

## Gifted for a Reason Pt 7

### Mark 1:17

- Welcome to the final gift on our list “**the gift of Evangelism**” now although this gift falls into the speaking category ironically all evangelism doesn’t consist of speaking; in fact it has as much to do with action as it does with words, what do you mean? **1Pet 2:11-12** Peter is speaking to Christians who are being persecuted throughout the Roman empire, as they’re arrested, tortured, and forced to either confess their allegiance and worship to Caesar or die mercilessly.
- Caesar Nero was one of the most ruthless cruel leaders the world had ever seen, just a wrong glance toward him could send him into a rage and cause the person, their loved ones, even those standing around them to lose their lives. So wicked was he that history says that he intentionally set Rome a blaze watched it burn for two weeks as thousands of people died and afterward blamed the whole thing on radical Christians offering a reward for their capture.
- This brought tremendous persecution on the church and intense scrutiny on its teachings especially how it was to conduct itself in the midst of such unfair treatment by a people it’s supposed to minister to and help to see the light. Nero being demonically influenced no doubt, even set Christians on fire who had been caught and tied them to his chariot riding through Rome declaring these are the light of the world; it doesn’t get any more gruesome than that.
- Peter’s encouragement he calls us “**beloved**” in the midst of trouble, disappointment, turmoil, fear, doubt, always remember that you are “**God’s beloved**” meaning we are loved. Satan wants us to think God forgets about His own, that’s why bad things happen to good people, because God has really forsaken us, that’s the lie he tells the world and wants us to believe. Peter says not so, we are His beloved, and because we are perfectly loved by Him Who is perfect, it should motivate us to live Godly lives even though we live in the midst of this godless world.
- It’s interesting that by calling us God’s beloved children he is focusing on our love relationship to Jesus > **Jn 14:15**- says “**if we love Jesus then we’ll keep His commandments**” but in this He’s not asking for “**obedience because of duty**”, which we see with the military or so many other commitments were expected to keep, this is “**obedience because of devotion**” > **Jn 14:23**- “**if a man loves Me, he will keep My words**”. Afterward Peter says for our citizenship is in heaven as we are strangers and pilgrims in this world traveling toward a heavenly city.
- So we don’t get ourselves involved in “**lusts**” desires that cause us to abandon the mission of living Godly and begin to live selfishly to try and satisfy the flesh and not glorify the Lord. You know our real battle is not **with people around us**, but **with passions within us** > D. L. Moody one of the greatest evangelist of his day wisely said “**I have more trouble with D.L. Moody than with any man I know**”, he knew that if he yielded to his sinful desires then he would start living like the unsaved people around him, and would be self centered and not others centered.

- **V12** with our passions in check then our lives will follow as we don't witness to people merely with our lips but in our walk, for your good works must back up your good words. Once both word and deed is in place when the Lord speaks to those who have been positively affected it takes away any excuse they may have as to why they won't surrender to the Lord. **Philip 2:15-** as we receive and apply God's word we begin to illuminate God's truth to a lost and dying world.
- The world is crooked and its perverse, the natural thought is that we can straighten it out but we cannot, you and I cannot fix this world, its broken and perverse, but what we can do is point it to the truth by shining the light that is within us toward them and leading them to God. **Math 5:14-16** we are not friends to the world nor is the world our friend, but what we are is lights that shine in dark places and we shouldn't seek to hide our light nor let something or someone hide our light either, and the world does that by getting us to compromise who we are and get us not to believe what God has said, which is why we need each other for protection and guidance.
- **The gift of Evangelism** is proclaiming the good news of salvation effectively so people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and discipleship. Real evangelistic ability doesn't stop at conversion but desires to see the convert in continuous growth and fellowship with **1<sup>st</sup>** the local church and the body of Christ. Meaning if you have the gift of Evangelism you won't be satisfied with someone simply saying the prayer but you will want to see them in a healthy church growing and involved in the lives of others discovering and applying their spiritual gifts.
- **Mk 1:17-** this verse was not just for the disciples, pastors or leaders, but it is for the entire body, we are all fishermen, we all have a pond that God has placed us at for us to cast our net into and see if the fishes are biting. This is why **2 Tim 4:5** says we are all called "**to do the work of an Evangelist**" whether your uncomfortable, uneasy, don't like conflict or whatever your hang up is, God expects us to use what we have to draw attention to what He has given us > (**Jesus**).