

What Can I Do in Personal Evangelism?

Introduction

Acts 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

1. **The early disciples “*went everywhere preaching the word*” .**
2. **Today, it is a long-debated question why the average Christian is not more active in personal evangelism.**
 - A. **Is it because we lack *desire* (motivation)?**
 - B. **Is it because we lack *know-how* (training).**
 - C. **It may be that — a lack of motivation inhibits our training, and a lack of training inhibits our motivation.**
3. **At least this much is clear: many of us are not confident that we can do very much.**
4. **We would sometimes be willing to help, but our question is: “What can I do?”**
5. **This is a question, however, that can be answered.**
 - A. **If an unawareness of what we can do is the thing that holds us back, that is a problem that can easily be fixed.**
 - B. **The fact is, there are many, many things that relate to personal evangelism, most of which can be done by almost all of us right now.**
6. **Let’s consider the question of “**what we can**” do to reach the lost.**
7. **What we can do falls into three basic areas.**

Praying About Evangelism

1. **We neglect prayer at the risk of rendering our work a complete failure**

Acts 13:1-3 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Luke 6:12-13 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:

2. **Praying is something everybody can do — right now, without any further training.**

A. **If a person were to commit two or three hours a week to “nothing but” praying about the subject of personal evangelism — and not quit doing it — great things would result.**

Matthew 9:37-38

James 5:16.....The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

3. **But praying about the spread of the gospel is not just something for people to do who “can’t do anything else” — it ought to occupy a significant amount of the time of even the most seasoned personal evangelist.**

4. **In order for us to have more opportunities to teach others, we need to spend time in prayer about it.**

Colossians 4:2-6

Preparing to Do Evangelism

1. In our fast-paced culture, we often underestimate the need for preparation — but preparation is essential in any important work.

A. Of the 33 years that Jesus lived, the work He came to do took only about 3 years — the remaining part of His life was taken up in preparation

Luke 3:23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,

B. Jesus said that He would make His apostles into “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19)

2. When we ask “What can I do?” are we overlooking the fact that time spent *equipping* ourselves for the work is a vital part of what it takes to win souls to the Lord?

1 Timothy 4:15-16

2 Timothy 2:15, 21

2. Preparation to teach, including prayer and study, is not wasteful “downtime” — it is a vital part of teaching.

Doing Evangelism

- 1. Eventually, we must actually communicate the gospel to those who are lost – and this is where most Christians balk.**
- 2. But even here, there are more things to be considered than we might think — the work of personal evangelism encompasses numerous activities, directly or indirectly, all of which are important in their own way.**
- 3. Having prayed and prepared, we simply need to adopt an attitude of Isaiah, “Here am I! Lord Send me” (Isaiah 6:8).**
- 4. We need to be able to say what Paul could say: “As much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel” (Romans 1:15).**

Conclusion

1. **If we will commit a definite amount of time each week to personal evangelism, all that remains is to fill up that amount of time with activities relating to personal evangelism.**
 - A. **In selecting activities, we can — and should — take some from each of the three areas above.**
 - B. **At first, more of our time will be spent on prayer and preparation, but as we mature in the work, the proportions will change:**
 - 1) **We will find ourselves spending more time actually teaching others about the gospel, although we will never outgrow the need for prayer and preparation.**
2. **The key is committing a definite amount of time each week to the work.**
 - A. **When we have done that, the question what to do with that time can be answered in many, many ways**
 - 1) **There are literally hundreds of things nearly all of us can do to help out in the great work of rescuing souls for the Lord.**
 - B. **Commit the time — and employ your creativity in using that time.**
3. **God is able to make all grace abound toward us.**
2 Corinthians 9:8-10
4. **“There is much to do, there’s work on every hand. Hark! the cry for help comes ringing through the land. Jesus calls for reapers, I must active be. What wilt Thou, O Master? **Here am I, send me**”**

