

Evangelism and Stewardship

Jesus gave His disciples the great commission when He left, telling them in ***Matthew 28:18-20, “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*** Jesus asked them and is asking us today to go and make disciples promising them that He shall be with us as we go and preach the Gospel.

What is the Gospel that we are to share? The Gospel is the good news that Jesus wants us to go and spread and this is what is meant by evangelism. The Gospel when we share we proclaim the following:

1. All have sinned and made it mess. ***“23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23 KJV)***

2. The penalty of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. ***“23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23 KJV)***

3. All men will die and face judgment, ***“27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:” (Hebrews 9:27 KJV)***

4. In ***John 3:16*** we discover that God loves us and gave us His Son. ***“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 KJV) “8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 KJV)***

5. In the Gospel we preach the resurrection Christ. God not only gave His son to die for our sins, but Jesus also rose again from death. It is this resurrection that we proclaim. ***1 Corinthians 15:14*** says if Jesus has not been risen from the dead then our preaching is useless and so also is our faith. ***“14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14 KJV)***

6. God’s salvation is a free gift and needs to be only received by faith, ***“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)*** Once we accept that gift, salvation becomes a way of life. We witness and tell others of the Gospel, the good news that has the power to transform lives. Paul said, ***“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16 KJV)***

Guidelines to witnessing: There are many guidelines and tips to witnessing. Many things have been written on this subject. Yet there are five basic guidelines to witnessing that you need to know and we would like to mention here.

1. Try to build a relationship with the person.

2. Pray.

- Pray that God will prepare the person for the Gospel.
- Pray that you will be able to share effectively
- Pray that you will be sensitive to God’s Spirit
- Pray that the person will be touched by God’s Spirit

3. Begin where the person is, rather than where you are. Let the person share his experience, how he feels about God, about his own life, questions he has about God, etc.

4. Be sensitive to the person’s needs.

5. Don’t debate or argue with the person.

How you will be able to be a witness? ***Acts 1:8*** says, ***“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*** Three things may be noted here:

1. The power of Holy Spirit is given for us to witness.
2. Jesus expects us to witness and so gives us the power to witness effectively.
3. We are to be witnesses of Jesus Christ everywhere.

**** Therefore you need to use all the opportunities the Lord has given you to witness and share the Gospel about Jesus to the lost souls around you and those whom you are going to meet. * Based on that you need also to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and this you need to do by praying to God asking Him to fill you with and give you the Spiritual gifts that you need to witness.***

Now we are going to speak about stewardship.

“14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler

over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 25:14-30 KJV) In this parable Jesus taught about what it means to be a good steward. Why was the man displeased with the servant to whom he gave only one talent? Because he was lazy, wicked, and did not do well of what he ought to do with the talent that he received from his master.

What is stewardship?

1. Stewardship is the systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions

2. We recognize that all we have is a trust from God to be used in His service, and for the benefit of His Kingdom. In **Genesis 14:19,20** Abraham acknowledge that God had delivered his enemies into his hands and it says he gave God the tithes of everything, **“19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”** (Genesis 14:19-20 KJV) **Psalms 24:1** says, **“The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”** The earth and all what is inside it belongs to God. Not only the earth but as well as the Heavens and the whole world and its fullness belong to God Almighty who founded them, **“8 O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? 9 Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. 10 Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. 11 The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.”** (Psalm 89:8-11 KJV) Therefore God is then the possessor, the owner, and the giver, and we are the stewards of the things that belongs to God. In **Matthew 25:14** we can see that the man is the receiver, the steward and must be responsible and accountable, **“14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.”** (Matthew 25:14 KJV) **All what you earn belongs to God, and God wants you first to give your tithes to Him and the rest you need to use wisely to spend on yourself, some for your ministry, some to help others and to save the rest to be used for the future.**

What gifts does God give to you of which to be stewards?

1. Life: **“27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”** (Genesis 1:27-28 KJV) In verse 27 says that God created man in His own image, in verse 28 says that God told the man to **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”** It is clear that God was making man responsible for the creation.

2. Time: **“5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”** (Genesis 1:5 KJV) It says that God called the light, **“Day”**, and darkness, **“Night”**. And there was evening and there was morning the first day. **God gave you day to work and at the end of the day He gave you night a time to rest.**

3. Talents: **“6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;”** (Romans 12:6 KJV) It says that we have different gifts according to the grace given us. **All the gifts and talents God has given you would like you to use them in the body of Christ, His church.**

4. Possessions: Material things that we can use and share with others and in service to God. **Colossians 3:1-3** reminds us to set our minds on things above and not on earthly things, **“1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”** (Colossians 3:1-3 KJV) All the material things, our time and life belong to God and even us, so we need to be willing to give all these things to God.

5. Finances: **All what you earn belongs to God and you have to use them wisely.** **2 Corinthians 9:2-8** Paul encourages the Corinthians to do what they had promised to do, to send a gift to the Macedonians who were in need. **“2 For I know the forwardness of your mind, for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia, that Achaia was ready a year ago; and your zeal hath provoked very many. 3 Yet have I sent the brethren, lest our boasting of you should be in vain in this behalf; that, as I said, ye may be ready: 4 Lest haply if they of Macedonia come with me, and find you unprepared, we (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed in this same confident boasting. 5 Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. 6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”** (2 Corinthians 9:2-8 KJV) In verse 5 Paul urged them to get it ready so that it will be given

out of their bounty. In verse 6 he reminded them that whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whosoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. In verse 7 he urged each one of them to decide in their own heart what he purposed to give, not reluctantly nor unwillingly nor under necessity or obligation, because God loves a cheerful giver. Which means also if they were not willing to give then God would not love them, because God loves a cheerful giver. The result of cheerful giving is that as you give generously, God will provide all your needs to continue to do good work as we read here, **“8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:” (2 Corinthians 9:2-8 KJV)**

What are the requirements to be a good steward?

1. A good steward is faithful: **“1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2 KJV)** It tells us that it is required that those who have been given a stewardship should be found faithful or trustworthy.

2. A good steward is teachable: **“15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” (Matthew 18:15-17 KJV)** It tells us that what should be done if someone sins against us. We are to go to that one and show him his trespass. If he will not listen, we are to take one or two others with us so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he still refuses to listen, tell it to the church. If he still refuses to listen, fellowship should be broken.

3. A good steward has a desire to minister: **“10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; 11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; 13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.” (Romans 12:10-13 KJV)** In verse 10 urges us to love and to be affectionate to one another, in verse 11 to be fervent in spirit in serving the Lord, in verse 12 urges us to be patient in trials, and in verse 13 urges us to give God’s people who are in need, and to practice hospitality.

4. A good steward has a servant’s heart: **“13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13 KJV)** It reminds us that we were called to be free, but it is important that we use our freedom in the right way, not indulging in the sinful nature, but rather to love and to serve one another in love.

5. A good steward has a willingness to give: **“42 Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” (Matthew 5:42 KJV)** It

urges us to give to the one who asks us and to not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from us.

My Dear and Beloved: * God created you for the purpose of serving Him. God is the Creator and the owner of all that exists. He has established you as manager and steward of what He owns. You are responsible to be good steward of what God had given you. Stewardship is not only of money, but also of our lives, gifts and talents. * Therefore your goal in this life according to what you receive in this message about stewardship is that you need to apply the principles of stewardship to be a better steward of what God gave you and of what God wants you to be. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me that I need to carry the Gospel of Jesus to others and to be a good steward of all the resources that you had placed in my hand. Lord thank you for all the blessings that you gave to me. Thank you for the life you gave me, the time, the finances, the possessions, and the talents and the Spiritual gifts you bestowed unto me. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that we received from you in this message.

Come now to God and confess and repent of all your sins. Repent of your non willing to spread the Gospel and tell others about Jesus. Repent of your laziness and your wrong uses of all what you had received from God. Repent of your non willingness to surrender your life and your will to God. Repent being unfaithful, stubborn and non teachable. Repent of your non willingness to give your time and your tithes to God. Repent of using your resources in a sinful way to serve wicked purposes. Repent of your immoralities, your greed, your love of money and material things, your envy and jealousy, your fights, your anger, your pride, your stealing and lies and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of your yoke with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word and your lack of prayer. Lord forgive me I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to go and serve you, to evangelize and tell others about Jesus. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the Spiritual gifts that I need to go and serve you. Lord lead me to people and prepare their hearts to receive your message. Lord give me your message on time that is suitable to the people that you are sending me to preach the Gospel to them. Lord I surrender my life and my will to you. Lord I commit myself to be good steward to all the resources that you had placed in my hand. Lord I give you my life, my time is for you, and my finances I place in your hand. Lord I am willing to tithe my income and use my money according to the teaching of your Word and your direction to me. Lord I am willing to use the Spiritual gifts and the talents you gave me in your service. Lord I am willing to go on and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord protect me, give me good health and strength, and provide for me so I will continue to serve you.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and are willing to go and live their lives for you; in their willingness to preach the Gospel of Jesus and to be

good, faithful and teachable steward for all the good resources, talents and the Spiritual gifts that you gave them. Lord protect them, provide their needs and reward them for their obedience so they will continue to serve you. Lord make them good example to others to follow you.

Lord, bless us as your church and lead us to fulfill what we had received in this message to go and evangelize and be good steward to the resources that you entrusted to us and teach our families, disciples and workers these principles for life and ministry. Lord lead us more to love and care for one another and to live in holiness. Lord guide us to admonish those who are in sin and correct them perhaps they may repent and come back to you. Lord give us the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long-suffering, faith and faithfulness to go on and serve you in a better way reflecting the character of Jesus in our lives in helping our brethren who are in troubles who need our hands, our efforts, our help and our prayers. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church and to reach out new people and new places. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come. Lord take the message and spread it to reach all the congregations, workers, the members of the church and to others. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus' name, Amen.

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