



LIVING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
AN INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY OF REACHING • PREACHING • TEACHING

THE OFFICE AND CALLING OF THE EVANGELIST

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

"DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST"

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Billy Graham, speaking at the Amsterdam Conference for Itinerant Evangelists, said: “*One of the greatest needs today is for the Church throughout the world to recognize and recover the legitimacy and importance of the gift of the Evangelist.*”

Perhaps it is because the world church is not sure what evangelism is.

AN EVANGELIST

- 1. An Evangelist is a person with a special Gift and Calling from the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:11)**

To announce the good news of the Gospel.

- a) We must remember that it is a Gift from God and not from ourselves.**

This will keep us from -

- (i) Pride – for we cannot take any credit for it. (John 3:27)**
- (ii) Discouragement and the Temptation to give up because we know our calling is not from man but from God.
(1 Corinthians 9:16; John 15:16)**

- (b) Talking about “*gifts*” and “*callings*” – we need to remember that “The Gifts and Callings of**

God are without Repentance " (irrevocable)

(Romans 11: 29).

- (c) Then we must understand that **a man's gift makes room for him.** (Proverbs 18:16)

These verses rule out the fear of being **threatened** by others or the **spirit of competition** that is sometimes found in evangelistic circles.

2. EVANGELISTS – God's gift to the Church.

To be honoured:

- Because God given – amongst the other gifts to the church
- The work of an Evangelist requires special grace and usually involves suffering.

Eph 4:7 – “but unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ”.

- The Evangelist is needed by the whole Body of Christ for *“the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:12)
- The Evangelist has an **Office** in the Church. Phillip, in **Acts 21: 8**, is called an Evangelist and Timothy is charged by Paul to *“do the work of an Evangelist.”* In

Ephesians 4:11 it is listed alongside the gift and office of Apostles, Prophets, and Teachers.

May I mention that, just as in the case of the Pastor, **not everyone who has the gift of an Evangelist holds the office of the Evangelist**. There are many laymen and women who are never invited to conduct a large crusade but who are **great soul winners**, i.e. they have the gift of evangelism.

3. The role and function of the Evangelist is **the work of the ministry**. The Greek word for “*evangelist*” means “*one who announces the Good News*”.

The Evangelist functions within the operation of the law of **sowing** and **reaping**. In **1 Corinthians 3: 6** the Lord of the harvest uses the ministry of sowing (the Pastors and Teachers) and the ministry of reaping (the role of the Evangelist). There are seasons of sowing and reaping within every Church. To sow but never harvest is a **disaster**, while to reap where there has been no sowing, **gives poor harvest**.

THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

We have already seen that the Evangelist is one who announces (personally and publicly) the Good News.

The term “**Evangelism**” encompasses every effort to declare the Good News of Jesus Christ, to the end that people may understand God’s offer of salvation and respond in repentance, faith and discipleship.

Perhaps the work of the Evangelist is best defined as “**Winning the lost to Christ, through the preaching of the word, in the power of the Holy Spirit, for the building up the body of Christ**”

Let’s break this down into bite-size chunks:

1. **The “Winning of the Lost”**

There is nothing more **urgent** than a field which is ripe for harvest. (**John 4: 35-38**)

Paul admonishes Timothy (in II Timothy 4:2) “*Preach the Word, be ready in season and out of season*”. This means preach at the appointed time (in season) but **also** be prepared to turn an “**Out of Season**” into **an**

“In Season” opportunity. The Evangelist must always be prepared to give a reason for the hope within. (2 Peter 3:15) He must, therefore, also be an apologist.

This is the supreme task of the Evangelist – to win the lost. He is a “Reaper” in a harvest field. This must be done for the following compelling reasons:

- (i) The Compassion of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14).
A compassionate concern for those in spiritual need, a concern that leads us to action.**
- (ii) The Compulsion of the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:26, 17:6).
Only the love of Christ will enable the evangelist to make the sacrifices, to take the risks, to love the unlovely.**
- (iii) Another motive is the approaching judgement.
Paul said in II Corinthians 5:11, “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men*”.
There is a day of judgement approaching. There is a heaven and a hell in eternity. The secular world is talking more about Armageddon and the end of the world. This leaves us with no option or choice. We are ambassadors under authority; we have responded to a bugle call from which there is no retreat. May we “*never be disobedient to the***

heavenly vision". (Acts 26: 19). Paul also taught, out of his concern for the lost, that *"to the weak I become weak, that I may win the weak. I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some."* (1 Corinthians 9:22)

2. Through the "**preaching of the word**". Paul said "**Preach the Word**" (II Timothy 4: 2). Remember, it's God's word that will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). We must master the Word and the Word must master us.

(i) The **adequacy** of the Word of God.

Paul said he was not ashamed of the Gospel (Romans 1:16). We preach the Word because we believe that its truth is adequate to meet all our needs. The Evangelist needs to make no apology for the Word he expounds.

(ii) The **relevancy** of the Word of God.

The preaching of the Word is relevant to all people of all cultures and backgrounds.

The task of the Evangelist and the Science of Preaching (which is nothing less than truth through human personality) is to exegete the

Scriptures, making the truth therein palatable to the audience.

(iii) The urgency of the Word of God.

The Evangelist comes with a sense of urgency. He believes in hell, eternity and judgement. He understands why the Word says *“today if you hear His voice harden not your heart”*. (Hebrews 3:7). *“Now is the day of salvation.”* (II Corinthians 6:2)

3. The Power of the Holy spirit

It was the power and the compulsion of the Holy Spirit that used Peter on the day of Pentecost; that led Phillip from the revival in Samaria to reach the Ethiopian eunuch in the desert; that sent William Carey to India to preach for 7 years before he won his first convert; that moved John Wesley to ride 5 - 7,000 miles per year on horseback, and that sent David Brainard to preach to the Indians in the USA for 5 years, until he eventually died as a young man in the arms of the girl he loved more than anyone on earth.

It was the compulsion of the Holy Spirit that touched the heart of David Livingstone after he heard Robert Moffat say, *“I have often stood and watched the smoke rise from 1000 villages where no missionary has ever*

been,” to which the young David, responded and said, **“I will go to those 1000 villages – and 10,000 more”**, and out he went, fighting savages and wild beasts and surviving 35 attacks of malaria fever. He died in a little grass hut on his knees in the heart of the Africa he loved for Christ.

4. **For the Body of Christ**

The Evangelist sees himself **as a servant of the church** and all that he does is to build the Body of Christ. In fact, when we look again at Ephesians 4, where the ministry of the Evangelist is listed, we note the point of it all in verse 12, *“for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ”*. Apart from his soul-winning ministry, the Evangelist needs to build the Body of Christ by **inspiring** and **training soul winners** and even encouraging **new Evangelists**.

DO THE WORK

Get started and keep on doing the work. Later we will look at the preparation of an Evangelist but let me mention a few points here :

- **Bloom where you are planted**
Start witnessing where you are. Stop wishing that you were on some foreign field. Start where you are today.
- **Start at the circumference and move to the centre**
as Jesus did with the Samaritan woman at the well.
- **Work** (as if your salvation depended upon it) and **Believe** (that the Sovereign Lord is in supreme control).
- Remember **who the lord of the vineyard is**. We are only servants. He is the Lord and decides where we work, when we work and all the details. The results belong to Him. He gives the increase.
- **Let God use you**, in fact, He will use you as much as you let Him. Don't allow self, personal ambition, petty jealousy or wicked pride to destroy the ministry that He is producing in you. (Philippians 2:13)
- Keep **faithful**. Press on and keep pressing on. The faithful Word preached will never return void. Eternity will reveal what has really happened.

Remember, “*faithful is He who calleth you who also will do it.*” (1 Thessalonians 5:24).