

EVANGELISM

Is this for me?

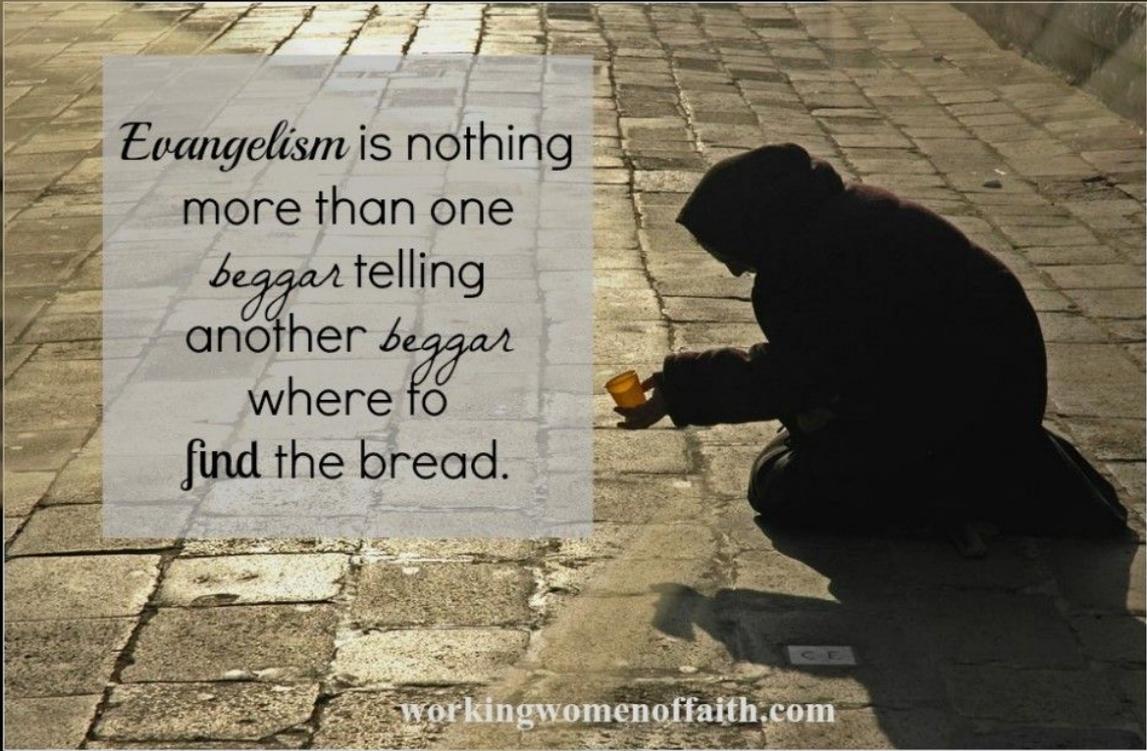
EVANGELISM

Evangelism is to proclaim victory of Christ in the enemy

“However, many of those who heard the word believed;
and the number of the men came to be about five
thousand.” Acts 4:4

Evangelism is not doing missionary work!

EVANGELISM



Evangelism is nothing
more than one
beggar telling
another *beggar*
where to
find the bread.

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FEAR

Fearful that you won't know the answers? Worried that you might push the person further away from God? Worried about being in uncomfortable situations?

Don't worry, the **Lord is the One working** not you and He will work through us and make us grow as we seek to glorify His name.

YOUR STORY

Your witness, your story of repentance should be concise in 100 words or 45 seconds. There has to be a before and an after, genuine from the heart and in the plot line, God is the hero.

If you think you have not yet experienced, tasted God, seek Him first, ask Him to manifest Himself in your life. Turn away from the water pot (John. 4:28), Taste, Testify of His goodness (John. 4:39).

WE WITNESS NOT TO WIN

Men and women who are truly theologically and spiritually educated reveal a boldness born of humility, a confidence tempered by tentativeness, a speech generated by silence, an apology inspired by charity. They resist premature closure of complex issues and superficial answers to complicated questions. They know how to live with ambiguity as they give, with meekness and gentleness, account for the hope that is in them. They speak the truth in love with an enlightened zeal that prevents them from replacing God's righteousness with a righteousness of their own. They evangelize without seeking to convert. They witness without seeking to win. They teach without desiring to dominate. They testify to truths in which they delight and find life, whatever the cost of their convictions, because they simply cannot do otherwise. And they have infinite respect for everyone and everything.

BE GENUINE

We can't lie to people when we tell them about Jesus. There can be no form of deception in telling people about the Truth. When you taste Jesus, you build a strong personal relationship with Him. You therefore want to tell people about him and it will come from the heart.

There will be no fear in what to say or not to say because we will have faith that He will use us as vessels to glorify His name.

My renewal, my repentance, my change is the way for evangelism. It's not about being at a specific spiritual level but through evangelism we grow spiritually.

TASTE TO TESTIFY

As it is impossible to verbally describe the sweetness of honey to one who has never tasted honey, so the goodness of God cannot be clearly communicated by way of teaching if we ourselves are not able to penetrate into the goodness of the Lord by our own experience.

Saint Basil

BE BOLD

Boldness is being comfortable being uncomfortable. Let us not be afraid of being uncomfortable and going outside our comfort zone. We must speak of what we have seen or heard. Words are to be used only when necessary, however there are times where we need to speak when someone will need an encouraging word.

Wait 5 seconds before you speak, if the person continues to speak, maybe Christ only wants you to listen. We need to portray a genuine relationship with God. All those who serve Him and are connected to Him will be bold. We love God and we want to serve Him. We cannot let fear take over and prevent us from taking a step forward.

BE BOLD

If we had an illness and we were cured, we would testify, share and tell people about it. We should not be ashamed. Boldness comes from God. If it does not come from God, it will not have an impact.

We don't know what we can say that can change the life or journey of someone. The Lord reaches everyone through many different witnesses and we don't know when we are taking part of the process whether at the stage of planting the seed or at the last step of transformation in Christ.

NOT AN OPTION

We belong to Him and therefore we must also be witnesses just as He and His disciples did and this is how the faith will be preserved from generation to generation. Evangelism is not optional, it is a way of life and the will of God, on His agenda.

Caring for the salvation of others is not optional.

“There is nothing colder than a Christian who is not concerned about the salvation of others . . . Do not say, I cannot help others: for, if you are truly a Christian it is impossible not to. Natural objects have properties that cannot be denied; the same is true of what I have just said, because it is the nature of a Christian to act in that way. Do not offend God by deception. If you said that the sun cannot shine, you would be committing an offense against God and making a liar of Him. It is easier for the sinner to shine or give warmth than for a Christian to cease to give light: it is easier for that to happen than for light to become darkness. Do not say that that is impossible: what is impossible is the contrary . . . If we behave in the correct way, everything else will follow as a natural consequence. The light of Christians cannot be hidden, a lamp shining so brightly cannot be hidden.” – St. John Chrysostom

NOT AN OPTION

We need to have Christ's mindset which is to look out for others needs. By having a strong relationship with Christ, that is how I will have my will aligned with His which is to evangelize. Mindset of Christ : loving, unity and putting others above.

- 1 Corinthians 2:16 : ¹⁶ For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
- Romans 12:2: ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Acts 2:42–47 : ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' ^[a]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and ^[a]sold their possessions and goods, and divided^[a] them among all, as anyone had need. ⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added ^[a]to the church daily those who were being saved.
- John 4:35 : ³⁵ 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!

NOT AN OPTION

We all of us as a church we all need to change our mindset because if we don't have the right mindset we won't be able to lead people towards Christ. We need to stick and work together so we can be stronger.

"If anyone falls, he falls alone. But no one is saved alone." – Alexei Khomiakov



PRACTICAL WAYS

People are starving for love. People are in pain. People see the world through the wounds they've been through. So must meet them at their pain, and love them, lead them to repentance and talk to them about Jesus. If you are authentic, heartfelt and genuine about the message and we are not ashamed, people will respond.

So what can we do practically within our churches as examples:

- Wherever you go, stand somewhere where someone is alone
- Invite people to speak who have not spoken in a conversation, address them by name, give them a chance to speak
- Explain context, refuse inside jokes
- We must be radically inclusive without leaving people out
- Choose your words carefully
- Encourage discussion which is not equal to serial dialogue which leads to spectators rather than participators (ball passing representation)

Another practical approach as an example to implement outside Church :

- Conduct a survey, would you like to participate? If yes, do you believe in a higher power? Why? Why not? What is your religious background? Your spiritual journey and how did you come to it? How do you describe Jesus?

LEAD OTHERS TO LOVE IN LOVE

Pastoral care is caring for the sheep within the church whereas evangelism is getting them from out there. The majority is called to be out reaching people for their salvation in Christ.

Church should be a place where people feel loved and don't need to go elsewhere to find that love. We must go out of our way to make people feel welcomed.

If we don't have fellowship and unity within the church, how can we change what is outside the church and how can we welcome others and teach them about unity?

People outside need and want God and are ready. The problem is that my mind is not renewed, I am not ready and I am not spiritually minded.

Romans 15:7 ⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received ^{1a}us, to the glory of God.

Just as Christ has not given up on us, we should not give up on others. The attitude we must have : I have received so much from Him, and now I just want to give back to Him.

PRAYER IS KEY

Unless we pray for God to open the door, we will never achieve anything Colossians 4:3
³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to
speak the ²mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains

This will take time so we must be patient

We need to pray persistently

Not be discouraged along the way even when we face failure, delays and challenges

Pray, believe, live, speak = We can reach all nations

Evangelism eventually will become a second nature in our church

The next generation is counting on us, if we don't do our part, the church will die after
three generations.

EVANGELISM IS ALSO FOR NON COPTIC ORTHODOX

Ministry of Apollos

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Something was lacking in the knowledge of his faith, the fullness of the truth is in the Orthodox faith, we are called to deliver to all the apostolic teaching that we have received. We are responsible to evangelize to those who have a partial understanding of the faith. Therefore we need to evangelize to protestants as well. **Acts 18:24**

PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Prison Fellowship exists to serve all those affected by crime and incarceration, and to see lives and communities restored in and out of prison – one transformed life at a time.

<https://www.prisonfellowship.org/>