

12:11).

2. He calls some for special service.

And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (Acts 13:2).

3. He sends us forth for special service.

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper (Acts 13:4–5).

4. He decides where to send us.

And they passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in, Asia; and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas (Acts 16:6–8).

5. He sends us to specific people.

And he arose and went; and behold, there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship. And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up

and join this chariot" (Acts 8:27–29).

6. He convicts unbelievers of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged (John 16:8–11).

It's clear from these Bible verses that the Holy Spirit participates in all aspects of evangelism. He enables, commissions, sends, and directs evangelists while at the same time convicting unbelievers of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He's the boss; we're the tools. He makes the decisions; we do the work. What a blessing: He uses us to accomplish His work!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).



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# The Gift of Evangelism



You shall receive power  
when the Holy Spirit  
has come upon you;  
and you shall be  
My witnesses...  
to the remotest part  
of the earth.  
~ Acts 1:8 ~

## The Gift of Evangelism

1. The gift of evangelism is a supernatural ability to proclaim the gospel to unbelievers.

You won't get positive results every time you go out to witness, but the Lord will abundantly honor the use of this gift. You will bear much fruit. In the book of Acts many accepted (14:1) yet many also rejected (19:9, 24:25) the witness of the apostle Paul. Even he, with all of his knowledge and experience, was frequently rebuffed.

2. The gift of evangelism is one of the speaking gifts (cf. 1 Peter 4:11).

3. The gift of evangelism is mentioned only once in the Bible (Ephesians 4:11).

4. The gift of evangelism is directed primarily toward the unsaved.

It's directed secondarily toward the saints—to motivate and teach them how to witness effectively.

5. Christians who have the gift of evangelism are called evangelists.

The word evangelism does not occur in the Bible. Nor does it occur in the English language until the seventeenth century. Surprisingly, the word evangelist is found only three times in the New Testament (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5).

6. Philip is the only person called an evangelist in the Bible (Acts 21:8).

He also was a deacon (Acts 6:5; 21:8). Philip, then, had at least two spiritual gifts—serving and evangelism.

7. It appears that the twelve apostles all had the gift of evangelism.

8. The gift of evangelism may be used privately and publicly.

In the church age personal evangelism is the rule, mass evangelism the exception. That is to say, many more people have been won to the Lord through personal evangelism than through mass evangelism (tent meetings, revivals, crusades, televangelism).

9. You should do the work of an evangelist even if you don't have the gift of evangelism.

Every Christian is a witness; only a few are evangelists. Everyone should know how to introduce a person to the Lord. It has been estimated, however, that 95% of all church members have never led anyone to Christ.

10. Many Christians don't realize they have the gift of evangelism.

In the average evangelical church, about 10% of the members have the gift of evangelism. But, shamefully, only one half of one percent are actively using it. The other 9.5% don't know they have the gift, or worse, have no idea what spiritual gifts are. (These figures come from C. Peter Wagner's *Your Church Can Grow*, pages 75–83.)

11. The gift of evangelism works most effectively with a full knowledge of the Bible.

If you have this gift, you should specialize in soteriology (the doctrine of salvation), Christology (the doctrine of Christ), and hamartiology (the doctrine of sin). Know everything there is to know on these subjects. The more you know, the more effectively you can use your gift.

12. Different approaches are needed for different people.

A basic plan of evangelism such as Campus Crusade's Four Spiritual Laws or D. James Kennedy's Evangelism Explosion is a good place to start. But that's just the beginning. Do you know how to witness to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Roman Catholics, and Buddhists? Can you lead a Roman Catholic to the Lord using the Douay Version? Can you lead a Jewish person to the Lord using the Old Testament? A good evangelist knows how to relate to different cults and religions.

13. The gift of evangelism produces church growth.

It's the gift most responsible for adding members to the body of Christ. According to Wagner, if each person with the gift of evangelism wins only one convert per year (a poor showing for those with the gift), the church will triple every ten years. That's a decadal growth of 200%!



## The Holy Spirit's Role In Evangelism

1. He distributes spiritual gifts such as the gift of evangelism.

And He [Christ] gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers (Eph. 4:11).

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills (1 Cor.