



Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life

Unit 6 – Evangelism

Evangelism is a natural overflow of the Christian life, but it is also a Discipline. Although all Christians are not expected to use the same methods of evangelism, all Christians are expected to evangelize.

1. Godliness requires that we discipline ourselves in the practice of evangelism.
 - a. Evangelism Is Expected
Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8
 - b. Evangelism Is Empowered
John 9; Romans 1:16; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
 - c. Evangelism Is Exercise
Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:5-6
2. The reason many of us don't witness in effective ways is our lack of discipline.
 - a. Methods over Action
 - i. What is stopping you from obeying God's command to Share?
 - b. Action over Mission
 - i. Do you believe that God can use even you to win souls?
 - c. Honest Overflow
 - i. Is evangelism a by-product of the life you are living in service to God's Glory?

Homework - Reflections

1. What images does the word evangelism bring to mind?
2. Why does God command us to evangelize?
3. Why do you think many Christians are afraid to evangelize? What are your fears about evangelism?
4. According to Acts 1:8, in whose power are we to witness (as opposed to doing it in our own power)?
5. What do the following verses reveal about evangelism?
 - a) Luke 24:27
 - b) John 20:21
6. Why do you think God commands all of His people to evangelize and not just those who find it easy to present themselves and their beliefs to other people?
7. What does 1 Peter 2:9 say about God's people?
8. We read in John 9 about the blind man Jesus healed. What is striking about his words to the Pharisees?
9. According to this John 9 passage, when should we witness?

10. Have you ever been afraid to share Christ? If so, when? Why were you afraid?

11. With which evangelistic approach(es) are you most comfortable? Which ones intimidate you? Be honest.

12. What kinds of responses—positive and negative— have you received when you shared the good news of Christ with others.

13. Researcher George Barna says that most Christians who witness to others come away feeling like failures. So, since they don't like to fail, they redirect their efforts into spiritual activities in which they are more likely to be satisfied and successful. Have you found this to be true? Why, or why not?

14. Are you confident that God has given you Acts 1:8 power? Why, or why not?

15. What does 2 Corinthians 2:14–17 say about God's power through us? About our impact on non-Christians?

16. What does Colossians 4:5–6 say about how to approach evangelism? Why is such preparation so important?

17. Consider ways you might begin to make evangelism a Spiritual Discipline. What steps can you take this week to build deeper relationships with unbelievers?

18. It is said that every Christian is at every moment a testimony—good or bad—to the power of Jesus Christ. What implications does this truth have in evangelism?

19. Why is it necessary to communicate the gospel's content in addition to living out its truths daily?

20. Which excuses have you used in order to avoid evangelizing your friends? Neighbors? Coworkers? Family members?

21. Write down the names of two people with whom you want to share Christ soon, perhaps even this week. What loving, sensitive steps are you willing to take in order to seek ways of intentionally sharing Christ with them? A lunch meeting? A home meeting? Other?

22. Part of becoming more Christlike is to seek forgiveness for and to eliminate the sin in our lives that makes our words and actions seem inconsistent with our faith. Which sins in your life are creating an obstacle in your willingness and ability to witness?

23. Do you agree that “the more Christlike our lives are, the more convincing our words about Christ will be”? Answer using an illustration from your life.