



October 2009

Lesson Three - Pastors and Evangelist

He is the one who gave these gifts to the church; the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers. (Eph. 4:11).

THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM

The words *evangelist* and *evangelism* mean different things to different people. When I think of an *evangelist* I think of someone going from church to church holding revivals. When I think of *evangelism* I think of a witnessing group called Pioneers For Christ going door to door witnessing. Although these thoughts may help define these terms, they are certainly not the total meaning of these two words.

Evangelism

The definition of the word *evangelism* is - a special ability in verbally communicating the Gospel message of salvation effectively to unbelievers so that they respond through conversion and enter into discipleship.

The key phrase is *verbally communicating to nonbelievers*. This is not a silent witness by letting our lights shine through a nonverbal influence. Rather, *evangelism* is a verbal explanation as to how a sinner can come into a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

The word *evangelism* itself does not appear in Scripture, However, Christians are exhorted to witness, to share the Good News, and to spread the Gospel. Other words used are proclaim, herald, watchman, spokesman, tell, and teach. The *evangelistic* gift does not necessarily involve witnessing across cultural lines to establish churches. *Evangelism* is telling *whosoever*

will that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that whosoever will shall not perish but have ever lasting life (John 3:16).

The Evangelist

There are many examples of evangelist and evangelism in the New Testament, however, the word *evangelist* only appears three times in scripture: Acts 21:8; 2 Tim 4:5, and Eph 4:11.

Evangelists are persons gifted with a passion of the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel of Christ in such a way that lost men and women come to Jesus Christ, repent of their sins and become His disciples. There seems to be a special anointing of the Spirit to draw unbelievers to that person with this gift. Those with this gift seem to become restless if he/she is not proclaiming the Gospel story and winning souls. A good example of this is Evangelist Billy Graham.

Newsweek once devoted its religion page to a discussion of today's *new-style evangelists*. It pointed out that a whole new generation of evangelists and techniques are emerging. Tents and local churches have been replaced with mass media. Concerts featuring ear-paralyzing Gospel rock, and crusades headlining sports and entertainment celebrities, all typify *new-era evangelist*. The writer of this article left out the true meaning of the gift of an evangelist. If one has the gift of an evangelist, it is not hype nor is it entertainment they are seeking, but they are seeking a sinner on his way to hell that he/she may once again share the grace and mercy of God.

Can you name someone you have heard or been ministered to who has the *gift of an evangelist*? _____

Personal Evangelism

Not every one who has the gift of *evangelism* is a preacher or in full time ministry. In fact more people are won to Christ by laity than clergy. Many people can share Christ on a one to one basis and never be able to stand before a crowd. Yet, we are all admonished to employ the power of the Holy Spirit to implement this gift whenever we meet unsaved people. This may be on our job, at school, a waitress at a restaurant, a sales clerk in the mall, a family member, a friend or a neighbor.

Have you ever witnessed to someone and lead them to Christ? _____

Did you feel the unctioning of the Holy Spirit? Explain: _____

Reasons we do not witness.

There are several reasons we may feel intimidated in personal witnessing. Check the following list from 1 (greatest obstacle), to 5 (the least obstacle) in your reason for not witnessing.

_____ Fear of rejection

_____ Not knowing what to say

_____ Feel you will be avoided later

_____ Afraid you will get tongue-tied

_____ Feel you are untrained or ill-equipped to share the Gospel

Has the Holy Spirit laid someone on your heart He would like you to share the Gospel?

Pray that God will open the right door for you to be able to share.

Evangelism vs Teaching

Although the gift of *evangelism* should be distinguished from the teaching gift, true evangelism must have some teaching. How can one accept Christ as their Savior unless they are told or taught how God gave His Son for the sins of the world?

THE GIFT OF PASTORING

There is a very strong chord interwoven between the **gift of pastoring** and the gifts of prophecy, evangelism, teaching and administration. One can have the distinct gift/gifts of prophecy, evangelism, teaching or administration without the **gift of pastoring**. However, it is very evident that one may have the primary **gift of pastoring**, and they will also work in some degree in the gifts of prophecy, evangelism, teaching and administration. Apparently **pastoring** was Timothy's primary gift, but Paul admonished him to do the work of an evangelist also. He was to engage in soul winning as a part of his other duties as a pastor.

Pastor/Shepherd

The concept of a **pastor/shepherd** ministry is taken from the Greek word *poimen* which means protection and care. The characteristics of a **pastor** are likened to one who cares for a flock of sheep. The **pastor** is to guard the flock from its enemies. He is to teach his flock, to lead them, to feed them and prepare refreshing rest for the weary ones. He/she is also used in correcting and rebuking. In scripture we find the **shepherd** also seeking the lost sheep, redirecting the straying, healing the wounds of the sick, and blending the members of the flock into unity and mutuality. These are **not** the primary responsibilities of the prophet, evangelist, or administrator. The pastor assumes responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the sheep in the church. An evangelist assumes the responsibility to win the lost and bring them to the shepherd.

It is extremely important for the **pastor** to realize that with all these responsibilities he/she must not create a one person show by bringing dependence upon them. Rather **pastors** are to lead the flock to minister, to equip them to serve each other, and to build a capacity for their own self-preservation and self-edification.

Gift of Pastoring

To have the **gift of pastoring**, one must genuinely love and care for people. Once we planted a church and a young man was brought in for his first pastorate. Ray noticed he did not visit or shake hands with people before or after church. When Ray questioned him, he said he really wasn't a people

person, but his wife was. He was just there to preach. He was to stay in his office to study and pray, not to socialize. Needless to say, he only stayed a few weeks, and he was gone.

Pastoring involves far more than just preaching. There is much patience, long suffering and self-sacrificing involved. You have heard it said, "He/she is a great preacher, but a lousy pastor," or "They are not the greatest preacher, but oh, what a great pastor." What makes the difference? It is the *gift of pastoring*.

Not everyone who has a gift of communicating God's Word has the *gift of pastoring*. Somewhere we have failed in the assumption if a person can preach well, God has called them to pastor. Not always so! Someone said, "A preacher thinks more about what he is going to say. A pastor thinks more about those who will hear."

We are not to assume that only the senior pastor/leader of some local congregation has the *gift of pastoring/shepherding*. It was never intended for one person (*pastor*) to keep an alert eye on hundreds or thousands of sheep. Remember the story in Exodus 18 of Moses tending to the people alone, and his father-in-law told him that what he was doing was not a good thing. He admonished Moses to divide the people and set men before them to help carry the load.

There are many in churches that have the *shepherding gift* but not the pastoring gift. Sunday School teachers and youth workers certainly feed, train, nourish and care for those under them. Older Christian women can shepherd younger women in family needs and domestic situations. Bible study leaders often have this gift in nurturing those under their teaching. The positions of dean of men and women at our colleges provide opportunities for *shepherding gifts*.

Some churches have a '*shepherd plan*' for new believers. Each new Christian is assigned a mature believer whose responsibility is to take the new convert under her/his wing. They see they attend services regularly, call them if absent, encourage them in Bible reading and devotions, guard them from false teaching, and guide them into some form of Christian service where their gifts can be used. If more Christians utilized their *pastoral gift* of

guiding, feeding, guarding, and caring for fellow believers, much of the load would be taken off the church staff and perhaps meet many needs that otherwise might go unmet.

How is God using you in leading and nurturing other believers? _____

DAILY BIBLE READING

Part Two

Use the following “code” to conduct your own personal Bible study by following the outline and instructions below.

R-read scripture

Red-Jesus

Green-myself Black-Satan

W-write in your journal

U-underline scripture

Purple-Holy Spirit

Brown-Sin, temptation, sinners

() is cross references

Yellow-God

Blue-praise

Scriptures are **King James Version**

Day of the Month

1. Start the month with the prayer of David found in **Psalms 19:12-14**. W the five desires of a righteous person.

(Evangelism)

2. **MEMORY VERSE #9 - Rom 10:15b**
3. In **Acts 21:8** who is the only evangelist mentioned by name in the Bible? R of his evangelistic ministry in **Acts 8:4-40**.
4. What awesome responsibility did Ezekiel have as an evangelist in **Ezk 3:16-21; 33:1-9**? Has the Lord laid someone on your heart to warn them against their sin?
5. What part of evangelism was the Messiah to play in **Isa 61:1-3?** (**Lk 4:18, 19**)
6. List the good news Isaiah was to give to Israel in **Isa 40:1-9**. Let God speak these words to you today.
7. When Jesus sent the disciples out as evangelist in **Mk 6:7-11**, what did they preach according to **v:12**? What other gifts did they use in **v:13**?
8. What would constitute Jesus as an evangelist in **Mk 1:14,15**?

(Personal Witnessing)

- 9 **MEMORY VERSE #10 - Acts 1:8**
10. R **Mk 5:1-20**. In **v:19**, what was the man told to do? In **v:20** what did he do? What one thing has God done for you that you should be telling others? _____

11. **R Jn 4:1-39** to refresh yourself with the story of the woman at the well. In **v:39** why did many turn to Christ? When is the last time you shared with someone how you came to find Christ?
12. In **1 Pet 3:15** what are we admonished to be prepared to do? If you are nervous about sharing Christ, write your testimony down and practice telling it. This will give you more confidence.
13. What responsibility must we accept in **Rom 10:13-15**?
14. What are we admonished to be in **Isa 43:10-12**?
15. To whom and what did Paul witness to in **Acts 26:22,23**? Are we exempted from witnessing?

(Christ the Good Shepherd)

16. **MEMORY VERSE # 11 Jer 3:15 (Jer 23:4)**
17. Imagine yourself as a lamb as you read **Isa 40:10-11**. What actions of the shepherd do you need most at this time in your life?
18. List the things God as a Shepherd did for Israel in **Ps 78:52-55**.
19. How does Jesus describe himself to the Pharisees in **John 10:1-30**? List the characteristics of a good shepherd.
20. What promise does the Good Shepherd give us in **John 10:10**? Today claim this promise as your own.
21. Contrast Christ, the Good Shepherd of John 10 with Christ the Lamb in **Isa 53:1-12**. List the sufferings of the Messiah, the Lamb of God.
22. In **John 21:15-17** Jesus asked Peter a series of questions. With each of Peter's responses what instruction did Jesus give him?

(Pastor/Shepherd's Responsibilities)

23. **MEMORY VERSE #12 - John 10:27**
24. **R** all of **Ezek 34**. What dreadful warning does God give to the shepherds of Israel in **vs 1-10**? What characteristics does a good shepherd have in **vs 11-16**? What responsibility does the flock have in **vs 17-22**? What was God's covenant in **vs 23-31**?
25. What happens when the shepherd becomes dull-hearted in **Jer 10:21-22 (KJV)** and the priest in **12:10-13**? Could this happen today?
26. In **Eph 4:1-3**, how is every believer to walk?
27. How would the pastoral gift be used by a lay woman in **Titus 2:3-5**? Do you know someone who has this gift? We used to call them the Mothers of Israel. Are they becoming distinct?
28. From **1 Tim 5:17,18**, how are we to honor one who ministers the Word and doctrine? What is the person who labors for the Lord worthy of?
29. What warning did Paul give to the overseer/pastor and elders in **Acts 20:28-31**?
30. **MEMORY VERSE #13 - Mk 16:15**
31. **R Heb 13:17,18**. What responsibility do we have for our pastor? What awesome responsibility do pastors have for those they lead?

Two professed Christians worked for ten years in the same business office. Over the years, neither of them knew that the other was a Christian. Said one of these men to his minister one day, "Wasn't it funny that Bill and I were so intimately related to each other in business, and neither of us knew until today that the other was a Christian?" "Funny?" sadly questioned the faithful minister. "Why, that is not funny! It is tragic! In my opinion neither of you have ever experienced the miracle of regeneration. Where is the awesomeness of God's mercy and grace revealed in your life. How tragic!