

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY #30,  
Pneumatology Part 8,  
Spiritual Gifts, Part 5: Evangelism  
Eph. 4:11-16  
Grace Community Church  
Kingston, Tennessee  
Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

1. **TEXT: Ephesians 4:11-16, (11) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, (13) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; (14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, (15) but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—(16) from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.**

2. **THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF EVANGELISM DEFINED:**

- a. **When most people think of EVANGELISM or EVANGELISTS, they think of city-wide campaigns, large crowds and celebrity preachers.**
- b. **Some people think of evangelism as witnessing one-on-one to the lost.**
- c. **The word EVANGELISM does not occur in the Bible, but the word EVANGELIST *is* used three times in the NT:**
  1. **Our text in Eph. 4**
  2. **Acts 21:8, “On the next [day] we who were Paul’s companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the EVANGELIST, who was [one] of the seven, and stayed with him.”**
  3. **2 Timothy 4:5, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an EVANGELIST, fulfill your ministry.”**
- d. **The word EVANGELIST comes from the Greek verb *euangelizo* (ευαγγελιζω) which is a combination of 2 Greek words (well + to announce) and is translated as “to bring the good news.”<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, ευαγγελιζω, p. 256.

- i. This is the same verb used in Luke 2:10 when the angel told the shepherds, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you GOOD TIDINGS of great joy, which shall be to all people.”
- ii. The NOUN form of this word is translated in the NT as GOSPEL (i.e., Good News).
- iii. An EVANGELIST is a man who spreads the GOSPEL.

### 3. THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM DELINEATED:

- a. GOOD DEFINITION OF EVANGELISM: “...the gift of *proclaiming* the *Good News* of salvation *effectively* so that people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and in *discipleship*.”<sup>2</sup>
- b. #1: **PROCLAMATION:**
  - i. EVANGELISM involves more than a non-verbal influence.
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:21, “ ... it pleased God through the foolishness of the MESSAGE PREACHED to save those who believe.”
      - a. The Greek word translated as MESSAGE PREACHED denotes “that which is cried by a herald”<sup>3</sup>
  - ii. EVANGELISM involves more than merely meeting the needs of unbelievers.
- c. #2: PROCLAMATION OF THE *GOOD NEWS*
  - i. EVANGELISM is *more* than passively trying to get someone to church, or leaving a tract on a park bench.
  - ii. EVANGELISM is the PROCLAMATION of the Gospel to a lost person(s).
  - iii. Scripture must be used in all evangelistic encounters because it is the Sword of the Spirit.
- d. #3: **EFFECTIVELY PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS**
  - i. The reason some people are more *effective* at witnessing is that they possess the spiritual gift of EVANGELISM.

<sup>2</sup> Leslie B. Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*, p. 57.

<sup>3</sup> Liddell & Scott, *Greek-English Lexicon*, κηρυγμα, p. 949.

- ii. **EX: Acts 8:37, Philip the evangelist witnessed cold-turkey to the Ethiopian, the eunuch, and he responded, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."**

**e. #4: EFFECTIVELY PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS AND *DISCIPLING CONVERTS***

- i. **Winning someone to Christ is just the first stage on their spiritual journey.**
- ii. **When we win people to Christ, we must then disciple them.**
  - 1. **Mt. 28:19-20, (19) "Go therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) "TEACHING them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

**4. THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM TODAY**

- a. **The gift is not restricted to ministers.**
- b. **Philip (Acts 8) was a deacon.**
  - i. **Acts 6:4, Philip was selected as a deacon to help with the food distribution so that the ministers could give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.**
- c. **Someone within the Grace family has the gift of evangelism because that gift was given to the church so that it could reach beyond these walls and bring Christ's lost sheep into the fold.**
- d. **People with the gift of evangelism exercise their gift in the world because that is where the lost people are.**
  - i. **C. T. Studd, famed missionary to three continents, wrote, "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue ship within a yard of hell."<sup>4</sup>**

**5. EVANGELISM EXEMPLIFIED IN THE LIFE OF PHILIP:**

- a. **Act 21:8, "On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him."**
- b. **By studying WHAT Philip did in his encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch, we can discern what the biblical GIFT OF EVANGELISM is.**

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<sup>4</sup> Quoted in Leslie B. Flynn, *19 Gifts of the Spirit*, p. 62.

- i. Acts 8:5, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.” (He went outside of the church walls.)
- ii. Acts 8:12, “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” (Philip baptized believers, i.e., he taught them the importance of identifying with Christ.)
- iii. THE GIFT OF Evangelism can be utilized on a:
  - 1. CROWD—as Philip did in the city of Samaria in the first part of Acts 8.
  - 2. SINGLE PERSON—as Philip did with the Ethiopian eunuch in the latter part of Acts 8.
- iv. Acts 8:35, “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.”

#### 6. CONTRAST: *EVANGELIST* with *TEACHER*

- a. People who have either of these gifts *teach* the Bible, but teachers proclaims the gospel to BELIEVERS, evangelist proclaims the gospel to the LOST.
- b. Teachers work WITHIN the church setting, evangelists work OUTSIDE the church setting.

#### 7. ALL BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO EVANGELISM WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM:

- a. Mt. 28:19-20, (19) "Go therefore and MAKE DISCIPLES of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) "TEACHING them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

#### 8. CONCLUSION:

- a. Since God has placed Grace Church in this community to do His ministry, then He has placed people with ALL of the spiritual gifts within this fellowship so that the body of Christ at Grace will be complete.
- b. That means that there is a person(s) within our Grace family who has the spiritual gift of evangelism.
- c. Mt. 9:38, “Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”