

Do the work of an evangelist

/The ministry of the evangelist is first to the lost world. God fills his heart with a love for the lost and places a heavy burden on his heart for their salvation.\

The LORD also empowers him with the ability to proclaim the gospel with freshness, boldness, and power.

/The evangelist makes the issue clear: it is faith in Christ as your savior, or judgment under the wrath of God.\

/The evangelist goes out into the world and proclaims the good news of Christ's death and resurrection.\

Acts 21:8

8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

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This is not the same Philip as the apostle Philip.

/Philip is the only person in the New Testament who is called an evangelist by name.\

The word evangelist appears one other time.

2 Tim 4:1-5

*4:1 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: 2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, **do the work of an evangelist**, fulfill your ministry.*

/Timothy was not an evangelist, but he did the work of an evangelist. \

What is the work of an evangelist?

/To help answer that question, let's examine the work of Philip the evangelist.\

Now Philip was appointed a deacon by the apostles in Jerusalem. That was an office. But Jesus Christ gifted him to be an evangelist.

Acts 8:1-8

8 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. 3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. 6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. 7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

/First and foremost, an evangelist is gifted to preach the gospel to large groups of unbelievers.\

Unbelievers are drawn to them.

/They are supernaturally endowed with the ability to attract crowds of unbelievers. \ They listen to what the evangelist has to say.

Now Philip served during the first generation of the church. So he was able to perform miracles and signs. Evangelists today don't perform miracles themselves. On the other hand, God does miraculous things on behalf of evangelists, often as an answer to the prayers of other Christians.

Philip left the home church in Jerusalem and was sent to the city of Samaria.

/Second, evangelists are missionaries. They leave their home geographic location (Jerusalem here) and travel to other locations (Samaria here) as they are called by God to do so.\

The LORD blessed the gospel preaching of Philip (and later the apostles who followed Philip to Samaria) with a great harvest of souls.

/But then the LORD sent His angel to take Philip from Samaria and send him to spread the gospel to another country : Ethiopia. \

Acts 8:25-40

25 So, when they [the apostles Peter and John who had come down to Samaria] had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) 27 So he got up and went; and 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, 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

31 And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: [Isaiah 53:7-8]

*"HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.*

*33 "IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY;
WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION?
FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH."*

34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

/Third, the evangelist trains men and sends them back to or leaves them behind in their city or country to continue to spread the gospel and to establish local churches.\

We call this church-planting today.

/Notice the work of an evangelist that the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to do.\

2 Tim 2:1-4

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

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/Here again the work of an evangelist includes entrusting the gospel and the teachings to other faithful men. These men in turn teach others.\

The work of an evangelist is sacrificial. “Suffer hardship with me”.

/Fourth, an evangelist endures hardship and suffering for the sake of the gospel.\

He has a great heart for the unbeliever and is willing to accept all kinds of persecution and difficulties as that good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Let’s look again at Ephesians 4:11-12.

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

/Fifth, the evangelist joins the pastor-teacher in equipping the saints for the work of service.\

They are gifted to work together.

/The evangelist has a heart for the lost.\

/The pastor has a heart for the sheep of Christ's flock: the saints - believers.\

The members of the body of Christ. He is the head.

/But make no mistake: **the saints** perform the work of service. \

/The goal of equipping the saints for the work of service is to the building up of the body of Christ.\

This building up works two ways.

/First by adding members to the body. \

/The evangelist is uniquely gifted for this work, but he is joined by other members of the body in accomplishing it.\

/Second, this building up includes the internal spiritual growth of the body. \

/The pastor teacher is gifted for this purpose. He equips the saints through preaching the word of God with great patience and instruction. \

/But it takes the whole body to grow.\

Ephesians 4:15-16

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

/The proper working of each individual part causes the growth of the body.\