

## EVANGELISM

Fear is the one thing that keeps us from spreading the gospel. Will McRaney writing in *The Art of Personal Evangelism*, stated “fear is not from God but a tool of Satan.”<sup>1</sup> Satan does not want us to succeed therefore he places doubts and barriers in our way to discourage us. However, Jesus told His disciples “**lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world**” (Matt. 28:20, KJV). Remember, Christ promised us He would be with us always, and the Holy Spirit would dwell within all true followers. Remembering the promise of Christ should give us courage to cast aside our fears and go forth with boldness as the disciples did at Pentecost. Remember, we are not being rejected, it is Christ.

Evangelism does not necessarily stop with the one encounter. Jesus did not sit waiting for people to come to Him, He went out to heal the sick, and to forgive their sins, then by example tell them about the Kingdom of Heaven. He touched the lepers, the blind, the deaf, and associated with the worst sinners of that day, even those from nations that the Israelites despised. And, in today’s postmodern society, Alvin Reid contends that it is time to “vacate” the church walls and “invade” the community to share the wonderful love of Jesus.<sup>2</sup> The lost people of today will not come to us, we must go to them, showing them, not telling, what Jesus has done for us.

Evangelism is supposed to be personal, it is something that we should do on a one-to-one basis. When God created man, He established a relationship with His creation and through that relationship God has shown His love and care for each of us.

Dave Earley and David Wheeler stressed in *Evangelism Is: How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence* “Evangelism is about multiplication.”<sup>3</sup> In other words, if we are not making disciples ourselves, then we are not being obedient to God’s Great Command, “Love God with all your heart, all your mind, and with all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.” If we do love God with our all then we will want to share the Gospel, and by sharing the Gospel we are planting the seeds for making another disciple. And that disciple shares the Gospel and the cycle keeps going, thus “multiplying exponentially.”

Connecting the Great Commandment (Matt. 22:36-39) to the Great Commission (Matt 28:20) is to love God with all of our heart, mind, and soul, we have to be obedient to His last words on Earth, “**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**” The very last commandment given to us by our Lord was to leave the comfort of our building and go into the ends of the earth to preach and teach the Gospel and to make disciples, “How, then, can they call on the one in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard” (Romans 10:14, KJV).

In closing out his book *Share Jesus Without Fear*, Will Fay wrote “It is time to share Jesus without fear. God wants you to experience his joy . . . It is time to go!”<sup>4</sup> So let’s go and make disciples of all nations!

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<sup>1</sup> Will McRaney, Jr. *The Art of Personal Evangelism*, (Nashville, TN, B&H Publishing Group, 2003), 192, accessed July 6, 2016, <https://www.mywsb.com/help/knowledgebase/topics/71522-faq>, Lifeway E-books.

<sup>2</sup> Alvin Reid. *SERVANT EVANGELISM MANUAL*. MBS Direct, 2013. VitalBook file, 42.

<sup>3</sup> Dave Earley and David Wheeler, PhD., *Evangelism Is: How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence*, (Nashville, TN, B&H Academic, 2010), chapter 24, accessed July 2, 2016, <https://www.mywsb.com/help/knowledgebase/topics/71522-faq>.

<sup>4</sup> Will Fay, with Linda Evan Shepherd, *Share Jesus Without Fear*, (Nashville, TN, B&H Publishing Group, 1999), chapter 8, accessed July 6, 2016, <https://www.mywsb.com/help/knowledgebase/topics/71522-faq>, chapter 11, Lifeway E-books.