

## **Search and Rescue The Call of The Church**

The Well Church Ministries

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### **1 Introduction**

There is a clear mission that God has communicated to the Church. The Mission -> Search and Rescue.

Today, I want us to explore how we go about this, both as a church collectively, and as individuals.

### **2 What is Evangelism**

- Evangelism is simply the sharing of the Gospel in hopes that the lost might be found
- In fact, anytime the gospel is shared, it can be considered evangelism

**Romans 10:17**

***Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.***

- Sharing the Gospel is what makes people aware of Jesus Christ.
- However, it is Jesus Christ alone that saves

**John 14:6 (NIV)**

***Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

### **3 What Is My Responsibility in Evangelism?**

- J.I. Packer is considered to be one of the most respected theologians on evangelism. Packer wrote the following in his book titled *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*,

***"the commission to publish the gospel and make disciples was never confined to the apostles. Nor***

***is it now confined to the church's ministers. It is a commission that rests on the whole church collectively, and therefore on each Christian individually"***

- Every Christian has a God given responsibility to share the Gospel with the lost.
- It is not just the Pastor's, but everyone's.

### **3.1 But I don't have a gift of Evangelism**

- I have often heard arguments that, "I don't have the gift of evangelism"
- It is true, that some have a unique gift
- There are those who have been uniquely called to fill an evangelistic role in the church.

#### ***Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)***

***11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the***

***body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.***

- You do not have to have this evangelistic gift to evangelize

### **1 Corinthians 1:5-7 (NIV)**

***5 For in him you have been enriched in every way— with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.***

- According to what Paul is saying, you do not lack any spiritual gift that is needed to perform the task.
- Christ gives us opportunity and he gives us the words to say
- Let's look at a story in Acts that demonstrates how God provides and opportunity and the word to evangelize one-on-one.

### **Acts 8:26-35 (NIV)**

**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 the Kandake (which means "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."**

**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.**

**32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:**

***"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.***

***33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.***

***Who can speak of his descendants?***

***For his life was taken from the earth."***

***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.***

- God provided an opportunity for Phillip
- Phillip ceased the opportunity
- He wanted to do the will of God and acted upon it
- The next thing we know, Phillip baptizes the Ethiopian

***Acts 8:36-38 (NIV)***

***36 As they traveled along the road, they came  
to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here  
is water. What can stand in the way of my being***

***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.***

- This baptism was the work of a partnership between God and Phillip.
- This is how the Lord assists us in our evangelistic efforts.

#### **4 How Do I Know Who To Share The Gospel With?**

- We have to be discerning when it comes to sharing the gospel.
- Not everyone is conditioned, nor ready to hear it
- People have to trust you before they will trust the word you are giving them
- We have to be patient and wait on the prompting of the Lord.
- But when you feel led, don't be afraid to share

## 5 What Should Be Our Motivation To Evangelize

### 5.1 We Bring Glory to God

- Packer wrote:
- The first motive is primary and fundamental. The chief end of man is to glorify God (Packer, 2012)

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

***... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.***

- Men glorify God by obeying his word and fulfilling his revealed will.

### 5.2 The Second Motive - Love Of Our Fallen Friends

- The second motive that should prompt us to assiduous evangelism is love of our neighbor, and the desire to see our fellow humans saved. (Packer, 2012)

**Mark 12:33 (NIV)**



***33 To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”***

## 6 What Should We Say?

- Evangelism takes practice

### 6.1 The Power of Testimony

- Peter was one of the first recorded to give a testimony
- He was a witness to Christ being His personal Messiah:

***Acts 2:32 (NIV)***

***God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.***

- It is extremely important to think about your testimony
- Take time and reflect upon it and write it down.
- Ask yourself these important questions:

- What was happening in your life before you were saved?
- How did God reveal Himself to you?
- Who was involved in leading you to Christ?
- How did he or she lead you?
- How has your life changed since you received Christ?
- After answering these questions, write a short testimony and rehearse it
- Think of others and use their testimony as well:
  - Peter used the testimony of a healed man to make Christ known.

**Acts 3:16 (NIV)**

***By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.***

## 7 Important Parts Of The Evangelistic Message

### 7.1 People have to recognize sin

**Packer wrote "**

***Sin in the Bible is of an offense against God, which disrupts a man's relationship with God.***

***Unless we see our shortcomings in the light of the law and holiness of God, we do not see them as sin at all.***

***For sin is not a social concept; it is a theological concept.***

***Though sin is committed by man, and many sins are against society, sin cannot be defined in terms of either man or society.***

***We never know what sin really is till we have learned to think of it in terms of God, and to measure it, not by human standards, but by the yardstick of his total demand on our lives. J. I. Packer. Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God (Kindle Locations 512-515). Kindle Edition.***

- It is important that we recognize our fallen state

- The entire Bible helps us paint this picture.

**Genesis 3:22 (NIV)**

***22 And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."***

**Isaiah 64:6 (NIV)**

***6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.***

**Romans 3:9-10 (NIV)**

***9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. 10 As it is written:***

***"There is no one righteous, not even one;***

- People have to understand that no matter how good of a person we are, there is no way that we can live up to the righteousness of God on our own.

## 7.2 People Have To Recognize We Are Powerless

- We are unable to pay for the debt of sin
- God sent His Son into the world to pay this debt

### **John 3:16**

***16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

- All we have to do is receive this gift, repent, and turn to God for salvation that comes through Jesus Christ
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### **1 John 1:9 (NIV)**

***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.***

**Romans 10:9(NIV)**

***If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in your heart that God raised him  
from the dead, you will be saved.***