

## BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE – Part V Evangelism



For many of you that receive this emailing monthly and remember that we were going to continue our discussion about building God's house this month with inner healing and deliverance and now see the subtitle as evangelism and you're wondering what one has to do with the other, well you're in for a treat. In God's economy they are forever connected! We've been looking at the preparations that God takes His people through in an effort to understand Him and sustain life on our planet. We looked at foundational principles and now we are studying aspects of inner healing and deliverance. Last month I proved from the

word that the doctrine of soteriology (the principle of salvation through belief in Jesus Christ) will always be connected to healing, salvation, redemption and deliverance---it is what the word savior means translated from the Greek as soter (which comes from the word soza). Since this is the case, we have most certainly gotten off course in Christianity when we try to evangelize without realizing that it completes and heals the body and how we are equally off balance when we try to place a premium on healing ministries without realizing that they also are not complete without salvation through Jesus Christ.

As I am writing this the Holy Spirit is bringing to my remembrance an exchange I had with a professed evangelist many, many years ago. This man belonged to the Rhema Church out in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and was a disciple of the Kenneth Hagin Ministries (who happen to be very involved with the word, faith, healing and evangelism). We wound up being in the same work place for a short period of time. As this man started the job he did not shut up day or night about Jesus. He witnessed and shared Christ with everybody. I really did not get a lot of time to talk to him but I did have some interaction with him and the other people at this establishment. A few weeks into the job and quite out of the blue he started to talk to me about prophetic ministry. He made this statement: "I'm really not like you, I'm not that prophetic. I'm more of an evangelist." I was kind of surprised since I never mentioned anything to him about me or prophetic ministry. Before I realized who I

was talking to I said, "And I guess you don't read your word much either." He looked at me in stunned silence (during every work break that I saw him on he was reading his Bible). Before he could say anything I continued, "Because Revelation 19:10b says that 'The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy.'" Since you have come here you have not shut up day or night about what Jesus has done for you and can do for someone. That is testifying about Jesus Christ---and that, my brother, is the very spirit of all that can ever be termed as prophetic."

In Christianity sometimes I think we put the cart before the horse or try to compartmentalize the cart and the horse and we forget that they are a whole. While the horse could certainly survive and thrive without the cart, the cart is useless unless something is moving it. Without Jesus Christ and understanding the fullness of our salvation and healing, nothing else works. Quite often people try to prophesy with a minimal relationship to the living Word, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. When healing, prophets, apostles, pastors, youth or anything else becomes the focus instead of Jesus and the testimony of Jesus Christ, we are certainly lost, while thinking we are found. It is by the blood of Jesus and the word of our testimony that we overcome the enemy (Revelation 12:11). It is because we have accepted Christ that the Holy Spirit has come to reside inside of us that we have internally what humanity needs for eternity. When the purity of the Holy Spirit comes out the world and the environment around us

is changed. When what comes out is marginalized by our own humanity and is not enabled by the grace of God, then hypocrisy and persecution becomes our bedfellows. I'm not trying to say that we have to be perfect to share Jesus. Quite to the contrary we are imperfect humans saved by God's good grace. We all make mistakes. It is when we refuse to acknowledge those mistakes and come clean with God and each other that there is no longer a refuge for us. Repentance is a daily act for each one of us. No one is above this. It is as we bring the message of repentance through Jesus that humanity can be saved and healed.

Like prayer and worship, evangelism does something for us. When we pray or worship we act in faith and God hears and responds as He desires. By faith we share the Gospel message, in a personal way. As we move in the commodity of heaven, which is faith, we are exchanging the kingdom of this world for God's kingdom on a daily basis. As this takes place we oust or remove unclean forces around us. This opens the door for God to act on our behalf, whether it is by healing us spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially or in some other way---our environment and the environment around us is being changed for the better. By faith we are speaking forth God's word. I have had people tell me that they can't share Jesus because they are too shy or not equipped to do so in one way or the other. Again, we have corrupted the simplicity of the Bible's message when we negate God's ability to speak through us.

For some reason we think we have to be a big-name preacher to share the simplicity of what Jesus did for us. I really don't know where we get the idea that if we send money to someone else in order to preach that that absolves us of doing so. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that we are to do this to the exclusion of sharing Christ ourselves. I am not saying that there is anything wrong with sharing our finances with those of us that go and share Jesus with many other people in our own nations and around the globe. What I am saying is that no matter how many places one person can travel to, they will never be able to reach the one person that Jesus may have placed in your own family or backyard. You, the individual believer can reach the one person that possibly no one else can reach. There is nothing wrong with sharing our finances with other ministers and churches that are doing the Lord's work. There is something wrong with us throwing money at ministers and churches but never opening our own mouths when God tells us to.

We may not all be five-fold ministry evangelists (Ephesians 4:11), but each one of us can do the work of an evangelist just fine enough because it is the Lord that equips us (2 Timothy 4:5). We may have a genuine problem of shyness or lack of boldness when it comes to sharing Jesus with other people. The saying that a house is not built in a day may apply here. When I first got saved I shared Jesus with everyone that I felt the Lord leading me to. It was the Holy Spirit on the inside of me that would give me God's word to share with someone.

Sometimes the Lord told me to keep quiet as my husband would do the sharing. Other times all we did was be nice to someone, never telling them about our belief in who Jesus was. Behind the scenes God would let these folks know that we followed Christ. The seed that we sowed would then be watered by someone else and then harvested by even another person. Eventually we would hear the whole story some time later as the person came back to us and told us of what God did for them as we were obedient--even though we didn't even mention Jesus' name one time to them.

Each case and each person is different. Having been raised up in a very evangelistic environment as a new believer, I was quite concerned that I wasn't evangelizing like those around me. I went to the Lord with this concern. He told me that the one that sowed and the reaper would rejoice together (John 4:36, 37). All I had to do was do exactly as He told me for each person and He would bring them to Christ as He desired. What a relief that was for me to know that all I had to do was act in faith on the word and God would do the rest. Now that means I did have to do something. I have met people who absolutely refuse to ever share a word about Jesus and tell me that they just are not evangelists and God has them pray instead. Saints, it just is not so. Many are not evangelists and many, many more are better at being prayer warriors. There is no shame in this, nor is it wrong. But we are all commissioned with the Great Commission to share Jesus by our actions more than by our words---or in some

cases equally. As I was faithful to each person God brought in my path, He started bringing greater numbers and started putting me in contact with whole congregations of believers who would bring friends and neighbors who didn't know Jesus. When we are faithful in little things, He gives us a greater abundance to be faithful to. I get the opportunity to travel to places and to talk to people that travel to places where they will be arrested if they share Jesus openly. But it amazes me that even in these places Jesus gives His saints people to share the Gospel with. If this can be done in such harsh environments where the law of the land prohibits evangelization, certainly those of us who live in places where it is not a crime to share Christ should do so.

As I was writing this month's article the Lord gave me an odd word. I felt as if He was saying that the Christian church doesn't share Christ as we should because we worship an image instead of a Savior. I thought about this for awhile to understand what it was the Lord was saying. I realized this was where I got distracted as a young believer over 25 years ago. I had an image of what sharing Jesus looked like and tried to do it instead of letting the Lord give me His image of who He was and sharing that. As I was growing up in Jesus, churches would hold evangelism courses. I took a few. I noticed that each course was predicated upon our own relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You shared Christ as the Lord opened the door as you prayed and worshipped Him. If you couldn't quote Scripture then you became the living epistle

to those around you. That's the image of Christ in you, not in someone else. We have among us many young preachers who are fiery speakers. Yet I wonder that they are not speaking forth an image of something they have seen in the church as opposed to sharing the image of the Trinity that is within them. We can't worship the image of what Jesus looks like in some great preacher, as blessed or whatever else it may be. We must worship the Christ that set us free individually and share how He did that as the Holy Spirit gives us utterance.

The Lord gives us His image and we portray that image individually to our own environments. In that place those environments are changed and transformed. This is exactly what Jesus did when He came among us. He portrayed the image of the Father that was revealed in the Scriptures, but that had been hidden from the eyes of many of the Jews. Before that time that image was not as clear to the Jews as it became after Christ resurrected. The early Christians, who were all Jewish, understood the Father in a way that their non-believing fellow Jews did not understand Him. They saw the Father in Jesus of Nazareth in a powerful way. When Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit then came to be with them and continued to reveal Jesus and the Father to them; unfolding the Scriptures and His image in their hearts. This is why the Apostle Paul was so adamant against works. Paul understood our faith not as works, but as an act of love as we interact with the Lord that those around us can see. That may look like a crusade

with one preacher or evangelist speaking to hundreds or thousands. It may look like a sweet soul holding the hand of a sick person and speaking the word of faith to see the sick made whole; or it may look like a grandparent on their knees praying for an evangelist to preach to a wayward grandchild. This is my simple course on evangelism: speak the word in faith as the Lord gives you utterance. In whatever situation you find yourself in, with all prayer and faith and supplication, look for the Lord's direction and then be content with Him. Speak the word in faith and the Lord will guard your heart and mind and will raise you up at the appointed time (See Philippians 4 and Ephesians 6:13-24). In that way both those that sow and those that reap will rejoice together as the Lord heals, grows and matures the seed---evangelizing the lost one soul at a time. Log on next month for more.

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