

Q&A

E-DD 2021 Evangelism Seminar [Final Pt 4]

I. **WHY** DO LIFERS NEED TO EVANGELIZE?

(Q1.) Why we need to evangelize?

A1: Evangelism is an integral part of our spiritual life and growth, it is a **MUST** if we desire to live a victorious Christian life.

Evangelism is sharing the good news of salvation, forgiveness of sins, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without which, we would all be lost without hope, since ALL men without the Saviour would be condemned to eternal death.

As a body of Christ, we have been enlightened and saved from our sins and eternal punishment, it is our duty and responsibility to do the same to our loved ones, family members, and friends that they would not end up in the place of eternal condemnation (hell).

According to statistics, about 95% of Christians never brought someone to Christ, it is not alarming, what is most alarming is that 80% of Christians do not intentionally witness for the Lord. As such non-believers are deprived to hear the good news and the chance to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

As human beings, everyone's greatest need is **eternal salvation**, (whether they admit it or not). Before we came to know the Lord, we had the same need and it is now fulfilled and our love to God should compel us to love at least to others that we know.

1 John 3:1 " Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

Many Lifers are aflame for the Lord, but let us not just aflame ourselves but also aflame the people around us by sharing the good news to them.

Romans 10:14-15

¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

(Q2.) If God is so good and loving, why is there evil in the world and why is He sending ppl to hell?

A2. No doubt God is loving, but He is also righteous and holy, therefore He hates sins. If He accepts all the sinful things human beings do; lying, hates, murder, proud, selfishness, and so on, he is not a loving God. No one can claim that he is clean of all sins and by ourselves we deserve punishment as God is righteous and He must punish sins. We all deserve to go to hell. *Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* In addition, if God do not punish sins, He is not a just nor a righteous God.

God loves us enough to give us a choice: to accept the way of salvation that He prepared for us and our sins are forgiven and be saved from eternal hell, **OR** to reject Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord and continue to live in sins and lead to eternal hell.

Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

(Q3.) Since salvation belongs to the Lord, why do we need to evangelize? The Bible says salvations had been determined before the foundation of the world, in what way therefore does our evangelism effort matter? Are we able to change that which God had already determined?

A3. This is the most common question if men's salvation is predestined, why evangelism is still important?

John Calvin the reformer has this to say: " *Since we do not know who belongs to the number of the predestined and who does not, it befits us so to feel as to wish that all be saved, and God wishes that the gospel be proclaimed to all without exception.* " Calvin further says: " *Nothing could be more inconsistent concerning the nature of faith than that deadness which would lead a man to disregard his brethren, and to keep the light of knowledge...in his own breast.* "

As believers, the scripture clearly tells us that we are to be Christ like. It is important to understand that our God is a pro-active God. To be Christ like means being proactive. This applies to ALL aspects of Christian life **INCLUDING** evangelism. Bearing in mind, we are called to be faithful. Being proactive in doing evangelism is required of us so as to be Christ like. Predestination is the prerogative and the sovereignty of God. (i) We have a duty to God to proclaim the goodness of God to every nation. (ii) We have a duty to men to let the gospel be preached to everyone.

II. **WHAT** IS EVANGELISM AND WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

(Q4.) What is the Great Commission? Why is it important to know what it is?

A4. NT's Great Commission generally refers to *Matt. 28:18-20*,
¹⁸ *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach (make disciples) all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

It is an imperative command (not optional) of our Lord Jesus Christ to everyone, irrespective of gender and age.

The Great Commission, however, is NOT to be understood in isolation. Jesus, who gave the Great Commission to the apostles and the church in Matt 28, had also promised them that they will receive the power of the Holy Ghost (in Acts 1:8) to witness for God's truth.

⁸ *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.*

So, what is evangelism? It is about witnessing God's truth. And what do I need to do? The answer lies in whether we have been experiencing walking with God? If the answer is yes, then we go and witness our experience of the truth. If the answer is no, then we should examine how we should seriously realign our life with God and are we in His truth.

Of course, one may ask the next question, i.e. what is the God's truth that I am supposed to be experiencing? The ultimate truth that God revealed to the world is the gospel truth. In short, it boils down to the fact that Jesus is sent by God the Father to die for our sins and that God had raised him up on the third day. By believing and accepting this truth, the scriptures say our sins are forgiven and that we are accepted by God to be in His eternal kingdom.

(Q5.) What is the difference between Evangelical and Evangelistic?

A5. Evangelical and Evangelistic refer to the outcomes of church's commitment in evangelism. An *evangelical church* is a church that believes the basic truths of the Biblical gospel.

An *evangelistic church* is a congregation that not only believes the gospel, but also strives hard to obey our Lord's command to both broadly proclaim and share it person-to-person with non-believers.

Most churches are evangelical but not many are evangelistic. That's why 80% of believers are not intentionally evangelizing for the Lord. May Lifers be encouraged to become evangelistic Christians.

(Q6.) Can Evangelism be taken out from Discipleship?

A6. The answer is a clear NO. As much as we had followed the questions and answers before this question, one of the questions was What is Evangelism; and we had said that evangelism is witnessing God's truth. On this ground, evangelism is

very much making disciples by Christians, irrespective of his spiritual maturity, including young and new believers, to non-believers.

The entire Great Commission is to make disciples by first via Evangelism and upon conversion, the new believer is taught to obey the commandments of the Lord and be baptized. There is a misunderstanding amongst churches that verse Matt. 28:19 is evangelism and verse 20 is discipleship. This has caused most churches having the “Discipleship” which is actually a Teaching programme, but neglect Evangelism. Teaching alone is not discipleship. The result is that 80% of Christians do not intentionally witness for the Lord.

(Q7.) What does Paul mean when he says: “Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel”? and what does he mean when he says he has a reward when he evangelise? and what does he mean when he says he has a reward when he evangelise? Does it apply to every believer?

A7. Paul understands the truth of the gospel that salvation is a wonderful gift from God and the privileged possession to everyone that believed. Unlike the “Woe” to the Pharisees and the Scribes in Matt. 23, this “Woe” is not losing salvation, but is a very sad state for one who received such gift and ignores the sharing of the good news.

The reward is not material or monetary gain, but a treasure in heaven. A blessing to self and to others. (Dan.12:3) It is certainly applied to every believer.

Dan. 12:3 “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

III. **HOW** can I take on evangelism?

(Q8.) How could I equip myself to share the gospel?

A8. First, rest assured that God looks into believers’ willingness and NOT their ability. We are called to be faithful and leave the result to God. Evangelism does not depend on spiritual gifting, as it is for everyone.

Having said so, there are things that we can do to prepare ourselves. This is about being faithful to the task that God had given us. The things that we can prepare ourselves are:

1. Pray that God will put the desire to share the gospel in our hearts.
2. Be proactive to have fellowships with brothers and sisters who are active in evangelism. Pray together with them and join their activities. Share with them how you share the gospel and learn from them how they share the gospel.
3. Read books on evangelism. Observe the preaching during Gospel Sundays. Meditate on the promises of God for eternal blessing. Having done these, grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation.

(Q9.) How could I have the courage to share the gospel?

A9. This is a valid question. If you are asking this question, rest assured that you are NOT alone. Jesus understands the fear very well and he therefore sent out his disciples in pairs to do evangelism. When you read the book of Acts and the Epistles, the apostles often pray for boldness to witness the truth.

God promised that if we abide in Him and His words abide in us, we shall ask what we wish. Therefore the solution to overcome fear is to walk uprightly with Him and ask Him for courage.

(Q10.) How could I answer tough questions, such as “Is it fair for God to send those who never heard the gospel to hell? And is it fair for new born babes, who died by accident, to hell?”

A10. On this subject, we must recognise the following biblical truths:

1. There is NO way for sins to be cleansed other than by the blood of Christ. So, yes, people who died without the gospel will have to face eternal judgement.
2. All humans are born sinful. So, it is not true that babies do not carry sins with them.
3. We are saved entirely by the grace of God. This means without being deserving in any ways, God picks us and give us understanding to accept the gospel.
4. People who died without the gospel are owing to the sovereign will of God. Rest assured, that God makes no mistake. He knows a man’s heart from beginning to the end.

Understand the above truths, we should exercise discretion to decide whether the listener is ready for such hard truths.

(Q11.) How can we evangelize during the pandemic?

A11. Evangelism is first carried out by the godly life demonstrated by believers. As such, nothing can stop the gospel works if only believers can stay faithful and united to the truth of God.

Having said so, the works of gospel sharing to non-believers are indeed affected by the pandemic. As such, Christians should recognise the urgency of time, and all the more be diligent to live a godly life, not only for their own spiritual well-being, but also for evangelism.

Instead of verbal dialog, during the pandemic, we can make use of e-tracts and social media to evangelize. Life BPC website has many e-gospel tracts to download. Hard copies can still be available at church’s entrances.

(Q12.) How could I reach out to people who mock at the bible?

A12. Jesus said in *Matt. 10:12-15*

¹² *And when ye come into an house, salute it.*

¹³ *And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.*

¹⁴ *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.*

¹⁵ *Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.*

Jesus further said in *John 12:49*

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

We are called to be faithful to share the truth of God. If a person reciprocated us with mockery, let's commit the person to God. Remember, he did not reject you but God.

IV. **WHEN** IS A GOOD TIME TO EVANGELIZE?

(Q13.) When should a believer begin to evangelize?

A13. A believer should start evangelizing as soon as he accepted the Lord as his personal saviour. This is where the cycle of discipleship begins. He can first tuck along with more mature believer to begin with until he is more confident to do it himself. He could also start with a personal testimony of how he became a Christian, why he did that. Besides a new believer will have more non-believing friends to share his testimony with. Biblical examples are the Samaritan woman after her encounter with Jesus, she at once spread the good news to the Samaritans in the city, Andrew introduce Jesus to his brother Peter, Phillip to Nathanael, and Paul immediately after his conversion, he preached Christ in the synagogues.

(Q14.) Is evangelism for life?

A14. The Great Commission states that Jesus Christ will be with us always, even until the end of the world. To believers, it is a privilege and honour to partner up with Christ to evangelize. We do our utmost to proclaim the gospel and the Holy Spirit will convict the targeted person. It is a God-man co-operation until our life on earth or when Christ returns to rapture the church. For the elderly, please note that today is our youngest day on earth, every day is, let us seize the opportunity while we still "young" and able to evangelize for His glory. As 80% of Christians are not evangelizing, we have another duty to encourage our fellow believers to do the same. Yes, evangelism is a lifelong commitment.

(Q15.) Do I have to be familiar with the Bible before I witness?

A15. It is good to know the Bible well to evangelize, the advantage is that we will have answers to many difficult questions when asked. It is good also to sometime be stuck with difficult questions, so that we can diligently go back to the bible or to consult others to find the answer. It is a way to enrich our biblical knowledge and most importantly, it elevates our spiritual growth. The answer is NOT necessary to wait till you are familiar with the Bible, it is part of the growing process of the knowledge of God.

V. **WHERE** SHOULD I DO IT?

(Q16.) Where should I begin?

A16. Jesus advised His disciples to begin witnessing from Jerusalem where they were stationed. Yes, we should start from our home. Sometimes, Christians find it difficult to witness to their own folks. Reasons are many, but let us ask the Lord to open the heart of our loved ones, even if it is most challenging. The out come may not be what we wanted to see, but the Lord is with you, that is most important, the gospel if rejected it is not you but Christ. He carries all the brunt. Once you have the confident to witness to your difficult audience, you will have no problem to witness to anyone else, even strangers.

(Q17.) Where should I continue?

A17. To anyone that you come across with. Sometimes, the Lord may indicate to you whom you should witness, He opens the opportunity to do so. However, do not always think if the Lord does not open the door or opportunity, you should stop witnessing. Many feel that since the Lord did not give a clear indication, therefore need not initiate. If you are not evangelistic enough, even some one is beside you in the bus stop, you will not think it is the person to target with. Answer A8. Will be useful to direct you where to continue witnessing. Evangelism is contagious, you will find opportunity to share your faith.

(Q18.) Where can I get help when I am unable to answer query from people?

A18. The first help is spiritual help from the Lord, to love the soul of the person you witness. The second help is the Bible, the words of God. Your interaction with your target audience is very important, while you may not be able to answer all the queries but you may be able to gain confidence from that person to continue the conversation in the near future. Sometimes answers may not be urgent, but his worldview why he does not want to accept Christ despite having the answers may be important. Your answer can be personalized to challenge his worldview. Answers from more mature church leaders could be easily obtain via phone or appointment, at the end we want to be mature enough to handle difficult situations and the Lord will be most pleased to accept your offering of your time and effort.

VI. WHO SHOULD BE IN EVANGELISM?

(Q19.) Who should I encourage to evangelize?

A19. Every Lifer is encouraged to evangelize. All of us are to be Christ like and having the mind of Christ.

1 Cor. 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ."

With the mind of Christ in us, we will fulfil His mission on earth and His GC. His mission to seek and to save sinners, and His Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

(Q20.) Who should I partner with to evangelize?

A20. The best would be your close friends in the Lord, that you could share or call for help without making prior appointment. Form a group of up to four witnesses is ideal. In the gospel of Mark chapter 2, the sick palsy man was brought to Jesus by 4 friends. His sins were forgiven. Without the 4 friends, the sick man would not have the opportunity to see Jesus. We can have group witnessing, while one speaks the rests pray for the salvation of the non-believer. The group can meet or share in chat group of any one that they want to witness for prayers and sharing of information. A journal could be kept on the progress and a celebration could take place when one of non-believers is finally saved and baptized.

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