

The Holy Spirit and Evangelism.

HTS, 4.12.11 7:30

We are continuing in our series on the Holy Spirit. We have looked at who he is, what he does, when you receive him, the gifts he gives, how he helps you with everyday life and how to follow Jesus.

Question.

If you were to be asked, what area in your life, are you most thankful for, the Holy Spirit's help, how many of you would say evangelism? Which means, talking to other people about Jesus.

But when the Holy Spirit comes to you, you will receive power. You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria and in every part of the world.

Acts 1:8

Let me ask you another question. Do you want Holy Spirit power in your life? If the answer is yes, then tonight will be good news, because tonight we are looking at the Holy Spirit and evangelism, or telling others about Jesus.

Why do you need the Holy Spirit's help when it comes to talking to other people about Jesus?

1. Arguments don't work.

They don't work at home when you argue with your parents or children to change behaviour, and just because you win an argument, doesn't mean someone will decide to follow Jesus.

I have won many arguments, only for people to say, you have won, but I still don't believe, I will go away and come back with another argument!

Why do they say that?

The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the good news, the good news about the glory of Christ who is exactly like God. 2 Cor 4:4

The short answer is they have been blinded, so they are not able to see who Jesus really is.

If arguments don't work, how do people get to follow Jesus?
This is where the Holy Spirit comes in.

2. Ask God to turn the lights on.

God once said let the light shine out of the darkness. This is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts by letting us now the glory of God that is in the face of Christ. 2 Cor 4:6

How does someone follow Jesus? It takes a miracle. Where else in the bible did god say let the light shine in the darkness? Genesis, creation. So it takes a miracle, like creation for someone to follow Jesus. Which is why you need the Holy Spirits help.

How then do you work with the Holy Spirit when you tell others about Jesus?

3. Talk about Jesus.

I know that doesn't sound like rocket science, but it is very important. How often I have tried to prove the existence of God with what I consider to be clever arguments, and failed miserably. This is what the Bible says. Paul writes in

For brothers and sisters, when I came to you, I did not come preaching God's secret with fancy words or a show of human wisdom. I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.
1 Cor 2:1-2

And again he says.

We do not preach about ourselves, but we preach that Jesus Christ is Lord and that we are your servants for Jesus. 2 Cor 4:5

The good news of the gospel is about a person, Jesus. It is not about an argument, or a formula, or a logical progression. Jesus is the gospel, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to talk about Jesus. That is what the Bible teaches you to do.

4. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Pray for us that God will give us an opportunity to tell people his message. Pray that we can preach the secret that God has made known about Christ.....pray that I can speak in a way that will make it clear as I should. Col 4:3

Sounds obvious again. But as we saw in the first studies, the Holy Spirit is your counsellor, comforter, friend, advocate, guide, helper. John 14:16. Ask his to help you, guide you in conversations with people. Paul did, so should you.

I was chatting with my neighbour the other day, and the conversation got onto religion. So I steered it to Jesus. He was having none of it, so I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit what to say or do. The next step is a bit of a no brainer, but not one that is always taken.

5. Listen to the Holy Spirit.

I listened to what the Holy Spirit had to say, and as usual, I thought, I can't say that, he will think I am mad. But as always, I lost that argument.

If you ask for help, then listen to the advice given. Bit like asking for directions when you are lost, and doing the opposite. Throughout the bible people followed the promptings of the Holy Spirit in evangelism and saw tremendous results.

You have Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13:2+4. Acts 16:6-10. Jesus Luke 4:14. Read these passages.

6. Obey the Holy Spirit.

Now that you have asked and listened, the next step is to obey.

So I tell you, live by following the Spirit. Gal 5:16.

I try to have this as my life verse. I try as far as I can, to do what they Holy Spirit asks me to do. Sometimes I have felt like a right prat. Like the time he asked me to go to the park and ask someone if they wanted to know about Jesus. I asked 3 people, and they all said no. did I hear right, maybe, maybe not, but I wanted to obey so I did it anyway, even if it was me and not the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit said to me, tell your neighbour that I love him and want him to follow Jesus and will be waiting for him, whenever he wants to come to me.

Nice guy my neighbour, Steve, not the sort of language I would normally use for a bloke, especially an ex pro footy player. There we go.

J John.

Have you ever wondered why certain people have all the great stories, and others don't. as far as I can make out, it is because they obey, so they get to partner with God in other peoples lives.

Conclusion.

The Holy Spirit and evangelism. The key thing to remember is that God has a part to play you have a part to play. God's part is to remove the blindfold. Your part is to talk about Jesus and go, do or say what the Holy Spirit asks of you.

Don't get down hearted if everyone you talk to about Jesus doesn't instantly decide there and then to follow Jesus. It rarely works like that. Bill Hybels says know your calling. He reckons that if someone is as far away from God as they can be, they might be at a -10. When they decide to follow Jesus they get to 0. He reckons his calling is moving people from -10 to about -8. He reckons it is really unfair, when someone he has evangelised for years decides to follow Jesus while talking to one of Bill's friends.

Know your part and God's part.

If I was to say to you, let me give you 2, maybe up to 5 people to evangelise, if I was to name them for you, would you be prepared to share your life with them. To love them, to let them see you in the ups and the downs of life. Would you do that?

Here are those people. If you have a partner who is not yet a believer, then there is number 1. If you have children, there are the rest. Parents come into that category as well.

***DON'T LET THE DEVIL CONVINCED YOU HAVE A HIGHER CALLING THAN
YOUR FAMILY. YOU DON'T.
EPH 5:21-6:4 1 TIM 5:3-8 & 16***

If that is not the case for you, I will ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind up to 5 people he wants you to get alongside and share Jesus with by your life and actions, and with words when they ask.