

018 Equip The Saints 4 The Evangelist

Here we will take a look at the ministry gifting of the Evangelist as found in Ephesians 4; 11

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

As always we look at the Lord Himself and realize, He was the Great Evangelist, as well as being the great Apostle, Prophet, Shepherd, and Teacher.

It is so important to recognize that all these ministries are reflections of The Lord of Glory coming to our time sphere and expressing the heart of the Father to us. None of these gifting are “our” ministry. They are His ministry graciously being given expression through called and anointed men and women like you and me. That to me is awesome.

2 Tim 4:5

5 But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

Here Paul is writing to Timothy and encouraging him in the ministry. But he points out that although he may not be an evangelist as such, he is encouraged to “do the work of an evangelist”.

There are two Greek words commonly used in the New Testament related to evangelism. *evangelizo*, used 55 times and *evangelion*, used 77 times.

These words convey the meaning of that of ‘proclaiming a good message’, or ‘good news’.

This is speaking of Jesus.

Luke 4:18-19

*8 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Here was Jesus own recognition of His anointing and ministry of Evangelist, to proclaim the **Good News**.

New Testament or 21st Century Church?
A Ministry of Wave of Life Ministries

One of the most wonderful aspects of this is not only did He declare the “Good News”, but He was also the **Good News in person**. He was the message in Himself.

There is another Greek word used in the New Testament and that is *kerusso*, which is used 61 Times. This means “Public Announcement” or to “Herald”. The angels heralded the news of the Birth of Jesus. They publicly announced His birth. In the King James Version it is translated ‘to preach’, ‘publish’, ‘proclaim’.

The Scripture reveals that an evangelist is one who is called and anointed to “Publicly Proclaim the Good News”, although we are all called upon to share the gospel message and ‘gossip Jesus’.

For the called evangelist however, there is something more than just telling or proclaiming the Gospel. There is a driving passion to reach out to the unsaved. A burden as it is in his heart that “*all should come to a knowledge of the truth*”.

2 Cor 4:13

13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak,

14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.

It is from that place of personal conviction and belief that the evangelist **has** to speak up. The key is to know him who is the message, **Jesus Christ**—both biblically and experientially—so well that we are absolutely convinced that He is the only answer for what ails mankind.

Thrilled by a personal relationship with “The Evangelist” and by the godly desire that “*all men be saved and come unto a knowledge of the truth,*” an evangelist pushes himself or herself (for the sake of grammar, I will use masculine pronouns) not only to learn the basic message of salvation, but also how to present it more and more effectually. He realizes that every time he preaches is another opportunity to improve his communication of the greatest story ever told. Learning to use both **logic** and **emotion**, he hones his ability to vividly set forth the facts of redemption and bring people to a point of decision and salvation.

It is interesting to note that there is only one person referred to as an evangelist in the New Testament.

Acts 21:8

*8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of **Philip the evangelist**, one of the Seven.*

But what a picture of an evangelist he portrays.

New Testament or 21st Century Church?
A Ministry of Wave of Life Ministries

Acts 8 tells us quite a bit about how he carried out his ministry, so let us examine that record somewhat.

Acts 8:5-12

5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

8 So there was great joy in that city.

9 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,

10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power."

11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

The first thing we note is that an evangelist is flexible, and "rolls with the punches"

Acts 8:1-5

8:1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.(That is Stevens death the first martyr) On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

Here we see Saul (Later to become Paul the apostle) persecuting and imprisoning the newborn church and was set, verse 3, to destroy the church.

Through this persecution the Christians were scattered all over the place, but such was their passion for Christ, that this did not silence them, rather they spread the gospel wherever they went.

It was here that Philip went to the city of Samaria. What did he do? He went in with all guns blazing and proclaimed Christ as the Good News, drove out demons, healed the sick and demonstrated to them in Samaria that the Kingdom of God had arrived.

You see when it appeared through Saul that the door was closed; the evangelist will look for, and find another door of opportunity open.

New Testament or 21st Century Church?
A Ministry of Wave of Life Ministries

First and foremost, he preaches Christ verse 5.

An evangelist heals people, does miracles, and casts out demons verse 6,7.

He brings great joy wherever his message is believed verse 8.

He will take on the false and the deceiving, showing them to be whom they really are, servants of the devil.

He will bring release and freedom, truth and light into the darkness.

An evangelist is ready to act on the Word of God, be it the written Word or revelation

Acts 8:26-29

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road — the desert road — that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.

29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

The Evangelist is ready to obey at a moments notice. He was given a direction to travel. It was pointed out to him the condition – a desert road, when he hits the road, what turning to take – Jerusalem to Gaza.

Now the evangelist is at the right place at the right time for God to speak again, and recognizes when God speaks and what God says. "Go to that Chariot..."

He speaks the word of the Lord to who-so-ever. He does not feel small with the important and the great, nor does he feel superior to the small and the weak. He has a message of Good News for all who will listen.

He is fearless in his pursuit of declaration and proclamation and runs to obey.

Acts 8:30-31

*30 Then Philip **ran** up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.*

31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him

Have you ever noticed how an evangelist can get other people to open up and talk? There are times I stand in amazement as real two-way communication takes place.

New Testament or 21st Century Church?
A Ministry of Wave of Life Ministries

Acts 8:34-38

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

I have a precious friend who I look up to as a true evangelist, Dave Smethurst, and I have placed a link to his web site on the "Resources and Links" page on my website www.Britishbob.org.

This brother gets everywhere. He is an official chaplain at most of the Olympic games including the last ones in China.

He cannot get on an airplane and not lead a stewardess or the person sitting next to him, to the Lord. He just has this way of communicating Jesus that brings a response.

A good evangelist doesn't just tell everyone their going to hell; he has a way of opening the conversation by employing questions that begin to open people's minds. Then he is ready with a clear and concise answer that points them to Jesus.

If you have ever bought a car at a dealership, the point of greatest dread is the 'close'. The salesperson uses all his or her skill to get you on the 'yes' road by asking a series of questions that require a 'yes' response. They do this so that when they ask you for the sale, the word 'yes' rolls easily off the tongue. A really good salesperson does this in such a way that everything makes total sense and you have bought a car without you realizing it.

This is the gifting of an evangelist, to bring you without fear or dread, to the point of decision – the close. Everything makes sense; it's the right and important thing to do to accept this great salvation.

Have you ever watched or perhaps been to a Billy Graham crusade? His message is clear and simple. He effortlessly brings people to the point of decision and goes for the 'close'. **"Get up from your seats, wherever you are and come down to the front"** and they flock by the hundreds, even thousands.

There is a Christ given anointing for this purpose, and the Holy Spirit is there working on the hearers and there are eternal results.

Acts 8:39-40

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

New Testament or 21st Century Church?
A Ministry of Wave of Life Ministries

It is an important thing to note here, It was not Philips roll or calling to 'shepherd' or 'teach' the man from Ethiopia, his calling is to lead men to Jesus, others in the ministry team then take up their roll to shepherd or teach.

Having been in the ministry for well over 40 years I have seen evangelist lead churches, and it is very frustrating. He has a message burning in his heart for the lost, but you cannot live on that message Sunday by Sunday for too long, you need the other ministries. People have to grow and mature, they need more. The evangelist has to be going here and there preaching, the people need a shepherd who is there for them. So what I am saying is that on the whole – and there is always the exception- evangelist don't make good leaders of churches.

The evangelist cannot sit on his laurels; he is ready for the next assignment and takes advantage of spiritual momentum and just keeps on preaching wherever he goes.

Finally, a good evangelist is cost conscious as we see in verse 39. Talk about first class travel at no cost, this one is a winner!!

But sure enough, when the Holy Spirit transport drops him somewhere, the evangelist cannot but start talking about and proclaiming the Good News, verse 40.