

X123
Greater Works Christian Church
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Evangelism- *Get God Involved*

Introduction: Evangelism has become almost a “four-letter word” with many believers today. Evangelism brings images to our minds of going door to door only to have those doors slammed in our faces; or of standing on the a street corner handing out tracks and “street preaching”. All of these can be unsettling images of “how not to do Evangelism.”

There is a better way...

You Have Power

Acts 1:1-8

- 1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,
- 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.
- 4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;
- 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.
- 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Note: In v.1 the writer speaks of another work that he wrote. This previous work (or, account) was, “of all that Jesus began both to do and teach”. The writer didn’t say that Jesus finished His work, but that He began he work. Since Jesus ascended to the Father, and is seated in heavenly places, His work must be carried out by you and I. The book of Acts shows us the beginning of the Church age.

Jesus did not leave us to finish the work without empowering us for the work we are to do.

v. 5) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

These are the words of John the Baptist.

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The writer of Acts is describing the events that led up to Pentecost. He describes how Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the “Promise of the Father”. The Promise is the Holy Spirit that the Father and Christ sent to the earth.

v. 8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Once the Holy Spirit was present and filled God’s people they would have “power” that would help them to be “witnesses” for Christ.

Power (Grk. 1411) *dunamis*

1) strength power, ability

1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth

1b) power for performing miracles

1c) moral power and excellence of soul

1d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth

1e) power and resources arising from numbers

1f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts

Notice that the Power we have been given by the Holy Spirit encompasses many areas of our life, so it will touch many areas of another’s life.

Dunamis is:

- Strength, Power and Ability
- Power to work Miracles (1 Cor 12:10)
- Power for Morality and Excellence of Soul (3 John 2)
- Power and Influence which belong to the Rich and Wealthy (Deut 8:18)
- Power and Resources of a Large group of people, such as an army

Question: Other than Evangelism, why do we need the Dunamis Power of Holy Spirit? How can the Dunamis Power help to Evangelize?

All of this is ours through the Holy Spirit. God has entrusted us with this type of power that can nations. We have been entrusted with this power for a very important reason.

...you shall be witnesses to Me...

Witness (Grk. 3144) *martus*

1) a witness

1a) in a legal sense

1b) an historical sense

1b1) one who is a spectator of anything, e.g. of a contest

1c) in an ethical sense

1c1) those who after his example have proved the strength and genuineness of their faith in Christ by undergoing a violent death

A “witness” is one that can re-enact and/or retell what he/she has seen or heard.

Understanding what a Witness is we can see that when the Holy Spirit comes with Power, He will also come with the manifestations of what Jesus did in His earthly ministry. The Power to Witness is not merely an empowering to speak well. Instead of merely speaking about Jesus the Holy Spirit empowers us to show Jesus.

The Holy Spirit Convicts

John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Note: As we can see in this passage, one of the things that the Holy Spirit does is convicts. The conviction spoken of here is in the world.

World (Grk. 2889) *kosmos*

1) an apt and harmonious arrangement or constitution, order, government

- 2) ornament, decoration, adornment, i.e. the arrangement of the stars, ‘the heavenly hosts’, as the ornament of the heavens. 1Pe_3:3
- 3) the world, the universe
- 4) the circle of the earth, the earth
- 5) the inhabitants of the earth, men, the human family
- 6) the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ
- 7) world affairs, the aggregate of things earthly
 - 7a) the whole circle of earthly goods, endowments riches, advantages, pleasures, etc, which although hollow and frail and fleeting, stir desire, seduce from God and are obstacles to the cause of Christ
- 8) any aggregate or general collection of particulars of any sort
 - 8a) the Gentiles as contrasted to the Jews (Rom 11:12 etc)
 - 8b) of believers only, Joh 1:29; Joh 3:16; Joh 3:17; Joh 6:33; Joh 12:47 1Co 4:9; 2Co 5:19

The word “world (kosmos)” is not merely the earth and its inhabitants. This word speaks of more than the earth or merely a select group of people. However, we can see that this word also can speak of a people group on the earth as well.

It is the entire “kosmos” that the Holy Spirit will convict. This we have to remember, because we have been filled with the Holy Spirit, the one that will convict the world.

Convict (Grk. 1651) *elegcho*

- 1) to convict, refute, confute
 - 1a) generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted
 - 1b) by conviction to bring to the light, to expose
- 2) to find fault with, correct
 - 2a) by word
 - 2a1) to reprehend severely, chide, admonish, reprove
 - 2a2) to call to account, show one his fault, demand an explanation
 - 2b) by deed
 - 2b1) to chasten, to punish

When we look at the word, “convict,” it may appear to be a harsh word, thus making the Holy Spirit harsh. However, we must understand that “God is love.” Everything that the Holy Spirit does is for the benefit of others, because of His great love for mankind (sinners).

Question: *When Holy Spirit is empowering you, is it easier to Evangelize, or not easier? Please explain your answer.*

1 John 4:16

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

God is love, so everything that He does comes from love. Even when we do not understand why He does things the way He does them, we must understand that everything that comes for God is His love.

Revelation 3:19

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Rebuke= elegcho (Grk. 1651)

As we evangelize using the Power of the Holy Spirit and the manifestations of His power (gifts of the Spirit, 1 Cor 12), the Holy Spirit is also present to bring the conviction that leads to salvation.

The key to evangelism is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

3000 Souls Saved**Acts 2:1-14**

- 1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
- 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.
- 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"
- 8 And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?
- 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,
- 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

- 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."
- 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"
- 13 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."
- 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

Note: This is the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given just as was promise. Great power was released into the early believers on account of the Holy Spirit filling them.

Immediately the people, now Baptized with the Holy Spirit, begin speaking in Tongues. Those present in Jerusalem heard these Baptized believers speaking in the language of their home country. This stirred up the multitudes to question what was happening, and some even mocked them. At this point Peter stands up and begins to preach and explain what was happening.

Question: The day of Pentecost saw 3000 souls come into the Kingdom of God. Can you see yourself doing this (bringing in thousands at a time)? Please explain your answer.

What actions will you be taking to get to this place in your life?

v. 15-36) The message that Peter preached to the crowd

Acts 2:37-41

- 37 Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"
- 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
- 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Note: Here is the result of the coming and empowering of the Holy Spirit. From Tongues of Fire to an Anointed message from Peter, and now the people are "cut to the heart". The presence of the Holy Spirit manifests power in the manner that is needed in order for souls to be saved. The Holy Spirit also "convicts" the hearts of the people in a way that causes them to realize that they need salvation.

Question: *Share how the Power of the Holy Spirit has worked through you to change someone's life (i.e. healing, miracles, deliverance, etc.). What will you be doing to make this a normal part of your day?*