



Discovering Your Design:

Preparing Christ's followers to change the world

EVANGELISM

DEFINITION: THE SPIRIT-GIVEN ABILITY TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH POWER AND GREAT EFFECT.

- The gift can be shared individually or to a group e.g. Philip with the eunuch from Ethiopia (cf. Acts 8:26ff); Peter, preaching at Pentecost to a large group (Acts 2).
- This gift is at the center of the Great Commission (make disciples) and making disciples involves evangelism and edification.
- There are some who do not hold this as a spiritual gift. (We both agree that evangelism is a responsibility for every Christian regardless of giftedness.) Although the context of Ephesians 4:11 points to offices, i.e. Apostle, Prophet and Pastor-Teacher (Ephesians 4:11), there is no evidence in the New Testament that there was an office of evangelist -even though Paul tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist (cf. II Timothy 4:5).
- The gift is seen both in Paul, who traveled from place to place, and in Timothy, who stayed in one place - Ephesus.

Biblical References: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 21:8; II Timothy 4:5

Contribution: this person builds up the body by adding to its numbers those people who have responded to the Gospel in repentance and faith. New Christians' enthusiasm and joy bring great refreshment and vitality to the body.

Biblical Examples: Jesus (Matt. 4:23, 9:35; John 3,4), Paul (Acts 17:18), Philip (Acts 8, 21:8)

Characteristics - People with this gift :

- see people come to faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior
- have hearts that are broken for people who are far from God
- understand that the power is in the Word of God - faith comes by hearing (cf. Rom 10:17)
- are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading
- are bold in sharing the good news of God's love for us in Jesus Christ
- have a knack for turning a conversation to eternal issues

Cautions:

- don't manipulate people's emotions - share with gentleness and respect (cf. I Peter 3:15)
- always remember your job is to share it, the results are in God's hand
- don't forget to ensure people receive follow-up and fellowship from other Christians

Christian Responsibilities: Every Christian has been called to make disciples (Matt.28:19,20). We are to be witnesses for Christ wherever we go whether we have the gift of evangelism or not! Peter tells us to "set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15).