

# Spiritual Gifts 9 Evangelism - The Outreach Gift a study for the Gulf Coast Baptist Church Bible Institute for the Winter session 2020-21 by Steve Thomas

Outreach gift: Evangelism Eph. 4:1-11

## Introduction

Evangelism is one of the most misunderstood features of God's plan and purposes today. The gift of evangelism has been lost in the rush by the church to make all believers evangelists. The Scriptural fact is that all believers have an opportunity to evangelize, but not all believers have the gift of evangelism. The believer with the gift of evangelism is driven by the Holy Spirit constantly to reach out to the unsaved. The person with the gift has the ability to be led by the Spirit to know who to talk to, what to say and how to say it, in a way that opens the door for the giving of the gospel for salvation. Every believer does not possess the yearning to see the lost saved. There is no Scripture that supports the fact that every believer possesses the yearning to see the lost saved, or even that they should possess this yearning. Every believer plays a significant role in winning the lost, but the believer with the gift of Evangelism has the tools to excel above all others in his quest to reach people with the gospel message.

- I. THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM IS UNIQUE TO THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE.
  - A. The New Testament term for evangelism is not found in the Old Testament.
    1. The word translated evangelist is ***euaggelistas***.
      - a) Eu is a prefix that can be translated "good".
      - b) ***Aggelistes one who makes a proclamation, delivers a message.***
    2. The word is used only three times in the New Testament.
      - a) It is used for those gifts given early for the adjustment of the saints. Eph. 4:11
      - b) It is used to identify the most prominent evangelist of Scripture, Phillip. Acts 21:8
      - c) It is used for Timothy, who had a spiritual gift of evangelism alongside his gifts of apostle and pastor/teacher. 2 Tim. 4:5
    3. The content of the preaching of the evangelist is cross work of Christ. 1st Co. 1:18-21 cf. 1st Co. 15:1-4
  - B. The term evangelist is not found, but the Old Testament records people used by God to reach the lost.
    1. Noah was sent to the entire world to preach a message of righteousness. 2 Pet. 2:5
      - a) ***Preacher is kerusso, a herald, one who makes a proclamation of good news for salvation or provisions from God; or proclamation of judgment.*** cf. 1st Tim. 2:7; 2 Tim. 1:11

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- b) The Hebrew word for preacher is qohemoth and is only used in the book of Ecclesiastes of Solomon who taught the nation Israel knowledge. cf. Ecc. 12:9
- c) The verb form preach is used several times in the Old Testament of ones who preached or was prophesied to preach to the nation Israel. cf. Neh. 6:7 (of prophets preaching to Israel); Is. 61:1 (of the Lord prophesied to preach until Israel)
2. Abel was a prophet who prophesied and taught the people in the Dispensation of Conscience. Lk. 11:51;
3. There was a preacher of good news among Israel that preached a gospel of peace. Rom. 10:14
4. Jonah was used to preach a message to the unsaved. Jonah 3:2
  - a) His message was a message of judgment to come. Jonah 3:4
  - b) Nineveh repented. Jonah 3:5-10; Lk. 11:32
5. God used the nation Israel as a means of reaching the unsaved from the giving of the law to the Dispensation of Grace.
  - a) Rahab was saved as a result of God's power shown through the nation Israel.
  - b) Nineveh was saved as a result of the preaching of Jonah.
6. God used John the Baptist to preach a good news concerning the Kingdom from the Heavens to Israel. Matt. 3:1 cf. Acts 13:25
7. The Lord preached a good news concerning the Kingdom from the Heavens. Matt. 4:23
8. The Lord preached a good news concerning the Kingdom from God. Mk. 1:14
9. There will be proclaimers of good news in the Tribulation Period. Matt. 24:14; Rev. 14:6-7

### II. THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF EVANGELISM IS THE GIFT THAT GOD USES TO ADD PEOPLE TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

- A. All believers are responsible for getting the word of God out to unsaved.
  1. By providing a capable evangelist. Eph. 4:11; Acts 8:4; 11:19-22
  2. By providing a witness through the lives of the individual believers. 1 Peter 3:15
- B. Illustration of the gift of evangelism.
  1. Paul functioned as an evangelist. (Acts 17:1-5; 17:10-12; 18:1-8)
  2. Timothy functioned as an evangelist. 2 Tim. 4:5
  3. Phillip was the most prominent evangelist. Acts 21:8

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- III. THERE ARE SOME DISTINCT DIFFERENCES IN THE FUNCTION OF THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM SINCE THE DAY OF PENTECOST
- A. The function of the gift was different earlier in church history.
    - 1. The evangelist in the early church had an ability to perform miracles and signs to validate his authenticity. Acts. 8:12-13
    - 2. Those saved by an evangelist in the early church had to receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of an Apostle's hand. Acts 8:14-17
  - B. The early message of an evangelist was not always evident in scripture as it is today. Acts. 16:31; 19:1-5; 8:12 (1 Co. 15:1-3)
  - C. The functions of the gift in the Dispensation of Grace.
    - 1. His ministry takes him to where the unsaved are. Rom.15:18-23; Acts. 8:40; 19-21
    - 2. He is able to approach people that he doesn't know as moved by the Holy Spirit. Acts. 8:25-30
    - 3. He has an ability to take unsaved from their knowledge of scripture to a presentation of the gospel. Acts 8:30-38
- IV. THE ONE WITH THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN HE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION.
- A. There are different types of good news proclaimed in Scripture.
    - 1. A good news spoken to Abraham. Gal. 3:8
    - 2. A good news will be proclaimed during the tribulation period. Rev.14:6
    - 3. A good news is proclaimed for christian maturity. Gal. 1:6-12
  - B. The one with the gift of evangelism is most effective when he proclaims the good news for grace salvation. 1 Co. 15:1-4
    - 1. Christ died on behalf of our sins.
    - 2. He was buried.
    - 3. He was raised again on the third day.

### **Conclusion**

The Old Testament records the fact that God sent specific people with specific messages to specific areas, but the New Testament records the fact that Jesus gave the gift of Evangelist. This individual possesses a yearning to see the lost saved, and is gifted with an above normal ability to turn every conversation with a lost individual to that person's need of a savior and to present the gospel for initial salvation. He will be in the right place at the right time, and will have an ability to make clear the gospel for salvation found in 1 Corinthians 15.