

EVANGELISM

The Spirit-given ability to proclaim the Good News about salvation effectively so that people respond to the claims of Christ in conversion and discipleship. This person has a burning desire to lead other people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ. The gift of evangelism can be used, for example, to distribute Bibles, participate in renewal events, serve as a greeter, serve in a prison or campus ministry or motivate others to obey Christ's command to "go tell."

CHARACTERISTICS

1. A tremendous desire to see everyone saved and a willingness to vocalize their witness.
2. Salvation is emphasized, but growth in Christ is also critical to the one who is using this gift properly.
3. An ability to relate Christ to an individual's specific situation. *1 Corinthians 9:19-22*
4. An insight into who is open to receive salvation.
5. Less fear of appearing foolish for Christ's sake than the average Christian.
6. Willing to sacrifice personal comfort and time, always alert to opportunities to witness, realizing that such opportunities cannot be planned or scheduled.

CAUTIONS

1. Becoming critical of others who do not exhibit the same zeal over winning the lost.
2. Neglecting the follow-up that is necessary to spiritual stability, the evangelist can become so caught up with evangelizing that discipleship is forgotten.
3. Taking credit for how many souls are won to Christ, feeling that their success as a Christian depends on how many people they have led into the kingdom.
4. Taking on an emotional burden for ALL lost souls, feeling an urgency and obligation to try to reach as many as possible rather than trusting the Holy Spirit to draw and convict each person who is willing to receive Christ.
5. Being pushy in their evangelizing efforts, behaving like a salesman who will do anything to close a sale. People may become defensive or pretend to accept Christ just to pacify the evangelist. This can also be inappropriate in a workplace and other settings.
6. Being susceptible to visions of grandeur, as in "claiming an entire city for Jesus," forgetting that people come to Christ one-by-one and that the Bible tells us that few will respond to Christ's offer of salvation.
7. Trying so hard to identify with those being witnessed to that their own walk with Christ is compromised.