

SOME KEYS TO COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL EFFECTIVELY

- 1) The importance of being led by the Holy Spirit when ministering to others (The importance of having Divine Appointments) – Preaching where God directs you to preach and outreaching where He tells you to – Being in the right place at the right time is a key to having effective outreaches**

Jesus said,

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” **(John 16:13)**

In Psalm 37 we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way.” **(Psalm 37:23)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” **(Romans 8:14)**

In chapter 4 of the gospel of John we see how Jesus by divine compulsion on His way to Galilee, detoured to pass through the city of Samaria where he would meet a woman from that city at Jacobs well. (John 4:1-7) This woman from Samaria after meeting with Jesus was totally transformed and helped to see many in her city come to Christ (John 4:39-42) – Like Jesus we must be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit

2) Depending on the Holy Spirit to empower us when witnessing to others and preaching

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:3-4)**

Jesus Himself said,

“Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” **(Luke 21:14-15)**

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS TO OTHERS. In the book of Acts we read,

“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.” **(Acts 1:8)**

BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A KEY TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO OTHERS ON A CONSISTENT BASIS (In season and out of season)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

In the book of Acts we see that after being threatened for speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus, the disciples turned to God in prayer and were filled afresh by the Holy Spirit. They again began to speak the word of God with boldness.

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31)**

3) Living a lifestyle of worship and communion with God (Prayer) - Our heart must be right – (We need God’s compassion when ministering to others) – Intimacy with the Lord helps us to know what to share and when to say things to those that we witness to

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

King David was a man after God’s own heart. His continual desire was to be in fellowship with God. In Psalm 63 he wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.” (Psalm 63:1-2)

The more intimate our relationship is with the Lord, the more we gain God’s heart and compassion for those who are lost

IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW WE READ

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9:35-36)

“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)

- 4) **We need to have a clear understanding of the gospel of grace and be able to communicate it effectively to others – It is in the preaching of the gospel that God’s saving grace comes upon people’s hearts enabling them to accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

In this passage of Scripture we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others:

- 1) *Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) *Christ was buried*
- 3) *God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) *Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts*

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Every person must make a personal response to the facts of the gospel to receive salvation and the gift of eternal life. When we repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ all of our sins are forgiven and God’s righteousness is imputed to us (that we might become the righteousness of God in Him) – It is based on His righteousness being imputed or attributed to us that we as believers satisfy the entry requirement to get into heaven when we die. (Matthew 5:48) To be absent from the body is to be with the Lord. The bible refers to our personal response to Christ in a number of ways,

i) Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
(Romans 10:13)

ii) Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28) “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (John 6:37b)

iii) Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:11-13), and

iv) Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life”
(John 4:14)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” **(Revelations 3:20)**

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS SIMPLY A FREE GIFT THAT WE MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH BY COMING TO CHRIST WITH A REPENTANT AND OPEN HEART. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR SALVATION HAS TWO COMPONENTS – REPENTANCE AND FAITH TOWARD GOD. In the book of Acts we read the words of Peter,

“Repent therefore and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, so that *times of refreshing* may come from the *presence of the Lord*.” **(Acts 3:19)**

Jesus Himself preached both repentance and faith toward God in His messages. In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” **(Mark 1:14-15)**

In the gospel of Luke Jesus clearly emphasised the important of repentance,

“... but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” **(Luke 13:3)**

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE MUST BOTH REPENT FROM OUR SINS AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST – THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD (Lord of all)

Without true repentance a person's confession of faith is just an empty confession.

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

1) *TRUE REPENTANCE* is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. **(God's saving Grace)**

2) *TRUE REPENTANCE* also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. **This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.**

We must let go of our old life to embrace the new resurrection life that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of what falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**)

Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (**John 10:9**)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**John 14:6**)

“being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a **PROPITIATION** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,” (Romans 3:24-25)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT EVERY PERSON FALLS SHORT OF GOD’S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (AND ENTRY REQUIREMENT TO GET TO HEAVEN) – SINLESS PERFECTION

Jesus said, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” (**Matthew 5:48**)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“As it is written:

“There is *none righteous*, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” (**Romans 3:10-12**)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
(Romans 3:23)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**)

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT WHICH EVERY PERSON CAN AND MUST RECEIVE BY COMING TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, IF THEY ARE TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS AND GOD'S WRATH

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 6:23)**

In the gospel of John we read,

“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” **(John 3:36)**

THE BIBLE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH AND THAT ALL WOULD HAVE AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. IT IS THE LOVE AND KINDNESS OF GOD (“the goodness of God”) THAT LEADS PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:6-9)**

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED ABOUT GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US AND THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL BE SAVED AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE – EVERY PERSON HOWEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN A FREE WILL AND MUST CHOOSE TO COME TO CHRIST

Jesus Himself said,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” **(John 3:16-21)**

I WILL NOW CONCLUDE THIS SCRIPTURAL LOOK AT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID,

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” **(Romans 3:28)**

WE ARE ALL SAVED BY GRACE AND GRACE ALONE THROUGH OUR FAITH IN CHRIST – Saved for a wonderful plan and purpose

Following is a suggested prayer that can be used to help lead an unbeliever to Christ:

“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name. Amen”

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” **(Romans 10:9)**

WE MUST ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO CHANGE OUR COMMUNITIES. In the book of Acts we read,

“Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:4-8)**

Jesus Himself said,

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” **(Mark 16:17-18)** “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**

- 5) We need to be prepared to share the gospel in season and out of season (Sometimes God gives us opportunities to share our faith when it is not necessarily the most convenient time for us to do so)**

The Apostle Paul said to the young Pastor Timothy,

“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.” **(2 Timothy 4:1-2)**

6) The importance of memorising Scriptures to share when witnessing to others. There is great power in ministering the word of God as we witness to others.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”
(Romans 10:17)

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **(Hebrews 4:12)**

In the book of Joshua we read,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

7) We need to know God’s incredible love for the lost and that His desire is that none would perish – Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost – We see this in the parable of the Lost sheep

JESUS SAID, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which is lost!’ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance. **(Luke 15:4-7)**

THE APOSTLE PETER WROTE,

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

JESUS HIMSELF SAID,

“For God *so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

- 8) We need to have a genuine interest in the lives of others – first the natural and then the spiritual – We need to have a genuine love and compassion for people**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

- 9) We need to at times face and overcome our fears and just do what Jesus tells us to do. He will then anoint and empower us to effectively witness to others.**

In the book of Act we read,

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

10) The power of worship to create an atmosphere for people to receive Christ (We need God's presence in our meetings and outreaches)

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;”
(1 Peter 2:9)

King David wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”
(Psalm 16:11) “But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.” **(Psalm 22:3)** **God lives in an atmosphere of praise.**

Jesus Himself said,

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

11) The importance of having unity in our ministry team (By our love for one another the world will know that we are His disciples) – As a team we can achieve much – We all need one another

In the book of Acts we read,

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” **(Acts 2:46-47)**

In the book of Psalms we read,

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing – Life forevermore.” **(Psalm 133:1-3)**

Jesus Himself said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” **(John 13:34-35)**

- 12) God has uniquely gifted every believer – We are most anointed and most effective when we flow in our own ministry gifts and calling – For some loving acts of kindness and service may be the way that they best help others to come to Christ.**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. **(Romans 12:6-8)**

13) We need to be simply available and prepared to make sacrifices for the gospel's sake

To be truly effective in making a difference in this world for the gospel's sake we must live a crucified life – Otherwise we will be continually sidetracked and distracted from what God has planned for our life and bear little fruit

Jesus Himself said,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.” **(John 12:24-26)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)**

We need to be like the prophet Isaiah.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

“Whom shall I send,

And who will go for Us?”

Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

(Isaiah 6:8)

14) Prayer and Evangelism go together. We need to both pray and intercede for the lost and then GO and minister the gospel to those that God leads us to. (Praying for the lost helps to give us a greater love and compassion for those who are yet to be saved)

In the book of Acts we read,

“And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, **(Acts 4:23-24)**

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.’” **(Acts 4:29-30)**

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” **(Acts 4:31)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“... As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” **(Romans 10:15)**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**