



## Seminar 1

### EVANGELISM

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#### The local mission

The Bible teaches us to spread the Word first in Jerusalem, then to Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). There is a perception that the mission field is primarily overseas. As a result, most churches focus on sending ministers, finances, resources, etc. overseas. This is totally correct, except for the fact that the LOCAL MISSION has been neglected. The fact that there are many churches in Australia is not enough. For instance, in many Africa countries, already many years ago 50% of the population were Christians. In Australia, however, statistics indicate approx. 2.5% of our population are born again believers. There is a great need to reach our own, right here.

#### The Message

In sharing the Good News, we need to consider three wills:

God's message:	His will for everyone to be saved.
The messenger:	Has total faith in the message, is willing to share to save the person.
The receiver:	Must hear the Word to believe. His will to listen and receive is essential., The Holy Spirit makes message alive, i.e. gives faith to believe in Jesus.

What is the most important quality in a Christian Messenger? **YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST!**

Eph. 1

The Christian messenger will be effective when he/she has experienced first the ministry of the Holy Spirit personally, i.e. receiving God's Grace and our God given inheritance.

The Word, The Seed, we are to plant seeds of God's Word into people's hearts (Prov. 4:20-27). However, before we can plant seeds in others, we need to know how to plant seeds according to God's Word.

My son, give attention to my words;  
Incline your ear to my sayings.  
Do not let them depart from your sight;  
Keep them in the midst of your heart.  
For they are life to those who find them  
And health to all their body.  
Watch over your heart with all diligence,  
For from it flow the springs of life.  
Put away from you a deceitful mouth  
And put devious speech far from you.  
Let your eyes look directly ahead  
And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.

Watch the path of your feet  
And all your ways will be established.  
Do not turn to the right nor to the left;  
Turn your foot from evil.

The messenger must have faith in God's Word, there is no place for unbelief because it will interfere in the process and will hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit.

The messenger needs to rely on God for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To rely on some kind of "denominational doctrine" or self- effort will be an impediment.

**WRONG:**

Believer ---- Recipient

**RIGHT:**

GOD  
/  
Believer --- Recipient

God's design:

First, the messenger needs to understand, receive and live the message. In other words, the messenger (I don't use the word disciple on purpose) is a person who believes and lives the Word, who has experienced God's grace and power.

People sense if we are genuine or not. The message of the Gospel is simple and sharp. No religiosity, no phoniness, no pride, no superiority is to contaminate the message. Instead, dependence on the Holy Spirit, humility, freedom, faith, joy, God's love. These are the ingredients that unleash God's power to save, heal, deliver.

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Jesus said: (Mark 16:15-20)

**"Go into all the world and preach (communicate) the Gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."**

Note the order; first communicate the Gospel, then cast out demons, heal the sick.

Believe.... What to believe? The pure message of the Gospel of Grace.

Religion/Law

vs

Gospel/Grace

The law demands

Grace supplies

People do not want demands, people are looking for love, truth, destiny.

People find it easy to receive a gift, but not some "requirements" or demands to receive it.

It is this simple, clear, pure and sound message with no conditions that has the power to penetrate into people's lives and bring change, healing, deliverance.

The power of the message of the Gospel is linked with faith. Any unbelief on the part of the messenger will become an impediment, because unbelief will steal the blessing. In the book of James, chapter one we read:

**“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind, for let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”**

The messenger is to bring the message to others with faith, conviction, confidence in the message, not confidence in self. The messenger relies on the Holy Spirit to prompt him to deliver the message, it is the Word of God applied by the believer that releases God’s power to save, heal, deliver.

In witnessing, there is no method or formula to be used, instead, the Word, activated by the Holy Spirit, brings the divine sacrificial love, wisdom, power to save, heal and deliver.

Remember, every person is different, we do not know them, but God does, He knows where the person is at.

Planting seeds:

The Word is a seed, (Jesus). The Bible shows us that the seed will only grow in the proper ground. Our job is to plant seeds, the Lord causes them to grow, but we must prepare the ground (the hearts).

The message is the centre piece, but the messenger is the vessel. The vessel needs to be ready:

It means the messenger needs to reflect the values and properties of the message:

Love, freedom, peace, power. Faith is the currency of heaven, it means that all the promises of God, His power, His love are received only by faith.

Unbelief will stop the flow of blessings from heaven. A messenger without faith will not achieve anything spiritually.

## Mark 9:19

**“And He answered them and said, O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to Me! They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth....”**

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We can have faith and also unbelief, in fact this is found in most Christians...

Sin will not stop the flow of God’s Grace, but unbelief will.

The demons know if we have authority over them. Faith and trust in Jesus gives authority. Unbelief will cause us to rely on self. Reliance on “self” steals our authority in Christ, this is why these disciples could not cast out the demons.

Fear and embarrassment in witnessing means ministering in the flesh. The Holy Spirit gives us boldness when we rely on Him.

## The messenger and the message:

The Bible is plain in regard to what is essential to reach the unsaved, the needy, the oppressed. Truth and love go together. God’s love sets free, truth sets free. The nature of God, LOVE, is found in the message of the Good News, the Gospel of Grace. God wants us to share the truth in love.

## Doctrine

The “mixture”

The perversion of the message through “religion” has been used by the devil to keep many people in the dark. Religion is man-made, it is a counterfeit the enemy has used throughout the ages. Still today – with a different flavour- Satan is deceiving with “doctrines of demons”.

A messenger with a bad message will not be effective.

During our Lord’s time on earth, the Sanhedrin (The Israeli Government), was controlled by two religious forces; the Pharisees (the legalists) and the Sadducees (the humanists). These forces are still operating today and are very active in our churches and ministries.

Satan deceives the unsaved with occult, other religions, atheism, etc.... but how does he deceive the church? with THE MIXTURE!!

What is the mixture? It is the Gospel plus “self”. It is something like: “Jesus has saved me 50% and I have to achieve the other 50%”. Too many people give up or reject the Good News, because it has been presented as “bad news”. Why? Because people don’t feel comfortable or capable to achieve this 50%. While salvation and God’s righteousness are a gift from God, the “mixture” demands from us to work towards it. This is one of the reasons that so many people reject the message. Sadly, in ignorance, they are not rejecting the real message, they are rejecting the counterfeit message. This is how Satan interferes.

The apostle Paul taught Grace and it was 100% Jesus and nothing of us believers. This is the message, the cross provided 100% salvation, healing, deliverance with no merit of ourselves. The only requirement? BELIEVE! It is not our righteousness, but Jesus’ righteousness in the believer. When the Scripture speaks about deeds, behaviour, godliness, it is always related to sanctification, never to salvation. Every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Salvation is settled for the believer. To do the Word is related to sanctification and service, not to salvation. Too many scriptures have been taken out of context.

Communicating the Gospel is more than talking to people about Jesus. It means communicating who we are.

1 John 4: 17

**“We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love....”**

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To represent Jesus, we must first receive His Word, His nature, His love, His power. How do we receive all these? Through Grace by faith. Nothing else will do, any “self” effort or independence from God will interfere.

## The Spiritual

Generally “evangelism” has been diminished to “telling” people about God. The Holy Spirit will lead us into deeper ministry when we rely on Him: including healing, deliverance, meeting needs, etc. The Bible addresses Body, Soul and Spirit. We ought to consider these three parts when ministering to people.

The Bible explains that the visible is temporary and that the invisible is eternal. The spiritual/supernatural is above the natural, consequently, we need to consider God’s Word in every situation, and rely on the Holy Spirit for the supernatural to be manifested, His love, power, wisdom and ultimately, God’s plan for mankind.

It is simply the difference between Simon and Peter!

## Freedom

The unsaved person’s life is based on fear. Fear is the opposite of faith. The believer has been set free by Jesus and is now freed from fear, consequently free.

When the believer acts in faith and freedom, they are ready to be a good messenger. The unbeliever senses the peace, joy, freedom of the messenger and will listen with interest to the message.

### Understanding our position.

One thing to be considered is the fact that Jesus saved, healed and delivered everyone who went to Him. Our position is mostly the opposite, we go to them. In an outreach situation we approach people with the Good News.

People went to Jesus with faith, then they were healed.

When we approach people, they often times display the opposite:

Cynicism, unbelief, religiosity, annoyance, aggression, etc.

Jesus told us to first preach the Gospel, then heal the sick and cast out demons. The first step is to communicate the Good News to the person. If the person receives the message, then further ministry can be applied as the Holy Spirit leads.

In our society, people have been polluted with the message of religion and are in a sense “allergic” to religion. We need to share the pure grace, love and mercy of God, all being a gift.

When people went to Jesus it was because they heard of His performance of miracles, His love, His compassion and wisdom. We need to radiate these attributes in order to attract people to us.

Remember, we are representing Jesus and we have been given the task of sharing the Good News, healing the sick and delivering the oppressed. Consequently, God has given us His love, His power, His wisdom in order for us to serve Him fully equipped by His Holy Spirit.

May the Lord help us to bear much fruit by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our dependence on Him will make all the difference.