

Tips For Evangelism

(Part 11)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

God call us to go and spread the good news to others and to make disciples of all nations. Christ died for all; He died on the cross for the sins of the world to save mankind from sin and death. Jesus after His death on the cross, He was buried and He rose from dead on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their life. Christ died on the cross so that others would find the way to reach God through Christ. As this is the truth He commanded us to go and call all the nations to this salvation of God.

God’s church would include all the nationalities, backgrounds and ethnic groups. *The church grows and expands in stages: First* there will be the internal growth by nurturing and discipling the members. *Second* it expands with the new convert who accept Christ as Saviour and Lord over their lives. *Third* when the church grows it will satellite and reach other regions and new geographical areas. And the *Fourth* stage in growth is when the church reaches new ethnic growth and invades other languages and nationalities.

The church that the Holy Spirit filled at the day of Pentecost in *Acts 2* was composed only of the Jews, and it grew, expanded and reached other areas. After a time the church expanded to the Samaritan as in *Acts 8*. As well as we can see in *Acts 10* that God is calling the gentiles to be part of His church as we read: *“At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.” When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.” (Acts 10:1-8)*

God out of His great love had chosen Cornelius for salvation and to be part of His church. He sent His angel to him, who informed Cornelius to send for Peter. This from one side, then God had to prepare His servant Peter and the church to receive Cornelius with his people and accept them as gentiles called by God to inherit eternal life. Let us read how God spoke to Peter and convinced him to go with the men to Cornelius house. *“About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air. Then a*

voice told him, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.” (Acts 10:9-16) As we can read here that God had prepared Peter’s heart to accept the gentiles to be part of God’s church. *“While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.” (Acts 10:19-20)* God confirmed to Peter the new mission that had for him, to go to the gentiles. Therefore, *“Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.” (Acts 10:23)*

“The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.” (Acts 10:24) Peter went to Cornelius who had invited his relatives and friends to hear the message of Peter. *“Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?” (Acts 10:27-29)* Peter saw in his eyes the gathering and he proclaimed to them what God had revealed to him and he asked what for they sent for him. Cornelius answered him that an angel of the Lord appeared to him and asked him to send for Peter. *“Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” (Acts 10:34-35)*

Peter proclaimed to all the gentiles, who were there, the full message of God, and how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power and He is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” (Acts 10:44-46)* As they hear the message they repented and accepted Jesus as Saviour and Lord over their lives. The Holy Spirit came on all of them and they started to speak with tongues. Truly what had happened convinced Peter and the Jewish brethren with him that no one can keep those people from being baptized with water. *“ So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.” (Acts 10:48)*

My Dear and Beloved: God purchase men from every tribes, nations and languages. Therefore we need to be receptive to God and to accept people from other backgrounds and be ready to bring the gospel to them as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord here am I, send me to the people whom you call for salvation and to be part of your church; send me Lord to preach the gospel to them. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.