

# How Do We Live And Share The Gospel?

**John 3:16-17** [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

**Christ died for all humanity.**

**2 Peter 3:9** [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”*

**God desires all humanity to come to the point of repentance and salvation.**

**Matthew 28:19-20** [NIV] *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising 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.”*

**Our commission is to make disciples for Christ.**

## How do we go about making disciples?

**Mark 1:16-17** [NIV] *“As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”*

**We follow Christ’s example; not some book or programme.**

We look at the life of Christ and follow His example of making disciples.

**Acts 1:8** [NIV] *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

These last words of Christ on earth show a progression of disciple making.

**Jerusalem** [their own home] **Judea** [their own neighbourhood] **Samaria** [area outside their neighbourhood] **Ends of the Earth** [worldwide mission]

**We all are gifted by God, and He expects us to use these gifts in fulfilling our part in His Work of salvation.**

**1 Corinthians 12:1,4-7** [NIV] *“Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.” ... “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

These very varied gifts are given for the work of serving all people.

**Remember the church exists not to serve its own members but all who are outside its fellowship, the great “lost” world.**

**Acts 2:41** [NIV] *“Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”*

Massive growth of membership.

**What did this 3,000 people continue to do in their fellowship?**

**Acts 2:42** [NIV] *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ **teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.”*

Teaching – fellowship – fellowship meals and communion – praying together.

**What was the result of this?**

**Acts 2:47** [NIV] *“**praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people**. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

Found favour in the eyes of other people.

## **True Christians are impressive people**

**Luke 2:52** [NIV] *“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in **favour with God and men**.”*

**Jesus as an individual was an impressive person and attracted people to Him by the way He lived.**

We as Christians, with Christ living in us, by the active presence of the Holy Spirit, will also cause people to ask why we are different to other people.

**This is our “Jerusalem”.**

**When we allow Christ [Holy Spirit] in us to set a good example and say encouraging things to others they will be attracted to us.**

## **Don’t underestimate the power our example of Christian living can have on those near to us**

Our own family is our “*Jerusalem*”.

It is **not what we do or say** as Christians **but what we are** that is impressive.

## **Don’t miss the obvious opportunities to bring others to know Jesus Christ**

**Acts 10:23-24** [NIV] *“Then 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. The following day he arrived in Caesarea. **Cornelius** was expecting them and **had called together his relatives and close friends**.”*

**Cornelius gathered all his relatives and friends to come and listen to this minister of God.**

Those who are close to us should be numbered in those we witness to as a Christian.

**One way that can lead to their wanting to hear the gospel message is to let them know that we are praying for them in their personal and particular trials.**

Such people are our “*Judea*”.

## Use the moment of trial or trauma to point people to Jesus Christ

**Acts 16:16-24** [NIV] “Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned round and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her. When the owners of the slave girl realised that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place to face the authorities. They brought them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practise.” The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

Preaching the gospel had brought persecution, flogging and prison to Paul and Silas.

**Acts 16:25** [NIV] “About midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.**”

Inspite of this they prayed and praised God.

**Note that the other prisoners heard them.**

**Acts 16:26-28** [NIV] “Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. **But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”**

No time for discussion, Paul reacted instantly to this unexpected moment to witness.

**What we say in a moment of trial or trauma could influence that person’s future life as Paul did for this jailer.**

**Acts 16:29-34** [NIV] “The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved — you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God — he and his whole family.”

**What a result from just seven spoken words!!!**

Such a response to a moment of trial in a person’s life is our “*Samaria*”.

## Don’t miss using the powerful tools that God has given us

**1 Timothy 2:1-3** [NIV] “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, **intercession** and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour,”

**It is our duty to make prayers for all people.**

**Intercessional Prayer is a powerful tool given to us as our part in God's Work of salvation.**

This is to pray to God on behalf of someone who would **not** go to God in prayer themselves.

Pray for:-

People who do **not** know the true God and Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

People who would **never ever consider going to God in prayer** or allowing God to come into their lives.

God has invited us to be a part of His work in this way.

**James 5:16** [Living Bible] *"... the earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results."*

**James 5:20** [NIV] *"remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins."*

We as individuals and as a fellowship have the responsibility to pray that God will bring those who do **not** know Him into our fellowship where they can be impressed by our Christian love for one another.

**Acts 2:47** [Living Bible] *"... each day God added to them all who were being saved."*

Isn't this that we all desire in our hearts?

That God would choose our fellowship to bring those who are chosen by Him to be saved at this time in His Plan for all humanity.