

Spiritual Gifts Activation Seminar

Session 14: The Gift of Evangelist

Definition: The gift of evangelist is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the body of Christ.

The Harvest Is Ready

"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. 34:35. People are more ready for salvation than you realize

Philip the Evangelist

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city" - Acts 8:5-8

Evangelist & Apostle Teamed Together

"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit".

Acts 8:14-17

The Five-fold In the Harvest

Prophets – Intercede and declare God's immediate plans for the harvesting operation in a region

Evangelists – Get them saved

Pastors and Teachers – Disciple them

Apostles – Impart gifts, plant churches, & set in place Christian structure/culture.

A Study on How People Get Saved in America

- 1% Crusade (Only 6% who respond at a crusade are still believers one year later)
- 1% Visitation
- 1% Crisis
- 3% Cold Church Contact
- 3% Event Evangelism
- 5% Sunday School
- 6% Contact with church leaders
- 80% Friendship evangelism
- 63% Gradual, 37% Crisis conversion

Simplified

Engel Scale

- 10 No God framework
- 9 Experience of emptiness
- 8 Vague awareness of Christianity
- 7 Interest in Christianity
- 6 Awareness of the Gospel
- 5 Positive attitudes to the Gospel
- 4 Experience of Christian love
- 3 Aware of personal need
- 2 Grasp of implications of the Gospel
- 1 Challenge to respond personally
- 0 Repentance and faith
- +1 Evaluation of the decision
- +2 Learning the basics of the Christian life
- +3 Functioning member of local Church
- +4 Continuing growth in character, lifestyle and service
- +5 Effective sharing of faith and life

The Engel Scale is a tool that helps us understand the process of Evangelism. The chart on the left portrays the typical journey one takes as he comes to know the Lord.

Moving Quickly On the Engel Scale.

The following two dynamics working through the gift of evangelism will cause a seeker to move very quickly down the Engel scale.

- **Friendship**, and authentic Christian community “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
- **The Miraculous.** Studies have shown that miraculous signs are the most important factor in moving one quickly down the Engel scale. *“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs”* (Mark 16:20)

Activating the Gift of Evangelism

- Know that the Holy Spirit is the evangelist inside of you. He will draw others to Himself
- Cultivate friendships with the unchurched.
 - We can socialize with them without compromising our testimony (Mark 2:13-17)
 - Avoid projecting your righteous standards on those who do not yet know Jesus
 - Speak in their language. Avoid Christianese
 - Pray persistently for unsaved friends.
 - Reach out to meet their felt needs

Watch for:

- Divine appointments and divinely inspired conversations.
- Bubbling up compassion and love for sinners. Respond with appropriate random acts of kindness.
- Opportunities to pray for healings or other miraculous signs for the unsaved
- How God is working differently in each heart. Know God’s timing for their salvation