



Examining Evangelism – Part 5

Where We've Been

Week 1: Intro: Evaluating Evangelism Methods

Week 2: Examining Our Own Assumptions About Evangelism

Week 3: Morgan – Words & Deeds – Evangelism in Acts

Week 4: Jeremy – What Works, And What Doesn't Work

Tonight: God's Role & Our Role in Evangelism

Week 6: The Way, The Truth & The Life – Jesus' Claim

What We've Discovered

Street Evangelism and Outreach Efforts:

Many of us do not like this method primarily because of the way it is practiced.

- John: Our objections are not based on scriptural citation, but mostly on emotion.
- Morgan: We have to be careful not to worry too much about what others think of us.
- Morgan: Public preaching was practiced in the book of Acts, among other practices.
- Jeremy: Evangelistic outreaches, crusades and street evangelism does not appear effective, so why do we continue those practices?
- Jeremy: Living as disciples is our best witness.

What We've Discovered

Programmatic Approach vs. Relationship

Most of us have favored a relationship approach

- **Jeremy:** Evangelism programs are rarely effective.
- **Morgan:** Book of Acts demonstrates, however, that you do not need a relationship to evangelize (although, admittedly, it works better).
- **John:** Programs work on the outside, not the inside (Tonight's discussion....)
- **Morgan:** Words must accompany deeds (and even relationships). Some things must be explained and cannot be gleaned from general revelation.

What We've Discovered

We Are Not Inclined to Evangelize:

We don't hesitate to tell others about a great number of things that we believe in, but we are hesitant to share about Christ.

Possibly because:

- We are not excited about Christ;
- We have been taught/pressured to remain silent;
- Christ has not made an impact that we believe is worth sharing with others;
- We feel ill-equipped to share about Christ;
- We often doubt the very beliefs that we should be sharing with others.

What We've Discovered

Evangelism Is An Important Mandate for the Church:

- The Great Commission

Morgan: Telling others throughout the world.

Jeremy: Focus on making disciples who obey.

- Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*
- Rm. 10:13-15a: *“‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”*

- Morgan: Evangelism is also a matter of obedience.

Belief & Obedience

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Christians



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God's Role / Our Role

Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8 is a Command Promise:

- You will receive power from the Spirit;
- You will be my witnesses (*martys*)
- Locally (Jerusalem)
- In surrounding areas (Judea)
- In hostile / unpleasant areas (Samaria)
- And to the ends of the earth.



Power from the Spirit

Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

1. God’s power shapes us from the inside, not the outside.

Transformation vs. Self-Motivation and Guilt

“For Christians to talk about the gospel is a sign of health;
to talk about evangelism
is a sign that something is wrong.”

- John Bowen, *Evangelism for “Normal” People*

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Transformation vs. Self-Motivation and Guilt

“Having to stress the Great Commission, and having to urge people to witness, is not a sign of spiritual life, but a sign of spiritual decadence.”

- David Watson



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Transformation vs. Self-Motivation and Guilt

“Isn’t evangelism nothing more than method?”

- *Jeremy Langill*

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Transformation vs. Self-Motivation and Guilt

2. God’s power brings us into situations where we are called to witness.
3. Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot understand the things that come from God:

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.” - 1 Corinthians 2:14



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Q: How do I know when the Spirit is prompting me to witness?

A: Because the opportunity is there.

A: That’s a whole separate series.

Q: How will you recognize anything from the Spirit if you are not regularly cultivating your heart through the disciplines that lead us to transformation from the inside?



You Will Be My Witnesses...

Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Witness (Greek: *martys*): to speak from personal knowledge of facts and their significance.

a.k.a. “Eyewitness testimony”

a.k.a. “Lay witness testimony”

a.k.a. “Perceptient witness testimony”

- Witnesses Credibility / Impeachment
- Expert Witnesses



... To the Ends of the Earth

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