

The Gift of Evangelist Ephesians 4:11

I. What is the gift of evangelist?

- A. The word “evangelist” means “to proclaim glad tidings; a messenger of good.” An evangelist is a preacher or proclaimer of the gospel.
- B. The evangelist can either be a preacher standing before a crowd of people, encouraging them to get saved, or it could be an individual confronting people in their everyday walk who need to accept Christ as Savior (businessman, policeman, fireman, teacher, lawyer, doctor).
- C. The evangelist’s main concern is not discipleship, teaching a class, or visiting church shut-ins. His main burden and concern is leading others to Jesus Christ.
- D. The evangelist is consumed with the need of confronting others with the gospel and encouraging other Christians to do the same.
- E. The evangelist is not necessarily a person in full-time Christian service. Many believers that work secular jobs have this gift and use it all throughout the day, seeking to lead others to Christ.

II. Why is there a need for the gift of evangelist?

- A. Let it be understood - while every believer does not have the spiritual gift of evangelism, every believer has the responsibility to be a witness for Jesus Christ.
- B. As believers and witnesses for Christ, we are **all** to take advantage of the opportunities God gives us to present the gospel, but the one with the gift of evangelist should be **creating** opportunities for himself.
- C. The average Christian should be constantly planting and watering seeds (giving people tracts and witnessing to them about salvation), but he or she may not have a lot of opportunities to actually lead a person to Christ. The evangelist is constantly bringing forth fruit (leading souls to Christ)

that others have planted and watered. The fruit is ready and needs an evangelist to harvest it.

- D. The body of Christ needs the evangelists to head up outreach programs, help in church planting, be personal workers at the invitation time, encourage and train others to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ, or lead evangelistic events. A good example is our WTB actors for the cross and tomb scene.

III. What are the characteristics of the evangelist?

- A. There is only one man in the Bible who is specifically called an evangelist, and that is Philip (Acts 21:8). There is one chapter in the Bible (Acts 8) that focuses almost entirely on Philip, the evangelist.
- B. Let's look at this chapter of God's Word and draw out some principles and characteristics that relate to the evangelist.
- C. First, the evangelist has a deep love and concern for the lost. 8:5
 - 1. All Christians should have this, but the evangelist has such a burning desire to see the lost get saved that he is the one God uses to provoke others to see the need. He has a real burden and deep concern.
 - 2. Notice, Philip went down to Samaria to witness. The Samaritans were a mixed race, and the Jews had nothing to do with them (John 4:9). But it made no difference to Philip. He saw beyond their ethnic origins, to their souls. He didn't care. He saw souls!
 - 3. The evangelist doesn't care about a person's skin color, financial status, or nationality. He simply has a burning desire to see people saved. He believes 1 Timothy 2:4 and John 3:16.
- D. Second, the evangelist has a desire to pioneer new ground with the gospel. 8:5, 14
 - 1. Up to this point, the Samaritans had not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. Philip saw a people group that had never received the gospel and carried the gospel where it had not been before.

2. This might intimidate many people, but the evangelist relishes the opportunity to be on the front line, carrying the gospel into new territory.
- E. Third, the evangelist usually isn't good at discipleship.
1. He wins souls to Christ, but doesn't want to be burdened with the time-consuming chore of teaching and discipling his new converts. He would rather take off and find someone else to win to the Lord.
 2. Philip turned things over to Peter and John, and he was gone by verse 26. He won a man to the Lord in verses 27-38, and he was on his way rejoicing in verse 39. The evangelist doesn't get bogged down, but keeps moving. vs. 40
 3. The evangelist needs to realize this tendency and make sure that he turns his new converts over to those who have a burden for, and are good at, discipleship (shepherding). If not, the evangelist's fruit will not stick, but will fall by the wayside.
- F. Fourth, the evangelist sees the importance of one soul.
1. Philip left the mighty revival in Samaria and went into the desert (vs. 26).
 2. Why did he do this? So that he might win one soul.
- G. Fifth, the evangelist is a good confrontational soul-winner.
1. The Holy Spirit says, "Go!" and Philip runs. vs. 30
 2. Philip starts up a conversation with this stranger, and a few minutes later this man is saved.
 3. Many times people with this gift are outgoing, and they know just what to say to strike up a conversation and then turn it to Christ.
- H. Sixth, the evangelist has a working knowledge of the Scripture. vs. 31-35
1. This man is reading Isaiah, and Philip strikes up a conversation with him, and the man invites Philip up into his chariot. Philip is able to explain this passage from Isaiah to the Ethiopian eunuch. vs. 35

2. The evangelist doesn't want to be "caught off guard," so he thoroughly knows and understands the Scriptures in regards to salvation.

IV. How does Satan attack people with the gift of evangelism?

- A. Causes pride in the number of converts
- B. Causes failure to grow and learn
- C. Causes him to see people as numbers, rather than individuals with needs
- D. Causes discouragement when converts are few or infrequent
- E. Causes a judgmental attitude towards those who are not as aggressive as they are
- F. Causes their walk to not match their talk
 - He is vocal for Christ, but doesn't live a life unto Christ. This ends up turning people off from the gospel.

V. Scriptures the evangelist should memorize

- A. 2 Peter 3:18
- B. 1 Corinthians 10:12
- C. Philippians 2:15
- D. Acts 14:21-22
- E. 2 Corinthians 10:12