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The Reality of Evangelism: Being versus Doing

Evangelism is not simply what we
do, it is who we are.

By Barry G. Johnson, Sr.

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After retirement and relocating to Tennessee from Illinois. I have been challenged to lead a Sunday school class on Evangelism. This book was written to support that endeavor. It is not meant to be exhaustive in nature. The idea is to encourage more Evangelism by “Being” than simply “Doing.” I hope you enjoy and are challenged by what the book has to offer. Feel free to leave your comments at my website. Grace and Blessings to you.

**Barry G. Johnson, Sr.
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Proverbs 14:12 (ESV): 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

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Introduction

Many people have excuses for why they choose not to share their faith. We do not realize all exist to do the work of an Evangelist, but not all hold the office of an Evangelist. In Evangelism, the cost of being wrong is less than that of doing nothing. The following six sections examine Evangelism's who, what, when, where, why, and how. The goal is to equip each of us to share our faith, whether introvert or extrovert, no matter our Biblical knowledge and recall level. Today our world is very skeptical of anything religious. Therefore we can benefit from being prepared. Objections to Christianity are not a sign for us not to engage in Evangelism. Skepticism demonstrates a need for born-again, maturing Christians to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Evangelism often feels daunting, filled with the fear of saying the wrong thing, offending others, or damaging relationships. Yet, it is a universal calling for all followers of Christ, and we can be sure that overcoming these initial fears will bring profound spiritual rewards. Remember, just as an athlete must train to perform at their peak, we too must develop our skills in evangelism.

The purpose of this material is not to add an onerous task to your spiritual life but to illuminate the joy, fulfillment, and growth that comes from sharing your faith. It guides you through this transformation journey, from viewing evangelism as a duty (Doing) to embracing it as a natural expression of your Christian life (Being).

In a world growing increasingly indifferent or even hostile towards religion, the role of every Christian, "Being

Evangelism," becomes more critical. But, equipped with the proper understanding and resources, you can navigate these choppy waters. This material serves as your compass, enabling you to confidently share the love of Christ and the hope His gospel brings, even in the face of skepticism or opposition.

Chapter 1 - Who

Who: Being Evangelism vs. Doing Evangelism

The Who in Evangelism is you. That we might engage efficiently and regularly in Evangelism requires a shift in our thinking. The shift is moving from Doing Evangelism to Being Evangelistic as a matter of our character and personality as the new creation born again of the Spirit (John 3:3,7).

The hearts of humankind is God's work. Men try to use results to paint a picture of their hearts. Doing is an external activity endeavoring to cause an internal change. Doing starts on the outside, trying to change the inside. While on the other hand, Being is an inner activity that reflects an internal reality. Being starts from the inside, reflecting what already exists internally in the souls of men.

Luke 16:15 (ESV): 15 And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

God works with humankind according to what is in their hearts, not what is on their resume. Jeremiah 17:9 teaches us that the heart is deceitful above all things. Evangelism must come from the heart and not from a keeping score mentality or works we believe earn us heaven. As Christians, our labors should be a reflection of our hearts, a

light shining outward from an inward source. We do not labor for men to see and reward us for doing good. Christian labor is the natural outgrowth of a heart aligned with the purposes of God.

So let's look more at Being versus Doing where Evangelism is concerned.

A. Being Evangelism versus Doing Principles

Being evangelism includes several essential principles that help us reflect Christ in our lives. These principles include praying, proclaiming, persevering, and showing patience. Praying is fundamental to being evangelism as it anchors our connection with God, enriches our spiritual lives, and guides us in our evangelistic journey. It is through prayer that we seek God's wisdom, strength, and guidance in sharing the gospel. We also intercede for those we are reaching out to, imploring God's mercy and grace to touch their hearts and open their minds to His truth.

Proclaiming the Word is an integral part of being evangelism. It involves speaking God's truth into the lives of others, sharing how Christ's love has transformed us and can transform them too. Being evangelism also entails perseverance and patience. The process of evangelism can be challenging and fraught with rejection and misunderstanding. However, we are called to persevere, continuously sowing the seeds of the gospel, trusting God for the increase. Patience reminds us that conversion is a divine act that occurs in God's timing, not ours. Therefore, we patiently wait, continuing to love and serve while God works in the lives of those we are evangelizing.

B. Prayer: Being Evangelism Principle #1

Prayer is a cornerstone in the life of a believer, especially when it comes to evangelism. It is through prayer that we commune with God, aligning our hearts with His will, and seeking His guidance for every evangelistic endeavor. Prayer is our direct line of communication with the Father, allowing us to present our hopes, concerns, and aspirations for those we hope to reach with the Gospel. It shifts our perspective from our own capabilities to God's omnipotence, reaffirming our reliance on Him for the success of our evangelistic efforts.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 instructs us to "pray without ceasing." As we endeavor to be evangelism, this ought to be our posture. Continuous prayer for those we hope to reach will keep our hearts tethered to God's, allowing His love and grace to flow through us. It is through prayer that we ask God to open doors for evangelistic opportunities and prepare the hearts of those we are trying to reach, making them receptive to His word. Indeed, prayer is not just a preparatory act in evangelism; it is an essential, ongoing practice that empowers and guides us as we share the good news of Christ's love and redemption.

C. Proclaim: Being Evangelism Principle #2

As believers engaged in Being Evangelism, it is critical to remember the mandate given in Romans 10:14-15 (NIV): "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? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'. This verse commands us, as Christians, to take up the mantle of proclaiming God's Word, for it is through hearing the Gospel that faith is birthed in the hearts of those who are yet to believe. It is our role, and indeed our privilege, to be the bearers of this Good News, to share the transformative power of Christ's love with others.

Proclaiming the gospel is not just the responsibility of church leaders or missionaries; it is incumbent upon every Christian. As Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) instructs: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age". This Great Commission is not selective; it applies to all followers of Christ, regardless of their position, vocation or status. It is a call for every Christian to step out in faith, sharing the message of salvation, and leading others towards a personal relationship with Jesus. As we engage in Being Evangelism, let us remember this call, embracing our role as proclaimers of the Good News, and letting our lives reflect the love, grace, and truth of Christ's message.

D. Perseverance: Being Evangelism Principle #3

Perseverance is a crucial aspect of Being Evangelism. Evangelism, like any spiritual pursuit, can often be fraught with challenges, making it easy to become disheartened or discouraged. However, perseverance is what keeps us

pressing forward, irrespective of the hurdles we encounter. Galatians 6:9 (NIV) reminds us, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." This verse underscores the importance of persisting in our evangelistic endeavors, assuring us that our efforts are not in vain and that in due course, we will see the fruits of our labor.

It's essential to understand that evangelism is a process, often a long one, and not merely a one-time event. It may take considerable time and numerous encounters with the Gospel for a person to embrace Christ. Therefore, our labor in evangelism must be characterized by steadfastness and a long-term, unwavering commitment. As echoed in 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV), "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." This verse encourages us to remain steadfast, continually dedicating ourselves to the work of evangelism, bolstered by the assurance that our efforts in the Lord are never futile.

E. Patience: Being Evangelism Principle #4

Patience is a crucial aspect of Being Evangelism. The process of sharing the gospel and waiting for someone to accept Christ into their lives requires a substantial degree of patience. It's important to remember that faith is deeply personal, and everyone comes to it on their own timeline. We cannot, and should not, rush the process. Our role is to plant and water the seed, but it is God who causes it to grow (1 Corinthians 3:6). Therefore, we must exercise patience, trusting in God's timing, knowing that He is at

work even when we don't see immediate results. Patience in evangelism also manifests as empathy and understanding, giving people the space to wrestle with their thoughts, doubts, and questions without any pressure or judgment.

Although both patience and perseverance are essential in evangelism, they serve different functions. While patience is the capacity to wait calmly for someone to come to faith, perseverance refers to the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. In the context of evangelism, perseverance is consistently sharing the gospel and living out our faith, even when we face rejection, indifference, or hostility. It's about persisting in our mission to share Christ's love, irrespective of the challenges we encounter. On the other hand, patience is our approach to the responses we receive. It's about waiting on God's timing for the transformation of hearts and minds, without becoming disheartened by apparent lack of progress.

F. If Not Us Then, Who?

If not us, then who will share the life-transforming message of the Gospel? As Christians, we are uniquely positioned and called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. After all, it is through us, His followers, that God has chosen to make His wisdom known to the world (1 Corinthians 1:27). Our faith is not meant to be kept to ourselves; it is to be shared, spread, and witnessed to all nations. This responsibility of evangelism is not an option or an add-on to our Christian life; it is an integral part of our discipleship and our service to God.

This phrase, "If not us, then who?" serves as a powerful reminder and a call to action. If we, who have experienced the transformative power of God's grace and love, do not take up the mantle of evangelism, then who will? The world is filled with people who are yet unaware of God's love and the salvation offered through Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to bridge that gap, to be the light in the darkness, and to bring the good news of salvation to those who are lost. It is not merely an assignment; it is an honor and a privilege to serve as God's messengers of hope.

Therefore, let us rise to this call and embrace our divinely ordained role as Christian evangelists. Let us not shy away from or neglect this vital aspect of our Christian life because of fear, doubt, or complacency. We must bear in mind that if we do not share the truth of the Gospel, many will continue to live in ignorance of God's love and redemption. The task of evangelism is indeed challenging and may even be daunting at times, but we must remember that we are not alone in this endeavor. God Himself is with us, equipping us, strengthening us, and guiding us as we fulfill our calling. So, if not us, then who? If not now, then when? Let's take a step forward in faith, guided by the assurance of God's promise that "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Chapter I Study Questions

Who: Being an Evangelism vs. Doing Evangelism

1. What principle of "Being Evangelism" does Galatians 6:9 (NIV) emphasize?

Answer:



2. How is evangelism described in terms of its duration and commitment?

Answer:



3. What does 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) encourage in evangelism?

Answer:



4. What role does patience play in the context of Being Evangelism?

Answer:



5. How are patience and perseverance different in their functions within evangelism?

Answer:



6. What does the phrase "If not us, then who?" signify in the context of evangelism?

Answer:



7. What does Matthew 28:20 promise to believers in the context of evangelism?

Answer:



Chapter 2 - What

What: Defining Biblical Evangelism

Let's now move to the "What" of the reality of Evangelism. So it is time to define what evangelism is.

Evangelism, simply put, is the act of spreading the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who may not have heard it or do not believe. It is the profound duty of every Christian to share the transformative message of God's love, forgiveness, and salvation offered through Christ's sacrificial death and triumphant resurrection. This definition is grounded in the Great Commission, where Jesus instructs his followers to "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" (Matthew 28:19, ESV).

The essence of evangelism encapsulates more than simply verbal communication of the Gospel message. It is a holistic approach that includes demonstrating Christ's love through actions, fostering relationships with people, and modeling a Christ-centered lifestyle that bears testament to the transformative power of the Gospel in a believer's life. As the apostle Paul writes, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20, ESV).

As believers, we are called to always be prepared to present the gospel in all its forms, recognizing that each encounter could be a divine appointment. This involves having the ability to share the Gospel message clearly, succinctly, and in a culturally sensitive manner that meets people where they are. "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" (1 Peter 3:15, ESV). In essence, the goal of evangelism is not merely to share information but to facilitate transformation – bringing people into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

A. Scriptural definition (Mark 16:15)

Mark 16:15 (ESV): 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus instructs His disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" (ESV). This command, often referred to as the Great Commission, offers a fundamental definition for the reality of evangelism. It underscores the global scope of evangelism, emphasizing that the good news of the Gospel is not confined to a particular region, race, or social group. Instead, it is a universal message of hope and redemption meant for "the whole creation." As such, the act of evangelizing is not merely a suggestion, but an imperative, an authoritative command from Christ Himself. This directive encapsulates the urgency and importance of evangelistic work in the life of a believer.

Furthermore, the phrase "proclaim the gospel" in Mark 16:15 lays bare the essence of evangelism. The Greek word for "proclaim" used here is "kērussō," which implies a public declaration, a call that requires a response. It signifies more than just a casual conversation, pointing to the solemn responsibility of a herald delivering a king's message. Thus, evangelism is not merely about sharing personal faith narratives or persuading through intellectual arguments. It's about delivering the life-transforming message of the Gospel with boldness and conviction, acting as Christ's heralds. The evangelistic mission, therefore, is a holy mandate, beckoning the world to respond to God's offer of salvation through Christ.

B. The message of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV): 15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

The core message of the Gospel, the "good news" that we are called to share, is beautifully encapsulated in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, particularly in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (ESV): "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the

word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures."

The first crucial element of the Gospel message conveyed in these verses is that Christ died for our sins. This is the crux of the Christian faith: the fact that Jesus willingly sacrificed His life on the cross, taking upon Himself the penalty that we deserved for our sins. This act of supreme love and mercy displays God's desire for reconciliation with humanity, making a way for us to be forgiven and freed from the bondage of sin.

Next, the Apostle Paul highlights the reality of Christ's burial. This signifies the undeniable fact of Christ's death, assuring us of the genuine nature of His sacrifice. The burial also creates a necessary stage for the subsequent victory over death, reinforcing the gravity of Christ's sacrifice and setting the stage for His triumphant resurrection.

The third component of the Gospel, and arguably the most triumphant, is the resurrection of Christ on the third day. This event is the cornerstone of Christian hope, signifying Jesus' ultimate victory over death and sin. The resurrection confirms Jesus' divine nature, validates His teachings, and assures believers of their own resurrection and eternal life in Christ.

Finally, these verses emphasize the importance of faith and perseverance. Paul urges the Corinthians to "hold fast"

to the Gospel, reflecting the necessity for believers to persist in their faith despite challenges. In essence, believing in the Gospel is not a one-time event but a continual journey of faith, grounded in the transformative power of Christ's death and resurrection. This ongoing faith journey is integral to the Gospel's saving power and is a vital aspect of the message we are called to share as followers of Christ.

Evangelism and discipleship, though closely related, are distinct components of the Christian faith journey. Evangelism primarily pertains to the act of sharing the Gospel with non-believers, introducing them to the transformative message of Jesus Christ. It is about reaching out to the world, spreading the word of God's love, sacrifice, and the offered salvation through Jesus. Its focus is to share the good news, motivate a response, and lead people towards the acceptance of Jesus as their Savior.

Discipleship, on the other hand, begins after the point of conversion or acceptance of the Gospel. Its goal is to foster spiritual maturity in believers, helping them grow in their relationship with Christ, and live a life that reflects His teachings. Discipleship involves nurturing, mentoring, and equipping believers to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith, and to manifest it in their day-to-day lives. It's an ongoing process that encourages believers in their walk with Jesus, guiding them to live out their faith practically and fruitfully.

While evangelism is akin to sowing seeds of faith, discipleship represents the nurturing and care required for those seeds to grow and bear fruit. Both are integral to

carrying out the Great Commission as prescribed by Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20: "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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Therefore, a balanced Christian ministry should ideally emphasize both evangelism and discipleship, leading people to Christ and then guiding them towards spiritual growth.

Chapter II Study Questions

What: Defining Biblical Evangelism

1. **Question:** What is the significance of the term "proclaim" in the context of evangelism as outlined in Mark 16:15?

Answer:



2. **Question:** What is the Gospel's central message as per 1 Corinthians 15:1-4?

Answer:



3. **Question:** What does Christ's death signify in the Gospel message?

Answer:



4. **Question:** Why is Christ's burial vital to the Gospel message?

Answer:



5. **Question:** How does the resurrection of Christ influence the Christian faith?

Answer:



6. **Question:** What is the difference between evangelism and discipleship in the Christian faith journey?

Answer:



7. **Question:** How does discipleship contribute to the Christian faith journey after conversion?

Answer:



Chapter 3 - When

When: Recognizing Opportunities to Share the Gospel

Recognizing opportunities to share the Gospel hinges on our ability to be attentive to the spiritual needs of those around us and discern the promptings of the Holy Spirit. There is no prescribed time, place, or circumstance for sharing the Gospel; indeed, we are encouraged to be "always ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). Opportunities can arise in everyday conversations, interactions with friends, colleagues, or even strangers. They may emerge during times of joy, sorrow, or crisis, providing a platform for us to share the hope and comfort found in Christ.

However, recognizing an opportunity isn't enough - we should also pray for wisdom and tact in seizing these opportunities. The Apostle Paul calls for our conversation to be "gracious and seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6). This suggests that sharing the Gospel should be done in a way that is respectful, kind, and sensitive to the person's context and personal beliefs. It is important to listen, understand, and empathize before we share, ensuring our message is received as a gesture of love rather than a forced imposition.

Finally, it is worth noting that the responsibility to respond to the Gospel message lies with the recipient, not the messenger. Our role is to share the message faithfully and leave the outcome to God, who alone can bring about change in a person's heart. So, the 'when' of sharing the Gospel is less about finding the perfect situation and more about being open and ready to share the love of Christ whenever and wherever we find ourselves.

A. Discerning readiness in others (John 4:35)

John 4:35 (ESV): 35 Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

In John 4:35, Jesus says to his disciples, "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." This verse can be interpreted as Jesus' call to his followers to discern readiness in others to receive the Gospel message. The 'fields' metaphorically represent people around us who are ready and longing to hear the good news of salvation but have yet to be reached. The 'harvest' is symbolic of the act of evangelism, bringing people into the kingdom of God. Jesus emphasizes the urgency of the mission, urging His followers not to delay but to seize the opportunities as they present themselves.

However, discerning readiness in others requires sensitiveness to spiritual cues and an understanding of an individual's context. It's crucial to be able to recognize signs of spiritual seeking, such as curiosity about faith-related matters, openness to spiritual conversations, or

expressions of longing for purpose and meaning. These cues could be indications that a person might be receptive to the Gospel. It's also important to consider the individual's cultural, emotional, and intellectual context to deliver the message in a relatable and understandable manner. Ultimately, discerning readiness is a task that demands prayerful consideration, asking for God's guidance to recognize the ripe fields and harvest them with wisdom and love.

B. Utilizing life events as opportunities

Life events, both joyful and challenging, can often provide profound opportunities to share the Gospel of Jesus. Celebrations such as weddings, engagements, and births are moments filled with joy and thanksgiving. During these times, sharing the Gospel can serve as a reminder of God's love and blessings, and His desire to be a part of our happiness. These are moments to emphasize the teachings of Jesus about love, commitment, and the sanctity of life, and to express the hope and joy that faith brings. It's an opportunity to share how the good news of Jesus can further enrich these happy moments and provide a solid foundation for the journey ahead.

Conversely, difficult life events such as illness, loss, or a crisis can also provide unique opportunities to share the Gospel. In times of pain and suffering, people often search for comfort, hope and meaning. This is an appropriate time to share the message of Jesus' compassion, his own experience of suffering, and his promises of comfort and healing. It is a chance to share the Gospel's message of hope, the promise of God's presence amidst trials, and the

assurance of eternal life through faith in Jesus. However, it is vital that this is done with utmost sensitivity, respect and genuine empathy, ensuring it comes across as a message of love and comfort rather than exploiting a person's vulnerability.

Everyday routines and experiences can also serve as platforms to share the Gospel. Simple acts of kindness, demonstrating Christ-like love, and living out Christian principles in our daily lives can arouse curiosity and open doors for spiritual conversations. Discussions about life's purpose, values, and beliefs often naturally come up in regular interactions with friends, colleagues, and acquaintances. These conversations can be opportunities to share how the Gospel influences our worldview and shapes our lives, presenting the transformative power of Jesus in a relatable and personal way. It's about living the Gospel, not just speaking it, letting our lives bear witness to the love and grace of Christ.

C. Practical methods for sharing the gospel (1 Peter 3:15)

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV): 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,

One practical method of sharing the Gospel is through personal testimonies. Sharing your personal experiences with God can be a powerful tool in evangelism. These stories of transformation, of how you discovered hope, peace, and purpose in Christ, can deeply resonate with

others. They act as tangible proof of God's love and the transformative power of the Gospel. As 1 Peter 3:15 urges, always be ready to give an explanation for the hope that you have, and there's no better way to do this than through sharing personal experiences that reflect this hope. Remember to share your testimony with gentleness and respect, acknowledging that everyone's spiritual journey is unique and personal.

Another effective way to share the Gospel is through acts of service and kindness. Demonstrating Christ's love through tangible deeds can often speak louder than words. Think about Jesus' example - He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and comforted the heartbroken. In the same way, we can reach out to those in need around us. Whether it's volunteering at a local charity, helping a neighbor in need, or simply showing care towards a colleague or friend, these acts of Christ-like love can open hearts to receive the Gospel message. As we serve others, we can explain that our motivation is the love of Christ in us, thus paving the way for Gospel conversations.

Lastly, engaging in spiritual conversations can be a highly effective approach. Rather than pushing unsolicited messages, engage others in conversations about faith, life, purpose, and other philosophical topics. Ask insightful questions and listen genuinely to their responses. As the conversation develops, you can share the Gospel message organically, in response to their expressed thoughts and feelings. This approach aligns with the instruction in 1 Peter 3:15 to speak with gentleness and respect, ensuring our exchange is a dialogue rather than a monologue, thus

fostering a more open and respectful environment for sharing the Gospel.

D. Introverts versus Extroverts

1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (ESV): 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor

Introverts, with their tendency to maintain a smaller social circle and engage in deeper one-on-one conversations, may find it more comfortable to share the Gospel in intimate settings. They might prefer personal discussions with close friends or family members, where they can delve into the life-changing effects of the Gospel message at a comfortable pace. Moreover, their strength in listening and empathy aids in understanding individual spiritual needs and tailoring the message accordingly. However, they might also find it challenging to initiate conversations about faith, particularly with acquaintances or strangers, and may require encouragement or training to overcome this hurdle.

Extroverts, on the other hand, are typically outgoing and comfortable in larger social situations, making them well suited to share the Gospel in group settings or public forums. Their natural knack for communicating and connecting with various individuals can be a potent tool in evangelism, enabling them to reach a larger audience with the Gospel message. They might also find joy in actively participating in community outreach programs or

evangelistic events. However, extroverts must be mindful to temper their enthusiasm with sensitivity, ensuring they listen to others' viewpoints and experiences, and share the Gospel in a respectful and loving manner.

Neither personality type is inherently better or worse at sharing the Gospel; both have unique strengths that can be leveraged for effective evangelism. Introverts and extroverts alike can benefit from understanding their personality traits and adapting their approach to sharing the Gospel accordingly. Introverts can utilize their empathetic listening skills and depth of conversation, while extroverts can harness their energy and social ease. Ultimately, the key is a genuine love for others, a strong understanding of the Gospel, and a willingness to share the hope and love it brings, regardless of one's personality type.

While the methods used by introverts and extroverts to share their faith may differ, both can effectively convey the message of the gospel.

Introverts

Introverts, being reflective and thoughtful, can use their skills in meaningful one-on-one conversations. Their ability to listen empathetically can help create a safe space for deep, spiritual discussions. Additionally, introverts can leverage their written communication skills by sharing faith through letters, emails, or social media posts.

Extroverts

Extroverts, on the other hand, thrive in social situations. They can use their natural ability to engage with larger

groups to organize gatherings, such as Bible studies or fellowship lunches, that provide opportunities for faith discussions. Extroverts may also find ease in public speaking or street evangelism, sharing their experiences and testimonies openly with others.

Remember, whether you are an introvert or extrovert, the power of your evangelism comes not from your personality type but from the message of the gospel. Don't be discouraged if your methods look different from those of others. God uses all types of individuals to spread His word.

Chapter III Study Questions

When: Recognizing Opportunities to Share the Gospel

1. **Question:** What is one way personal experiences can be utilized in evangelism?

Answer:



2. **Question:** What does 1 Peter 3:15 say about sharing the Gospel?

Answer:



3. **Question:** How can acts of service and kindness aid in sharing the Gospel?

Answer:



4. **Question:** What role does engaging in spiritual conversations play in evangelism?

Answer:



5. **Question:** How might introverts approach sharing the Gospel differently from extroverts?

Answer:



6. **Question:** What challenges might introverts face in sharing the Gospel?

Answer:

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7. **Question:** What should extroverts be mindful of when sharing the Gospel?

Answer:

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Chapter 4 - Where

Where: Creating Environments for Evangelism

We need to understand "Where," evangelism takes place. The short answer is that evangelism needs to take place where the Good News needs to be sown. Evangelism needs to happen where people need to be introduced to the God of the Bible. Where we evangelize is very important because it will help us to narrow down the places we would go, if we were to plan. The task of evangelism can seem to be so big that we might give up before we start. Therefore if you are planning an evangelistic campaign you have predetermined where to go. In the absence of planning a campaign, you can create environments for evangelism to happen naturally.

It can be argued that evangelism needs to happen everywhere all the time. This is why Being Evangelism versus Doing Evangelism is so important. If we are Being Evangelism then it is happening even if we haven't planned to do it. The Saint who is Being Evangelism is always prepared and creates the atmosphere to sow God's will into any discussion. Being Evangelism allows us to reflect on the Will of God on any topic, helping others see a worldview that accepts the existence of a sovereign God.

Planned evangelism is ok as well and becomes easier if we are Being Evangelism because it is our natural state. However, a planned campaign can be useful in sowing the seed of God's Word in places we may have left unserved.

A. Always being prepared (2 Timothy 4:2)

Reflecting on 2 Timothy 4:2, evangelism is a calling that requires both readiness and adaptability. The scripture encourages us to "preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction." This implies that evangelism is not a sporadic activity but a constant state of readiness to share the gospel. Whether the conditions are favorable or challenging, believers are urged to share their faith boldly, patiently, and with discernment. This readiness signals the heart of an evangelist, where the urgency of sharing the Good News is ever-present, underpinned by an unwavering commitment to guiding others toward the transformative love of Christ.

B. Fostering environments that encourage spiritual conversations

Fostering a trusting environment is a fundamental aspect of evangelism, as it allows for open and honest discussions about spiritual realities. Such an environment is characterized by mutual respect, non-judgment, and a genuine interest in understanding others' perspectives. When individuals feel safe and valued, they are more likely to engage in conversations about faith, ask questions, and express their doubts or concerns. As believers, it is our responsibility to create these trust-rich spaces, exhibiting Christ's love through our words and actions, and patiently listening to and addressing the spiritual queries of others. It's in these nurturing environments that the seeds of faith are often sown, watered, and allowed to flourish.

C. Evangelism at Home

Evangelism should not be confined to far-flung missions or the public square. It begins at home, within the family unit. Parents are called to be the primary evangelists for their children, guiding and nurturing their spiritual development from an early age (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Equally, children can be a channel of God's love to their parents and siblings, living out their faith in daily interactions. By fostering a culture of open conversation about

faith at home, families can support each other in their spiritual journeys and become each other's strongest witnesses.

D. Evangelism in the Workplace

The workplace is another significant environment for evangelism. Christians are called to be 'salt and light' in their places of work, reflecting Christ's love in their interactions with colleagues, superiors, and clients (Matthew 5:13-16). This doesn't mean imposing our beliefs on others, but rather showcasing the Gospel in action through our work ethics, attitudes, and the respectful way we treat others. It's about creating a godly influence that arouses curiosity and fosters opportunities for spiritual conversations.

E. Evangelism in the Community

Lastly, our wider communities should be a field for evangelism. Whether it's our neighbors, the local grocery store owner, the gym trainer, or the parents at our kids' school, we have unique relationships with a variety of people (Mark 12:31). Our responsibility is to be prepared to share the gospel in ways that are respectful and meaningful to them. This can be through acts of service, community involvement, or simply by displaying a Christlike character in our daily interactions. By being a living testament of God's grace, we can encourage others to seek the transformation only Jesus can bring.

F. Evangelism Online

In this digital age, the internet has opened up a new frontier for evangelism. With the power of social media platforms, blogs, podcasts, and online forums, the gospel can be shared with a global audience at the click of a button (Matthew 28:19). Online evangelism allows us to connect with people we may never meet in person, transcending geographical and cultural boundaries. It's not just about posting Bible verses or sermon snippets; it's about engaging in thoughtful discussions, offering spiritual support, and creating a welcoming online community where faith can be

explored. However, online evangelism also requires discernment and respect for diversity, ensuring that the message of Christ is shared in a way that is both impactful and respectful to the digital audience.

Chapter IV Study Questions

Where: Creating Environments for Evangelism

1. Question: What is the difference between 'Being Evangelism' and 'Doing Evangelism'?

Answer:



2. Question: Why is 'Being Evangelism' considered more natural?

Answer:



3. Question: How does 2 Timothy 4:2 illustrate the preparedness required in evangelism?

Answer:



4. Question: Why is fostering a trusting environment essential for evangelism?

Answer:



5. Question: How can evangelism be practiced at home?

Answer:



6. Question: How can Christians be 'salt and light' in the workplace?

Answer:



7. Question: What are the opportunities and challenges of online evangelism?

Answer:



Chapter 5 - Why

Why: The Importance of Sharing the Gospel

Sharing the Gospel is fundamental to evangelism as it provides the bedrock of our Christian faith - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is through hearing the Good News that hearts are enlightened, leading individuals to accept Christ as their personal savior and embark on a transforming journey of faith. The act of sharing the Gospel is not simply a religious obligation; it's an expression of our love for God and our fellow humans. By sharing the Gospel, we extend the same grace that we have received, potentially changing lives for eternity.

The call to evangelize is deeply rooted in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) where Jesus instructs his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations". This mandate indicates the importance of sharing the Gospel as a means to disciple others, teaching them to obey the teachings of Christ. Hence, evangelism isn't just about bringing people to faith, but it also involves nurturing new believers in their spiritual journey, helping them grow and mature in their faith.

Finally, sharing the Gospel in evangelism serves as a tool for spiritual growth for both the evangelist and the recipient. For the evangelist, it reinforces their

understanding of the Gospel, strengthens their faith, and develops a heart of compassion. For the recipient, it offers an opportunity to experience the love of God, find hope in the midst of life's trials, and discover the joy of becoming part of a spiritual family. Thus, the sharing of the Gospel not only expands the kingdom of God but also fosters spiritual growth and unity among believers.

A. Scriptural mandates (Romans 10:14-15)

Romans 10:14-15 (ESV): 14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

The mandate for evangelism is eloquently stated in Romans 10:14-15, which says, "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? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" This scripture emphasizes the importance of sharing our faith, highlighting that belief in Christ stems from hearing His word, and hearing His word is made possible through the act of evangelism.

This biblical mandate underscores the role that each Christian plays in the spread of the Gospel. It is not enough to simply live out our faith in private; we are called to

actively participate in the sharing of the Good News. The passage also reminds us of the inherent beauty in doing the work of evangelism, as it is through this process that others come to know Christ and find salvation. Our role as 'sent ones' is not to be taken lightly; we are the bearers of the message that has the power to transform lives and bring hope to a world in need.

B. The love of Christ compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14)

2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV): 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

As we contemplate the motivation to evangelize and share our faith, we reflect upon 2 Corinthians 5:14: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." This profound scriptural verse captures the essence of our drive to evangelize. It is not out of duty, fear, or personal accolades that we share the Gospel, but from a place of love - the transformative love of Christ that has touched our lives and which we long for others to experience.

This love acts as a compelling force, inspiring us to reach out to others and share the good news of salvation. This is not a passive love; it's an active, powerful love that pushes us beyond our comfort zones into the world to connect with people from all walks of life. The love of Christ propels us to be his hands and feet in the world, sharing his message of love, forgiveness, and hope. Just as Christ's love for us led him to the cross, our love for him guides us in our

mission to spread his word and extend his kingdom on Earth.

C. The eternal significance (John 3:16)

John 3:16 (ESV): 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but eternal life", is a cornerstone illuminating the purpose of sharing our faith and evangelism. This verse encapsulates the grand narrative of the Gospel - God's profound love for humanity and His selfless act of sacrifice in order to grant us the gift of eternal life. When we share our faith and evangelize, we are essentially transmitting this lifesaving message to the world, offering hope of an eternal life through belief in Jesus Christ.

Evangelism, therefore, is of eternal significance. It is a divine invitation to humanity from a place of love, not condemnation. It echoes the heart of God - a heart that is willing to give up Heaven's best, His only Son, so that no one might perish but have everlasting life. By sharing our faith, we participate in this divine assignment, helping others discover the transformative power of God's love and the promise of eternal life. This is the ultimate purpose of evangelism - to make known God's sacrificial love and invite others into a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Chapter V Study Questions

Why: The Importance of Sharing the Gospel

1. **Question:** What is the primary reason for sharing the Gospel as per the text?

Answer:



2. **Question:** What mandate deeply roots the call to evangelize?

Answer:



3. **Question:** How does sharing the Gospel affect the spiritual growth of both the evangelist and the recipient?

Answer:



4. **Question:** What does Romans 10:14-15 emphasize about sharing our faith?

Answer:



5. **Question:** What is the essence of our drive to evangelize according to 2 Corinthians 5:14?

Answer:



6. **Question:** What is the message encapsulated in John 3:16?

Answer:



7. **Question:** According to the text, what is evangelism's ultimate purpose?

Answer:



Chapter 6 - How

How: Connecting People to Their Need for the Gospel

To connect people to the Gospel effectively, it is important to first understand their unique experiences, perspectives, and potential objections. This involves active listening, empathy, and respect for their individual journeys. Instead of rushing to present the Gospel, taking the time to build authentic relationships can allow for deeper, more meaningful conversations about faith. By showing genuine care and interest, we can create a safe space for open dialogue, where individuals feel comfortable sharing their doubts, fears, and questions about Christianity. This relational approach not only makes the Gospel more relatable, but it also demonstrates the love and compassion that is at the heart of the Gospel message.

Understanding the needs of individuals is also crucial in sharing the Gospel. People have various spiritual, emotional, and physical needs that they may be struggling to meet. By identifying these needs, we can present the Gospel in a way that shows how a relationship with Christ can provide hope, comfort, and solutions. For instance, someone who is dealing with loneliness may find solace in the truth that God is always with them. Someone struggling with feelings of unworthiness might be comforted by the message of God's unconditional love and acceptance. In

this way, the Gospel becomes more than just a theological concept; it becomes a practical, relevant answer to life's challenges.

When sharing the Gospel, it is equally important to keep the message simple. While theological profundity is important, at its core, the Gospel is a straightforward message of love, grace, and redemption. By focusing on the foundational truths of God's love for humanity, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our sins, and the promise of eternal life through faith in Him, we can communicate the essence of the Gospel in a way that is easily understood. Using everyday language, personal testimonies, and relatable metaphors can also aid in making the Gospel message more accessible. Remember, the goal is not to showcase our biblical knowledge, but to lead others to the life-changing discovery of God's love and salvation.

A. Understanding humanity's need for salvation (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23)

Romans 3:23 (ESV): 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (ESV): 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23 states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This verse succinctly illuminates the universal condition of humanity: all of us, irrespective of our background, are marked by sin and fall short of God's perfect standard. This is a fundamental understanding in the Christian faith, the reality of our inherent sinfulness

that separates us from a holy and righteous God. This human imperfection extends across all cultures, societies, and individuals, underscoring the universal need for forgiveness and redemption.

Romans 6:23 amplifies this further by stating, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Analyzing this verse, we see the consequences of our sin: spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. However, the verse doesn't end with condemnation but introduces the antidote to our predicament: the gift of God, which is eternal life through Christ Jesus. This divine gift is the solution to humanity's problem, offering not just pardon from the penalty of sin, but also the promise of eternal life. Therefore, these two passages from Romans powerfully demonstrate humanity's need for salvation, a need that can only be met through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

B. Practical examples of sharing the Gospel

1. Personal conversations and shared experiences can serve as impactful platforms for sharing our faith. Jen, a middle-aged woman, took advantage of such a moment during a group hiking trip. When her friend, Laura, started expressing her feelings of loneliness and worthlessness, Jen gently shared her own experiences of solace and self-worth, found in her relationship with Christ. She spoke of how understanding God's unconditional love for her completely transformed her perspective on self-worth. This conversation sparked Laura's interest in Christianity, leading to ongoing discussions about faith and eventually, Laura's decision to follow Christ.

2. Actions often speak louder than words, and demonstrating the love of Christ through service is a powerful form of evangelism. Tom, a college student, exemplified this when he regularly volunteered at a local homeless shelter. His consistent display of kindness and compassion attracted the curiosity of Mike, a homeless man who frequented the shelter. When Mike asked Tom about the motivation behind his selfless service, Tom was able to share his faith, explaining that it was the love of Christ that inspired him to serve others. This interaction prompted Mike to explore Christianity and ultimately accept Christ.

3. Technology and social media can also be instrumental in sharing our faith. Alice, a graphic designer, regularly shared her faith by creating and posting inspiring illustrations of Bible verses on her Instagram account. One day, she received a message from a follower named Sarah, who was going through a difficult time and was comforted by Alice's posts. This opened up a dialogue about faith and the hope found in Christ, culminating in Sarah's decision to commit her life to Christ.

C. Simple exercises for articulating the Gospel clearly

1. ****Exercise: Craft Your Testimony**** - One of the most personal and powerful ways to share the Gospel is through your testimony. Spend some time reflecting on your journey to Christ. Think about your life before you accepted Christ, the circumstances leading up to your decision, how you accepted Christ, and the changes you have experienced since that moment. Now, try to condense

this into a three-minute story. Practice verbalizing this concise version of your testimony until it flows naturally. This exercise will help you to clearly share your faith journey in a relatable way.

2. ****Exercise: The Bridge Illustration**** - This is a classic evangelism tool that visually presents the Gospel message. Draw two cliffs with a wide chasm in between - one cliff represents humanity and its sin, the other represents God. The chasm represents the separation caused by sin. Now, draw a cross bridging the gap, symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice which enables humanity to cross over to God. Practice using this illustration while explaining the Gospel message, helping you to articulate the need for salvation and God's provision through Jesus Christ.

3. ****Exercise: Scripture Memory**** - Familiarize yourself with key scriptures that explain the Gospel message. Verses like Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, and Romans 10:9-10 outline the problem of sin, God's solution through Christ, and our response to God's gift. By committing these verses to memory, you can accurately and confidently explain the Gospel using the Bible's own words. Regularly review these scriptures and practice weaving them coherently into your conversations about the Gospel.

Chapter VI Study Questions

How: Connecting People to Their Need for the Gospel

1. **Question:** What does Romans 3:23 reveal about the human condition?

Answer:



2. **Question:** What is the significance of Romans 6:23 in the context of salvation?

Answer:



3. **Question:** How did Jen use a personal conversation as a platform to share the Gospel?

Answer:



4. **Question:** How did Tom demonstrate the Gospel through his actions?

Answer:



5. **Question:** In what way did Alice utilize technology for evangelism?

Answer:



6. **Question:** What is the purpose of the "Bridge Illustration" exercise?

Answer:



7. **Question:** How does the "Scripture Memory" exercise aid in sharing the Gospel?

Answer:



Conclusion

In summary, the reality of evangelism is grounded in a profound understanding of humanity's inherent need for salvation. Everyone, regardless of their cultural, societal, or individual backgrounds, falls short of God's perfection due to sin, thus necessitating forgiveness and redemption. This universal predicament is eloquently articulated in Romans 3:23 and Romans 6:23, emphasizing not just the human issue of sin but the divine solution available through Jesus Christ.

Evangelism in practice takes various forms, each reflecting the unique contexts and opportunities in which we find ourselves. Whether it's through personal conversations, acts of service, or digital platforms, the Gospel message can be communicated effectively, touching hearts and transforming lives. These practical examples showcase the versatility and adaptability of evangelism, demonstrating that sharing the Gospel is no one-size-fits-all endeavor, but a flexible engagement tailored to individual needs and circumstances.

The importance of 'being' versus 'doing' holds significant in evangelism. Our faith journey isn't merely an assortment of religious activities, but the transformation of our hearts and lives through Christ. Sharing the Gospel isn't just about 'doing' the right things; it's about 'being' a reflector of God's love and grace in our interactions with others.

Evangelism exercises aid in articulating the Gospel message clearly and compellingly. Crafting personal testimonies, illustrating the Gospel visually, and memorizing key scriptures are all practical measures that help believers share their faith effectively. These exercises foster proficiency and confidence in communicating the Good News, ensuring that the message is not just heard but understood and embraced.

In conclusion, evangelism is a vital aspect of Christian life, serving as a bridge between humanity's need and God's solution. It's an invitation to experience God's unconditional love and the life-changing power of His salvation. As we navigate our faith journeys, let us remember that the essence of evangelism lies not just in our actions but in our authenticity, not just in our words but in our willingness to embody the love and grace of Christ in our interactions with others.

Let us embrace the charge to share the Gospel, practicing empathy, and understanding in our approach. Let us remember that the goal of evangelism isn't just to spread a message, but to share the life-changing love of Christ, a love that brings hope, transformation, and eternal life.

About the Author



Barry G. Johnson, Sr., is a hard-working electrician and preacher of the Gospel, with over thirty years of experience serving his faith and community. After 26 years at the Chicago Transit Authority and 25 years at the Church of Christ in Brookfield, IL, Barry retired to Tennessee in 2022. He and his wife Anita, his “Oasis” in life’s sojourn, continue to pursue his passion for preaching and teaching Christianity with an invigorated spirit. An avid hobbyist of golf, movies, and Bible-related, Barry has created a website to share his sermons and lessons online (www.BarrysBureau.com). With knowledge from both his professional work as a lineman/foreman electrician and his religious ministry as a Pulpit Minister and Evangelist, he seeks to lend his talents to motivate Christians beyond indoctrination to actual spiritual conversion, as he puts it, “Being and not just Doing.” That is the idea covered in this book. Grace and Blessings.