



CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.:¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ Matthew 28 :16-20

¹⁵ He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15

²¹ Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ John 20: 21

Go Into All the World

- Is the “Great Commission” only for the twelve? Is this for everyone?
- Or is it only for those with a special gift or office in the church?

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Eph. 4:11-13



Go Into All the World

Is the word “Evangelism” outdated? What about
evangelist, evangel, or evangelizing?

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9

¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Rom. 10:14-15

Evangelizing as a Discipline

“Godliness requires that we discipline ourselves in the practice of evangelism (Whitney, 99).”

- Sharing the Good News is something we need to be intentional about. We need to *practice* it. Witnessing by DESIGN not by default. It is something God EXPECTS.
- God gives power for proclamation of his name:

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

Evangelizing as a Discipline

“We need to learn that sharing the gospel is successful evangelism (Whitney, 103).”

How should we share the Good News?

- Invite people to church?
- Tracts?
- Outdoor preaching (Yonge & Dundas)?
- Door to Door?
- Friendship Evangelism?
- Matthew Parties?
- BBQs?
- Concerts, coffeehouses or other events?
- Street ministry?



What is missing from the list?

Lifestyle Evangelism

“I contend that many Christians *want* to speak to others about the Lord but do not for fear that the observable, daily sin in their lives is too contradictory for them to witness (Whitney, 113).”

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? ¹⁷ Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God. 2 Cor. 2:14-17

Lifestyle Evangelism

But this does not mean we need to be “good enough” before we start witnessing!

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Col 4:5-6

Lifestyle Evangelism

- We need to look at our entire day as “opportunities.”
- But don’t force it! People can read ulterior motives.

“Try spending 15 min with the Scientologists letting them try to evangelize you, and you will know what it feels like to be ‘evangelized’.” (Dion Oxford – The Gateway Men’s Shelter)

- What is the connection between Social Justice and Evangelism?
- Do we help people out with food, clothing, and shelter in order to evangelize?
- Or is it evangelizing in itself?

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Lifestyle Evangelism

- Two broad categories of “serving gifts” and “speaking gifts”.
- How do you most naturally share your faith: Meals or Appeals? Healing or Revealing?

Prayer: Ask people how you can pray for them. Some people even do this with little booths in public places. Or walking as teams in streets. E.g. *24-7 Prayer Ibiza, Spain*.

Love: Loving people is the essence of the New Commandment and the best way to show and share Jesus. Loving includes talking and TELLING!

“Do Not Be Deceived, Disciples Make Disciples.”
(Chan & Platt)