

## BREAKOUT: Wisdom for Evangelism

**Proverbs 11:30** *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures (wins NASB) souls is wise.*

**Daniel 12:3** *And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. (sounds like Matthew 5:16: You are the light...)*

**1 Corinthians 9:22b-23a** *I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. <sup>23</sup> I do it all for the sake of the gospel.*

### What God Calls Us to Do, He Empowers Us to Do

We each have gifts that are given by the Spirit of God that properly exercised cause us to grow in faith and strength as we practice them, but nowhere does the Bible qualify by saying, "Leave this to ordained professionals, or the really weird people in your church". Let's not confuse the office of Evangelism given to some with the burden to evangelize given to ALL!

**1 Corinthians 1:21,27** *For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;*

**Luke 4:17-19** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

**Acts 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*Some of us say, "Evangelism's not my 'gift'". It may not be your "office", but it is your burden and calling because it was and is our Lord's burden and calling. You may not be called to share the gospel like Billy Graham, but you are called to share the gospel like YOU. It may be through gifts of hospitality, generosity, and encouragement that God is opening doors to share. It could be through people you meet, because of the interest you have in sports, investments, construction projects, etc. Regardless, Jesus, THE Evangelist is going to use you like YOU. Be YOU with Christ in you. If Christ is your life, and He is; THE Evangelist, Christ Jesus Himself, is living, moving and having His being in and through you. To NOT evangelize is to NOT fully live.*

- **Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*
- **Philippians 1:21** *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

## Fearing God + Loving God = Obeying God

To fear God properly, Biblically, is to love God totally (Deut.6:4). The fear of God is NOT the fear of being incinerated for disobeying Him; the fear of God is loving and revering Him so highly that we disdain in any way disobeying and displeasing Him. Pure FEAR like THAT is pure LOVE!

**Proverbs 9:10** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (See Prv. 11:30; Dan.12:3), And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (NASB)

**2 Cor. 5:11,14-15** Knowing the fear of God we persuade men...<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

**Philippians 1:12** work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,<sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Psalms 2:11** Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.

**John 15:8-12** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.<sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.<sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

**Hebrews 12:2** looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**1 John 4:19** We love because he first loved us.

**1 Peter 3: 15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, .....always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

## Don't Fear People; Love People; Lay Down Your Life for People

The more we love people, the more questions we will ask them about themselves and what they believe. The more we know them, and the more we know their worldview, the more we prepare ourselves with answers to love them and win them, not because we want to win arguments.

**Proverbs 29:25** The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.  
Safe (Heb. sagab) lofty, inaccessible; strong; safe; defended; exalted; set up on high.

**Romans 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.<sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith<sup>1</sup> as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

**Acts 20:24** But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

**2 Timothy 1:6-7** ...I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

**Galatians 5:14** The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

**QUESTION:** Would you hesitate to share the gospel with your lost self?

*"If you want to develop a burden for the lost, go out and talk to the lost and find out how lost they really are. If you desire to have the crucial nature of evangelism branded on your heart, go out and do it, and you will become convinced of just how crucial it is. If you want to develop the conviction that Jesus does indeed change lives, take His life-changing message to others and see if this isn't true."*

Mark McCloskey "Tell It Often Tell It Well" (from Proclaim manuscript P 22)

### It's Not the Great Suggestion!

**Matthew 28:18-20** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**Psalms 107:1-2** Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!  
<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.

➤ Would it not make sense that a man who is thankful to God for his salvation would say so!?  
**James 4:17** So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. **(Gulp!)**

### Do We Have Not Because We Ask Not?

**1 John 5:13-14** I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And this is **the confidence** that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

➤ **Jesus told us to pray for the lost to be saved and for those who would go and get them:**

**Matthew 9:37-38** "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

➤ **Jesus prayed to His Father for us, that through we who are his, the world would believe.**

**John 17:17-21** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. <sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me **through their word**, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

**Isaiah 6:8** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

## Thank God, Thank People, and Have People That Thank God for You!

- I thank God for His grace that saved me, and I thank God for a guy named Jay who loved me enough to put the gospel in front of me...multiple times!
- 2 Cor. 2:14** But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.
- 2 Corinthians 9:15** Thanks be to God for his inexpressible (indescribable; inexpressible; that words can't describe [various translations]) gift!

## Questions and Gospel Sharing Testimonies

### WE ARE SNIPERS FOR CHRIST. WHO'S GOD PUT IN YOUR "CROSS" HAIRS?

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## A Few Resources

### Evangelism

- **Questioning Evangelism** by Randy Newman
- **Apatheism** by Kyle Beshears
- **The Master's Way of Personal Evangelism** by Robert Coleman
- **How to Talk About Jesus (Without being THAT Guy)** by Sam Chan
- **The Wager** by Blaise Pascal

### Apologetics

- **On Guard** by William Lane Craig
- **Apologetics at the Cross** by Joshua D Chatraw and Mark D. Allen