**
- 8. Don't be anxious or manipulative to "get the decision." The person may not be ready to invite "the Lord" into their life. Learn to discern. People are in many different places in their lives relative to becoming a Christian.**
- 9. Be sure you know how to introduce someone into the family of God.**
 - a. the gospel**
 - b. their need (Why do I need God)**
 - c. the steps of repentance, faith, confession, receiving.**
- 10. Don't make glorious promises of success and well-being in this life. (You don't know the life that God will call them to; e.g. Jeremiah)**
- 11. Learn from your mistakes.**
- 12. Remember that prayer is a vital part of evangelism.**

13. Sometimes your best witness occurs and you don't even know it. Therefore, walk in the Spirit, abide in the vine.