

## **Evangelism, Principles of:**

Knowledge of salvation is necessary for witnessing. You cannot witness for Christ unless you know the gospel, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us [as ambassadors] the ministry of reconciliation: (19) Namely that God [the Father] was by means of Christ reconciling the world to himself [the principle of unlimited atonement] not counting their trespasses against them [the penalty of our personal sins were imputed directly to Christ on the cross], and he committed to us, the doctrine of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were making His appeal through us. We [as ambassadors] invite you [through the gospel message] on behalf of Christ become reconciled to God. (21) And he (Father) made him [Jesus] who knew no sin [impeccability of Christ] to be a sin offering [Jesus Christ, the high priest offered himself as a sacrifice for the penalty of our sins] as a substitute for us so that we might become the righteousness of God in him [positional truth].”

The Christian has a two-fold witness ministry. Being a witness to the unbeliever and before angels in the Angelic Appeal Trial are the responsibilities of every believer as per Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you [the Filling of the Holy Spirit]. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” [The human race was created to function as witnesses in Satan’s appeal trial. So, being witnesses to the unsaved human race is not the primary function of the Christian though important. So, even though a Christian may witness to many unbelievers during his lifetime, if that same believer does not function as a witness in this angelic appeal trial, basically he has failed in his primary mission.]

The effectiveness and clarity of the believer’s witness depends upon his understanding of the last judgment as taught in Revelation 20:12-15 and the convincing ministry as per John 16:8-11. These two passages make it

clear that a person's sins are not the issue in salvation except the sin of not believing in Jesus Christ.

Witnessing is impossible apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit, John 16:8-11, "And when that one comes, he will convince the world [the unbeliever] concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; (9) concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me [the sin of rejecting Christ as savior is the only sin not judged on the cross; (10) and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me [the need for perfect righteousness]; (11) and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged [If the greatest creature ever created did not escape judgment nor will you].

Pertinent content of the Bible is the believer's weapon in witnessing, 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the Word of the cross to the ones who are perishing [the ones rejecting the gospel] is foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." [If the unbeliever refuses to listen to the gospel or rejects the gospel information after hearing it (Common Grace followed by the Call of God the Father), then the gospel and all other spiritual information in the Bible will appear to him as foolishness. 1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the soulish-man [ψυχικὸς δὲ ἄνθρωπος is a reference to the unbeliever] does not accept the things from the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are discerned spiritually]" [Regarding God's word, the unbeliever can only understand the Laws of Establishment and the gospel via Common Grace and nothing else since the unbeliever does not have a human spirit.]

The dynamics of witnessing depend upon the believer's mental attitude, Romans 1:14-16, "I am under obligation both to the civilized unbelievers [those with Greek culture and language] and to the uncivilized unbelievers [like the barbarians of Spain] both to the wise [mature believers] and to the ignorant [includes baby, adolescent, and reversionistic believers]. (15) Thus, my eagerness to proclaim the good news [both the gospel and the spiritual life] to you who are in Rome. (16) For I am not ashamed of the

good news regarding salvation, for it is the power of God for providing salvation to anyone who believes in Christ, both to the Jew foremost [first in privilege] and likewise to the Gentiles.” [Paul had a sense of obligation based upon a sense of honor. From that sense of honor toward God, comes a sense of duty or responsibility toward others both to the unbeliever and to the believer.]

There are two areas of witnessing namely the witness of the life as per 2 Corinthians 3:3, “Being manifested [to people and angels] that you are a letter from Christ, having been ministered to by us; therefore, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tables of stone but on the tablets of the human heart [stream of consciousness].” and the witness of the lips as per 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, “For the love for Christ keeps motivating us, having concluded this, that one died [a substitutionary spiritual death] for all, therefore all died [real spiritual death at birth]; (15) and He [Christ] died as a substitute for all in order that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was resurrected [rose again] on their behalf. (16) Therefore, in the future we regard no one from the human viewpoint [according to the flesh]; even though we have known Christ from the human viewpoint [from the typical viewpoint that we had before we were saved], but now [with cognitive self-confidence and beyond] we know Him in this way no longer. (17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, and he is, he is a new spiritual species; the old things have passed away [lost their power over you like people emphasis over God emphasis]; behold, new things have come [the ten unique features of the Church Age; the ten Problem Solving-devices; the distribution of Escrow Blessings for time and the anticipation of the distribution of Escrow Blessing for the eternal state]. (18) Now, all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us [His ambassadors] the ministry of reconciliation, (19) namely, that God was by means of Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God [by believing in

Jesus Christ as your savior]. (21) He made Him who knew no sin to be a sin offering on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [in union with Christ].”

There is reward for witnessing in fellowship with God, 1 Corinthians 3:13-14, “each man’s work [Christian work or production] will become evident; for the day [evaluation seat of Christ after the Rapture] will show it because it is to be revealed by fire, in fact the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. (14) If any man’s work which he has built upon it [Christ, the Rock] remains, he will receive a reward.”

Paul knew that all the human ability and power in the world cannot persuade even one sinner to trust in Christ as savior. Only the power of the Holy Spirit working through the gospel can break through into the human soul causing an unbeliever to believe in Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:4, “Both my doctrine and my preaching were not in persuasive words of man’s wisdom [not in Greek culture and philosophy; not in rationalism or empiricism], but in the demonstration of the Spirit [regarding the gospel: common and efficacious grace; Paul’s teaching after salvation was done under the Filling of the Spirit and the power of metabolized doctrine in his soul] and in *his* power [God’s power is used both in the presentation of the gospel and in the teaching of God’s word which follows].”

In the Church Age, Paul witnessed under the power of the Filling of the Spirit and metabolized doctrine in his soul. In the Tribulation, Daniel’s Seventh Week, the last 7 years of the Age of Israel, the 144,000 Jewish evangelist and others will witness from the power of metabolized doctrine only for the Filling of the Holy Spirit will not be provided for believers in the Tribulation. However, these 144,000 evangelists most likely will be given the Enduement of the Spirit as the prophets were given in the Old Testament.

### **A few points for clarification regarding the presentation of the Gospel:**

1. Human public ability and eloquence will not bring a sinner to Christ.

2. Human popularity or success will not bring a sinner to Christ.
3. Human attractiveness will not bring a sinner to Christ.
4. It is not necessary to be intelligent or an intellectual to reach intellectuals.
5. You do not have to learn the unbeliever's philosophy or viewpoint to present him with the gospel-message.
6. You do not have to cultivate people or become friends with them to witness to them.

If faith in Christ were founded on logic it could be refuted by logic. All it takes is a greater debater, a smarter person using logic. The objective of witnessing is not to win a debate, not to present a logical platform subject to debate, but to present an absolute: the gospel. The Holy Spirit does the rest.

### **Proper Evangelism:**

1. Give the unbeliever information pertinent to salvation and stay on the subject. Avoid false issues such as legalism, salvation by change of behavior, feeling sorry for sins, joining the church, etc.
2. Never put the cart before the horse. Do not try to get the unbeliever to live the Christian way life. The issue is not living the Christian life, the issue is "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved," Acts 16:31; John 3:36.
3. Be sure to declare the good news [the gospel], and in the good news do not confuse it with the issue of sin for that has been removed. Only emphasize the person of Christ and His work on the cross. However, after explaining the good news, you may state what will happen if the unbeliever should reject the good news.

4. Do not add to the gospel. Nothing is accomplished by getting a person to give up his sins, to improve his behavioral pattern, or to feel sorry for his sins, to join a church or to walk down a church aisle.
5. Provide information and do not get in the way of the Holy Spirit with regard to the decision of faith. You can't force the volition of any member of the human race; even God can't do that.
6. Never ask an unbeliever for money, and avoid any kind of a gimmick that would confuse the issue like asking him to come forward or to stand up during an evangelistic appeal.

**Pitfalls in our personal witnessing:**

1. Avoid argumentation. You are not trying to win a debate; rather you are trying to win a soul to Jesus Christ. Hence, your job is to disseminate information rather than to argue over its validity.
2. Do not be sidetracked by false issues such as: Is the Bible the Word of God? Use the Word of God, don't argue as to whether the Bible is valid or not. The issue as to whether the Bible is the Word of God or not is an issue for the believer but not for the unbeliever.
3. Deal with the individual alone wherever possible. Often people will give you a hearing, but they will not do so in the presence of others who might ridicule them.
4. Avoid the concept that you must speak to a certain number of individuals each day or you are not spiritual. This is a human viewpoint-pressure system.
5. Avoid bragging about witnessing.
6. Avoid judging other believers for their apparent failure to witness. This is putting your nose into the affairs of other people.

### **Four types of false motivation related to the lust pattern:**

- 1. Materialism lust.** A person witnesses for money.
- 2. Approbation lust.** A person witnesses for recognition or praise.
- 3. Power lust.** A person witnesses in order to gain ascendancy in some Christian group.
- 4. Ego lust.** Witnessing motivated by competition with other believers. For example, if you witness to five people a day, I'll witness to six!

In 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Paul presents his viewpoint regarding the Gospel. "For if I communicate the good news [maybe I will; maybe I will not], I have nothing to boast about [neither evangelism nor communicating the spiritual life is a basis for boasting], for I am under necessity [I'm just doing what I should be doing; it is my responsibility]; for woe is me if I do not proclaim [at the point of opportunity] the gospel [fail in my responsibility as an ambassador and fail in my responsibility as a communicator of the spiritual life]. (17) For if I do this willingly [communicate the good news in fellowship], and I do, I have a reward [for witnessing even though the unbeliever may not respond]; but if I unwillingly fulfill a responsibility with which I have been entrusted, (18) What then is my reward [There is no reward for witnessing or communicating God's Word unwillingly since the believer is functioning under false motivation]? That, when I proclaim the good news [the gospel to the unbeliever; the spiritual life to the believer], I may offer the good news without charge [Paul never took money from the unbeliever nor did he take funds from the Corinthian believers], so as not to make full use of my right [Paul had the right to receive remuneration from the Corinthian Christians] in the gospel [in presenting the good news]. (19) For though I am free [the Law of Liberty] from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more [souls for Christ]. (20) To the Jews I became as a Jew [for example abstaining from eating pork] so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being under the Law myself [Paul was not under the Mosaic Law], so that I

might win those who are under the *Mosaic* Law [the Jewish unbeliever]; (21) to those who are without the Law [the Gentile unbeliever], as without law, though [Paul] not being without the Law of God but under the Law of Christ [the Law of the Filling of the Spirit], so that I might win those who are without law. (22) To the weak [Jewish and Gentile unbelievers] I became weak, that I might win the weak [to the Lord]; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. [In matters of doctrine, Paul was adamant and dogmatic, but in matters of expediency Paul was flexible without deceit and without compromise.] (23) I do all things for the sake of the gospel [the gospel-message], so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.”

### **Evangelism without Prejudice:**

1. In evangelism there must be no national prejudice in the presentation of the gospel.
2. There must be no racial or social prejudice in the presentation of the gospel.
3. Arrogance in the form of prejudice destroy the effective presentation of the gospel in the three categories: personal witnessing, the evangelistic ministry of those who have the spiritual gift, and national evangelism or missionary activity.

### **The removal of national prejudice in communicating the gospel**

1. From BC 1440 to AD 70, over 1500 years of history, client nation Israel had the responsibility of evangelizing Gentile nations.
2. The failure of evangelism and missionary activity was one of the reasons for the three administrations of the fifth cycle of discipline to Israel.
3. It is obvious then that the responsibility of client nation Israel was the evangelism of Gentiles and Gentile nations.



4. While there is no client nation Israel in the Tribulation, mass evangelism will be carried out by Jewish evangelists who will present the gospel to Gentiles and Gentile nations.
5. There must be no national prejudice in the presentation of the gospel. Why did the Jews fail in the past? They became arrogant about their culture, and therefore they became involved in Cosmic One and Cosmic Two. In Satan's cosmic systems, they were not motivated to evangelize.
6. When Christ was on the cross, He was judged for the sins of the entire world, therefore there must be no national prejudice in presenting the gospel.
7. In spite of anti-Semitism reaching its peak in the Tribulation [Revelation chapter 12] these Jewish evangelists reach thousands and millions of Gentiles in Gentile nations. These Jewish evangelists will be evangelizing under the greatest period of anti-Semitism the world will ever know.
8. Furthermore, Jewish evangelists of the Tribulation perform their evangelistic responsibilities without the support of a client nation. National barriers do not hinder evangelism in the Tribulation. National barriers will be up because of extensive warfare during the Tribulation.

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: [rbthieme.org](http://rbthieme.org)