

Introduction to Evangelism

Evangelism Is More Than a Commandment

Evangelism It's about - sharing the Word of God with others -- isn't an exclusive job of the Evangelists."

A question that is asked - So Why Missions?

Without missions those in darkness will never have an opportunity to believe

Why is there is a great need to hear His Message Throughout The World?

Every nation, tribe, people and language will be represented in heaven because we have said "Yes!" to God's invitation to witness to our friends, family and the world through cross-culturally sharing.

Why is Making Disciples of all the nations so important?

Jesus directly links His return to the fulfillment of the Great Commission. *"This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."* Matt 24:14

There will be worshipers from every people group before His throne. "For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Rev 5:9

As part of the Great Commission (Matt 28:19) *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit",*

Evangelism is a calling on all Christians. However, it's more than a commandment.

Evangelism is an honor, a joy, and a pleasure! It is also important to show God's love; our actions shout louder than our voices.

It's a God-given privilege from the heart! The reason I want everybody to feel the love of God is because I experience it. Because I know His love, I want everybody to know it. It's all for love!

We are living examples of the grace of God, and our attitude towards others should impact their lives.

How can we remain silent about God's perfect love? Jesus affirmed that we are the salt and light of the earth

Matt 5: 13-14 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it

be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

It's because of us that others can come to experience the enduring love of God. It's you and me who can reach out and touch the lives of our neighbors, families and friends.

Look around you. People are hurting. The world is searching for earthly answers and earthly pleasures to fill the void that only God can fill completely. Today, this last week, last month, last year or two - the world seems to be coming apart. How can we help? What can we do? At least Pray, but reach out to others to share, to comfort, and to encourage.

They're looking for all kinds of truths, where the truth is only One (*John 3:16*) "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*".

Who's going to tell them about the reason for our hope? I often am reminded of the hopeless world without Jesus

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Evangelism vs. Disciple Making

Did God Command us?

"If you love me, you will obey what I command" John 14:15.

We don't have to ask God if He wants us to share the gospel with others. We have already been given the command (*Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*).

Jesus commanded his Church to:

1. Proclaim the Gospel message (evangelize), and
2. To make disciples.

Evangelism and the making of disciples are two complementary tasks

Mark 16:15 "*Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation*"

Matt 28:19 "*Therefore go, and make disciples of all nations*"

So what is Evangelism about?

1. Often broad in focus, communicating to many individuals
2. Generally precedes the making of disciples
3. Focuses on the essence of the Gospel message
4. Anticipates little prior knowledge of the Gospel
5. Anticipates both a receptive, open audience and a skeptical, questioning audience
6. Can be large-scale and somewhat impersonal or very direct and personal
7. May be brief
8. Utilizes communication tools developed specifically for the task
9. May be difficult to measure the effectiveness

What is Disciple Making about?

1. Narrow in focus, dealing with a relatively few individuals
2. Generally is a result of evangelism
3. Often personal, mentor to disciple
4. Emphasizes depth of understanding, and application of understanding
5. Requires commitment from the disciple, and from the mentor
6. Requires substantial amounts of time
7. Utilizes communication tools developed specifically for the task
8. Results are somewhat measurable

Implications to the fulfillment of the Great Commission

1. The "Great Commission" may be understood to include both evangelization and the making of disciples.
2. Only the Lord knows when the Great Commission will be fulfilled, but Matt 24:14 suggests the critical factor may be world evangelization. However, the implication in *Matt 28: 19-20* is that disciples will in fact be made among all nations. They are complementary tasks.

So are you ready?

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching.

Approaches to Evangelism

Throughout history, Christians have used many different approaches to spread Christianity via the practice of evangelism. Christianity began with only a few different evangelical approaches, but over the years, many different forms of evangelism have been employed by various groups to spread the faith. Christians in different geographical areas often employ many of these forms of evangelism in only certain parts of the world.

Lifestyle Evangelism

Lifestyle evangelism is an approach to evangelism characterized by someone demonstrating their faith by their actions in the hope that people around them will be impressed with how God affects that person's life, and become a Christian. According to *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism* printed in 2004, approximately 100 million people use this approach to evangelism.

Supporters of this approach to evangelism often cite Matthew 5:16 as a proof verse. Supporters also often point out that Jesus drew people to God by showing them kindness and performing good deeds, while detractors sometimes note that people may not realize one's good behavior is due to Christianity. Supporters claim this is more effective than direct evangelism because of the perception that it is harder to live 'righteously' than to preach a sermon.

Friendship Evangelism

Similar to lifestyle evangelism, friendship evangelism is an approach to evangelism characterized by Christians developing relationships with people in order to show them kindness and talk to them about God eventually. Supporters sometimes say that Jesus related to those who took an interest in him as friends, or that it is more effective than other methods of evangelism, which are seen as less personal. This approach is also known as "loving someone into the kingdom."

Personal Evangelism

Sometimes referred to as "one to one" or "personal work", this approach to evangelism is when one Christian evangelizes to, typically, one non-Christian, or only a few non-Christians, in a private manner. A 1982 Gallup Poll revealed that 51 percent of all Americans had tried to convince someone to become a Christian during their life.

Using Gospel tracts

A gospel tract in the Christian sense is a leaflet with a gospel message. It is typically a short presentation of the Gospel lasting only a few pages, and is typically printed on small pieces of paper. Estimated numbers of tracts distributed in the year 2000 amount to around 5 billion. It is often used in conjunction with street preaching or door to door preaching. As an approach to evangelism, many modern evangelists attest to the usefulness of gospel tracts to spread the gospel.

Door to door preaching

Door to door preaching is an approach to evangelism where a Christian will go from household to household in a certain area to evangelize to residents, often in conjunction with passing out gospel tracts. Jesus often went into other people's homes during his own ministry, and according to *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism*, it is a very important approach to evangelism. One of the first modern large-scale uses of door-to-door preaching was when the Oriental Mission Society attempted to visit the homes of an entire nation, by visiting 10.3 million homes in Japan through the years of 1912 to 1917. The international organization Every Home for Christ began door-to-door preaching in 1953 throughout many countries, and as of 2010, total home visits by their members became 1.3 billion. Many local parishes and churches worldwide use this approach to evangelism.

Groups such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons are famous in particular for spreading their beliefs by door-to-door evangelism at people's homes, often in pairs or small groups.

Evangelizing through a sermon

Many churches regularly have a gospel message preached in a sermon. Often, this will include an altar call where people are invited to come forward and "accept Christ". The use of altar calls is somewhat controversial, while it is practiced by many evangelical churches, some Calvinists object to it in the grounds it creates false conversions.

Creative Evangelism

This approach to evangelism is where the creative arts (such as music, visual art, drama, film) are used to present a gospel message. Examples include Wendy Alec's novel 'The Fall of Lucifer', Christian rock band *Delirious?* And Sebastian Bach's musical composition "Matthäuspasion" (Saint Matthew Passion). However, some ministries refer to this kind of evangelism as simply the practice of finding creative ways to evangelize.

Campus Crusade for Christ, an evangelical Christian association with branches in a multitude of countries, owns the distribution rights for a movie called "Jesus Film", a presentation of the life of Jesus Christ. About 850 million people have viewed this movie, which has been translated into 80 languages.

Televangelism

Televangelism is an approach to evangelism characterized by an evangelistic message presented through the medium of television, often through a charismatic sermon. Large Christian television networks such as the Catholic broadcasting channel EWTN or the Protestant televangelism channel Trinity Broadcasting Network feature many televangelist preachers.

Televangelism was started in the United States and Canada in the mid-20th century, as a primarily evangelical Protestant approach to evangelism. It made Christian viewpoints much more visible in the world at the time than they were before.

Radio Evangelism

Radio evangelism is an approach to evangelism, which began around 1921, and has reached more people per hour than any other kind of evangelism, according to *The Encyclopedia of Protestantism*. It is the usage of radio broadcasts to evangelize to listeners, sometimes worldwide in one broadcast.

Internet Evangelism

Internet evangelism is a form of evangelism where the gospel is presented on the Internet. This may include a website defending the accuracy of the Bible, someone discussing their faith in a chat room, evangelical messages or advertisements on the home pages of Christian organizations, or other methods of using the internet to spread Christianity.

An evangelism resource for churches, bible colleges, outreach teams & individuals, because ...

Digital media have transformed the world in the last 15 years. We have entered a new 'digital communication culture' where all the rules for effective communication have changed. Even offline!

There are 2+ billion web users, and over 5 billion people use mobile phones (increasingly these are web-equipped). The Web is not just another means of communication, but a hyper-medium that subsumes, links together, and enhances all previous media.

In the United States, the Internet Evangelism Coalition, set up by the Billy Graham Center in 1999, initiated Internet Evangelism Day on the last Sunday of April every year.

In their Pew Internet and American Life Project, the Pew Research Center found that "Nearly two-thirds of online Americans use the Internet for faith-related reasons. The sixty-four percent of Internet users who perform spiritual and religious activities online represent nearly eighty-two million Americans."

Among the most popular and important spiritually related online activities:

- Thirty-eight percent of the nation's 128 million Internet users have sent and received email with spiritual content.
- Thirty-five percent have sent or received online greeting

cards related to religious holidays. • Thirty-two percent have gone online to read news accounts of religious events and affairs. • Twenty-one percent have sought information about how to celebrate religious holidays. • Seventeen percent have looked for information about where they could attend religious services. • Seven percent have made or responded to online prayer requests. • Seven percent have made donations to religious organizations or charities.

Developing Ministry of Sharing Christ Online

With the emergence of the Internet, many individuals, churches, denominations and ministries immediately recognized the potential of the Internet and created numerous Christian web sites. However, many of the web sites served only as electronic brochures.

Yet as the Internet matured, so did its use. Christians began to develop web sites solely to share Jesus Christ with non-believers. The terms "seeker sensitive site," "online evangelism" and "Internet evangelism" became more common as groups recognized the vast opportunities to share the Light of Christ on the web.

Phone Evangelism

This approach to evangelism involves using phones to contact people in order to spread the gospel to them. This sometimes takes the form of random phone calls, or is done after someone contacts the evangelist to recommend people to whom a person may want the evangelist to evangelize. The huge growth in cell phones and other mobile devices is opening up the way for new and creative methods of evangelism.

Creation Evangelism

Not to be confused with creative evangelism, creation evangelism is the use of creationist philosophical and theological arguments to prove the literal interpretation of Genesis and thus the reliability of the Bible and the truth of the Christian gospel to people so that they may become convinced that Christianity is true. This approach has also been described as using a strategy of persuading a "non-believer that modern science is wrong and creationism is correct on scientific terms. Once that is accepted, then the non-believer will accept the truth of the Bible and become a Christian."

Prophetic Evangelism

A method employed mainly by charismatic Christians. This is where (as its practitioners believe) God speaks through a Christian to a non-believer to say something that will prompt that person to seek God. On most occasions it is something that the speaker could not have known naturally; for example, someone who is having a secret affair may be told that God knows they are doing wrong and wants them to change their ways.

Using the EvangeCube

The EvangeCube is a puzzle like pictorial teaching aid of eight interlocking blocks used tell the story of the gospel of Jesus Christ:

- Mankind's separation from God
- The death of Jesus on the cross for mankind's sin
- Jesus body sealed in a guarded tomb
- Jesus' resurrection
- The way to God open through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross
- The choice to receive God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life

The seventh face illustrates five practices for the new believer to follow: love for God and others, prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship and sharing the gospel of Christ with others.

The idea of EvangeCube was born in 1998 after creators Nathan Sheets and Jim Wyatt returned from a short-term mission trip to Haiti and encountered a marketing promotion using a cube in their mail. The cube's illustrations were completed with the help of two artists: a comic-book illustrator and stained-glass designer. The cube has been readily received by the Christians around the world with more than 3 million distributed since January 2000.

Motivators to share the Gospel

Understanding

1. Understanding the value of each soul

"...I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" Luke 15:10.

To Judas, a man's life was worth 30 pieces of silver (*Matt 26:5*). A certain man valued his life as being worth many goods (*Luke 12:13-20*). But God set the greatest value on man, the life of His Son (*Matt 13:44-46; 1 Peter 1:18-19*).

2. Understanding the consequences of sin

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Rom 6:23)

"Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" Revelation 20:14-15.

The death spoken of here is not physical death. Death is not annihilation, but separation. Physical death is a mere separation from the body and from the physical world, but man is an eternal being and his soul lives on. The consequence of sin is eternal death. In other words - it's eternal separation from God. An understanding of this fact gives urgency to our responsibility to spread the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to everyone.

3. Understanding that we are the channel of reconciliation

God has chosen to work through His Church, the Body of Christ. We have the privilege of being God's fellow-workers in the ministry of reconciliation (*2 Cor 5:19-20; 6:1, 1 Cor 3:9*)

Seeing

1. Seeing the greatness of the harvest

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! (John 4:35)

2. Seeing the need for harvesters

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' " Matt 9:37-38 (Also Luke 10:1-2)

God is asking today, *"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (Isa 6:8)*

Love

It was love that motivated God to send His Son for us (*John 3:16*) and it is love that motivates us to share the good news with others (*see John 17:18; 20:21*).

God's Command

"If you love me, you will obey what I command" *John 14:15*.

We don't have to ask God if He wants us to share the gospel with others. We have already been given the command (*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*).

Desire for Christ's return

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; and then shall the end come" *Matthew 24:14*.

The Scripture indicates that we can "speed" the return of the Lord (*2 Peter 3:12*). A desire for Christ's return will motivate us to speak to all about the Lord Jesus.

The Importance of Prayer in Evangelism

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matt. 9:37-38)

Prayer is essential in the Christian's life. Without it your witness will be far less effective and you will be far more vulnerable to the enemy. When you witness, you need the blessing and support of the Lord. You need to be in fellowship with Him. Prayer makes this all possible.

When you witness you plant the seeds of the Gospel, but it is God who causes the growth (*1 Cor. 3:6-7*). In prayer you ask God to give that growth. In prayer you ask God to convict the unrepentant of their sin and by that awaken in them the need for salvation. In prayer you, *"...let your requests be made known to God" (Phil 4:6)*. Think back to your own conversion. Were there people praying and requesting your salvation?

Jesus prayed frequently (*Matt. 14:23; 26:36; Mark 6:46; Luke 5:16; John 17*). Paul prayed (*Rom. 1:9; Eph. 1:16*). Stephen prayed (*Acts 7:55-60*). You must pray. God wants you to pray to Him and have fellowship with Him (*John 1:1-4*). Why? One reason is that our battle is not against flesh and blood but against powers and the spiritual forces of darkness (*Eph. 6:12*). That is where the real battle is, in the spiritual realm. You need prayer. Prayer is one of God's ordained means for you to do spiritual warfare and sharing the Gospel is definitely spiritual warfare.

Another reason to pray is that you can actually influence God with your prayers. If you are doubtful then look at *2 Kings 20:1-7*. The prophet Amos told King Hezekiah that he should set his house in order because he was surely going to die (v. 1). Hezekiah prayed earnestly (v. 2,3). The Lord heard his prayers and said, *"I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add fifteen years to your life"* (v. 5)

Hezekiah's prayer made a difference. That is why you, as a Christian, can be an effective witness, because you have influence with God and because you can ask God to save. Prayer is a vital part of witnessing.

What should you pray for?

Pray for more people to witness. Jesus specifically asked you to pray to the Father and ask Him to send workers into the field (*Matt. 9:37-38*). What is the field? It is the world of sinners. Who are the workers? They are people like you. Jesus wants people to find salvation and enjoy eternal fellowship with Him. He wants you to preach the Gospel. He has given the command *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations..."* (*Matt. 28:19*). Your witness for God may or may not be verbal. But either way, you need to pray and ask God to give you strength, love, and insight.

Compassion for the lost.

Compassion is a necessary element in witnessing. It motivates you to speak, to teach, and to pray for others to come into the kingdom of God. Compassion helps you to cry over the lost and to come to God in humble request for their salvation. Paul said, *"Brethren, my heart's desire and by prayer to God for them is for their salvation"* (*Rom. 10:1*)

Desire to witness.

Pray this regularly and watch the Lord change you and give you a desire to reach out and tell people about Jesus. God will grant your prayers and joy will fill your heart as you fulfill the command of God by witnessing.

Boldness

Pray for the courage to step out in faith and speak up when needed. Many Christians are timid because speaking a word for the sake of the Lord can be risky and frightening. Boldness gives you the courage to risk ridicule and to endure the scorn. Ask God for it. *"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord"* (*2 Tim. 1:7-8*)

Against Spiritual Warfare

There is a hierarchy of demons seeking to hinder your witness and steal the seeds of the Gospel that you plant. You cannot fight spirits with reason or flesh and blood, but you can ask the Lord to fight. With prayer you can assault the camp of the enemy and weaken his false kingdom. Prayer is a mighty tool, a powerful tool. You need it if you are going to witness.

Your personal needs.

Do you have a close walk with God? Do you need a deeper fellowship with Him? Do you have sins you need to confess and forsake? If so, then pray. Enjoy your privilege of coming to the Creator of the universe who meets your every need. He loves you. He wants to hear from you and He wants you to make your needs known to Him. *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* (*Phil. 4:6*).

Hindrances to prayer

Prayer is important for many reasons, especially for witnessing. But prayer can be hindered. So that your prayers and witnessing might be as affective as possible, a discussion of the hindrances of prayer is necessary. Do any of the following apply to you?

Sin

"If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear" (Psalm 66:18). We all sin, but do you have un-confessed and un-repentant sin in your life? If so, confess your sin, repent from it as you are commanded in *(Acts 17:30)*, and continue in witnessing and prayer.

Selfishness

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures" (James 4:3). Examine yourself. Make sure your prayers are not motivated by selfish desires. If you find that selfishness is a factor then confess it and repent.

Doubt

"But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6). We all doubt. We all fail. But when you doubt be reminded of the man who said to Jesus, *"Lord I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).* He believed and yet doubted and Jesus granted his request. Remember that God has given a measure of faith to every man *(Rom. 12:3)*. Trust God, even when you have doubts. It does not matter necessarily how much faith you have as much as who your faith is in. Put what faith you have in Jesus. Trust Him. Watch Him be faithful to you.

Pride

Jesus spoke of the Pharisee and the tax-gatherer who both were praying. The Pharisee boasted about himself while the tax-gatherer asked for mercy from God. Jesus said in *Luke 18:14* regarding the tax-gatherer, *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other."* Jesus shows us that pride is sin and that it hinders prayer *(James 4:6)*. Have the same attitude that Jesus had in heaven in His full glory as He had on Earth as a man. He was humble. If you are prideful, confess it as sin, repent, and continue in humility.

Unhealthy Marriage

This may seem a little out of place here, but it isn't. A proper relationship with your spouse is very important. If there are problems because of selfishness, pride, argument, anger, un-forgiveness, or any of the other multitudinous obstacles that can develop in marriage, then your prayers will be hindered. How are you doing with your mate? Are you witnessing while there is anger between you two? In *Matt. 5:23-24* Jesus said, *"If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."* Are you reconciled to your wife or husband (for that matter, anyone you know with whom there is strife) before you offer sacrifices of witnessing and prayer to the Lord? If not, then be reconciled, so your prayers won't be hindered. *1 Pet. 3:7* says, *"You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered."*

Prayer is a privilege

Prayer is a privilege. It is a powerful tool. Without it you will be a foolish worker in the fields of the dead. Pray and ask the Lord of the harvest to raise the dead to life. Bend your knees in fellowship with your Lord. Let Him wash you in His presence and fill you with the Holy Spirit. Prayer is where you meet Him. Prayer is where you are shaped. Pray.