

Hospitality Evangelism: *Lesson 1*

Introduction

Quick explanation of how this course will work. The structure of each lesson.

- Group inductive study of a text that contains a lesson for us regarding hospitality evangelism. None of the texts is centrally about hospitality evangelism, but they all have relevant implications.
- Practical and/or Theological Lesson that will equip us.

Hospitality Evangelism Text

✠ **1 Corinthians 14:24-25**

1. Does the church today still “prophecy”? If so, in what sense?

With William Perkins, John Owen, John Calvin, and a whole host of Puritans, I hold that the prophecy that Paul speaks of here in our text is **Spirit-empowered interpretation and proclamation.**

Commenting on 1 Thessalonians 5:20, which says,

✠ *1 Thessalonians 5:20 - Do not despise prophecies,*

Calvin wrote,

“By the term prophecy, however, I do not understand the gift of foretelling the future, but as in 1 Corinthians 14:3, the science of interpreting Scripture, so that a prophet is an interpreter of the will of God.

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Let, therefore, prophecy in this passage be understood as meaning—interpretation made suitable to present use.”¹

In the OT, we have a prophetic prediction that one day all believers would prophecy.

✦ *Joel 2:28-29*

The NT shows us that this new era came about when the Holy Spirit was given to the church at Pentecost. See Acts 2:14-18.

Yet, there is no biblical or experiential evidence that this new era is one in which all believers predict the future or announce new divine revelation. Rather, in this new era in which all receive the Spirit to prophecy, prophecy is for upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation (see 1 Corinthians 14:3), and to bring unbelievers under conviction and account so that they may repent and believe the gospel (see 1 Corinthians 14:24-25). Thus, Perkins, Owen, Calvin, and others defined prophecy as **Spirit-empowered interpretation and proclamation**.

2. In what sense will we be “all prophesying” during our hospitality evangelism nights?
3. At our tables, who should be speaking about Christ—just a few, or all of us?
4. When God’s truth is being clearly spoken among His people, what does Paul say happens to unbelievers?

¹ Calvin’s Commentary on 1 Thessalonians 5:20, Olivetree Edition.

Lesson: The Why and Who of Evangelism

1. Why Do We Evangelize?

We're going to do this Family Feud style. 100 theologians were surveyed, and the top seven biblical answers are on the board. Because I'm not good at Keynote, you have to get them in order! Go!

a) Because we are commanded to

- ✦ *Matthew 28:19–20 — Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*
- ✦ *Acts 1:8 — You **will** be my witnesses...*
- ✦ *Luke 24:46–47 — Repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations.*
- ✦ *1 Peter 2:9 — That you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness...*
- ✦ *1 Peter 3:15 — Always being prepared to make a defense... for the hope that is in you.*
- ✦ *Jude 22–23 — Have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire.*

b) Because we are empowered to

- ✦ *Acts 1:8 — You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...*
- ✦ *Luke 12:11–12 — The Holy Spirit will teach you what you ought to say.*

c) Because God deserves the praise of all people

- ✦ *Psalm 67:3–4 — Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!*

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- ✦ *Malachi 1:11 — My name will be great among the nations... and in every place incense will be offered to my name.*
- ✦ *1 Corinthians 14:25 — He will... worship God and declare that God is really among you.*

d) Because God loves His image bearers

- ✦ *Genesis 1:26–27 — Let us make man in our image... So God created man in his own image.*
- ✦ *Ezekiel 18:23 — Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked... and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?*
- ✦ *John 3:16 — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son...*

e) Because we are called to love the lost

- ✦ *2 Corinthians 5:14–15 — The love of Christ controls us... that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him...*
- ✦ *Romans 9:2–3 — I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish... For I could wish that I myself were accursed... for the sake of my brothers.*

f) Because we are called to pray for the salvation of the lost

- ✦ *Matthew 9:37–38 — Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*
- ✦ *Romans 10:1 — My heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*
- ✦ *Colossians 4:3–4 — Pray... that God may open to us a door for the word... that I may make it clear.*
- ✦ *2 Thessalonians 3:1 — Pray... that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored.*

g) Because God delights to use us as his means of reconciling sinners to himself through Christ

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- ✦ *2 Corinthians 5:18–20 — God... reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... We are ambassadors for Christ...*
- ✦ *Matthew 28:18–20 — Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*
- ✦ *1 Corinthians 3:6–9 — I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth... we are God's fellow workers.*
- Which of these reasons have you most often thought of?
- Which of these reasons have you least often thought of?

2. Who Does What?

a) *The Lost*

- Can the people we're evangelizing see the truth of the gospel?
- Can they apprehend it?
- Can they repent and believe? If not, why not?
- ✦ *John 3:19–20 — People loved the darkness rather than the light... everyone who does wicked things hates the light.*
- ✦ *1 Corinthians 2:14 — The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God... he is not able to understand them.*
- ✦ *2 Corinthians 4:3–4 — The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers...*
- ✦ *Ephesians 2:1 — You were dead in the trespasses and sins...*
- ✦ *John 6:44 — No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.*

b) *God*

- What does God do in salvation that we cannot do?
- How does God use His Word and Spirit?
- ✦ *Ezekiel 36:26–27 — I will give you a new heart... and I will put my Spirit within you...*

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- ✦ *John 6:37 — All that the Father gives me will come to me...*
- ✦ *Acts 16:14 — The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.*
- ✦ *Romans 10:17 — Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
- ✦ *2 Corinthians 4:6 — God... has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

c) Us

- Since God alone gives life, how should that shape the way we approach evangelism?
- What are we responsible to do?
- What are we not responsible to do?
- What ought we avoid doing?

To answer this question, let's together turn to,

✦ *2 Corinthians 4:2-5*

So, what do we avoid doing as we evangelize?

Integrity — we do not use deception. We are straightforward with people, sincere, and we refuse any kind of manipulation.

- ✦ *2 Corinthians 4:2 — We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word...*

Fidelity — we do not distort the Word of God. We tell the whole truth, even the hard parts—sin, judgment, repentance—trusting the Spirit to work through it.

- ✦ *2 Corinthians 4:2 — ...we refuse... to tamper with God's word... but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves...*



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Humility — we do not preach ourselves, but Christ. We aim to bring people to Jesus, not to win them to ourselves.

- ✦ *2 Corinthians 4:5 — For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord...*

- ✦ *Matthew 28:19–20 — Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*
- ✦ *2 Corinthians 5:20 — We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.*
- ✦ *Romans 10:14–15 — How are they to hear without someone preaching?*
- ✦ *1 Corinthians 2:1–2 — I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*
- ✦ *1 Corinthians 3:6–7 — I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.*