



COMPASSION TO ACTION

EVANGELISM Course

EVANGELISM COURSE

Workbook

Reach the Lost. Equip for Evangelism. Put Compassion into Action.

WRITTEN BY

Chris Overstreet

Compassion to Action Evangelism Course Workbook

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Introduction

Hello, my name is Chris Overstreet. And I am so excited that you are going through the Compassion to Action School of Evangelism. Whether you are a church going through this, a small group within the church, or an individual, this course will help you. You'll notice a theme throughout this course - learn, do, and teach. It is the Jesus model. Jesus taught His disciples, and then He gave His disciples opportunities to put it into practice. He also taught His disciples to become teachers. Similarly, the goal of this school is for you to learn, do, and teach others.

As you go through this course, you may say, "I am not an evangelist. I can't do this. I'm not designed to be able to step out. I'm not bold. I don't have the right personality." Whatever your excuses are, please know that God's not looking for a personality. He's not looking for a type of individual. He's just looking for a willing vessel.

Before we begin, I want to share a story. When I started sharing the gospel early on, God spoke to me about wearing a Christian t-shirt. I was so afraid to wear one. I remember it like it was yesterday. I was scared that someone would stop me and ask me about it. You see, the focus was on me. I was so focused on saying the wrong words. All the "what ifs" were trying to control my life, and I was bound in fear. But, even while I was afraid, something changed inside of me when I decided to go in faith.

Let me tell you the story. God told me to wear a Christian t-shirt, and I wrestled with Him about doing it. Finally, I gave in and put that Christian t-shirt on. But then, He directed me into a Walmart. While I was in Walmart, at 21 years old, someone I went to high school with stopped me and asked about my Christian t-shirt. He asked me some basic things. I knew I could say, "It's just a t-shirt," or tell him what happened inside me. I decided to tell him the truth.



I told him, "Jesus has changed my life. I'm not the same person that I used to be." He replied, "Good for you." And, he walked away. You see, I didn't pray for him. I didn't witness to him. All I did was tell him, "Jesus changed my life." As he walked away, I walked away as a changed man. I literally felt like I had been raised from the dead. Something supernatural happened to me. All I did was take one step of obedience by wearing a Christian t-shirt.

During this course, you're going to have opportunities to obey God. Remember, quick obedience will help you grow. If you learn to obey God quickly, you will grow very fast. I know Christians who have been Christians for years but have yet to learn the simplicity of obeying Jesus. They go to church, but they still haven't made the commitment to obey Jesus. Throughout this course, we're going to make it simple for you. We're going to break things down. But ultimately, you are the one who is going to have to make the decision to obey Jesus. We will provide a lot of information, content, and practical steps to help you get going. But ultimately, if you want to grow as an individual, a small group, or a church, you will need to be the one to take the steps.

Remember when Jesus was walking on water, and He called out to the disciples on the boat. Only one person, Peter, stepped out of the boat. When his eyes were on Jesus, he could walk on the water. But the moment his eyes lost focus on Jesus, he sank. He cried out because of fear. Become the individual who commits to keep your eyes on Jesus and expect God to do something supernatural in your life.

I want to share one final story. In 1999, I went to Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Chico, California. Many individuals were stepping out, sharing the gospel, and hearing the Lord speak to them. For me, that was new, and I desired to be used by God in the same way. But I also had a bad belief system that told me I could not be used by God. It told me lies about who God was and who God was inside of me.

One day, I was hungry for God and prayed, "God, please use me. Use me." I had a sense that God had spoken to me. I was learning how to discover God's voice and listen. I told some friends, "Guys, I think God spoke to me. I think we should go to this location in the city." They were all excited. So, we all jumped in the car late at night. I searched for the place I thought God showed me and where I would see individuals. The problem was that I didn't see individuals! I didn't even find the place that I thought God was leading me to! I was devastated.

I sat in the passenger seat and began to cry. I started to hear thoughts: "See,

Chris, you're not called for this. You can just be a good Christian. Stepping out, hearing the voice of God, and moving in power isn't for you. It's for other individuals."

And as I sat there in the passenger seat, tears began to roll down my eyes. Then one of my friends spoke up and assured me, "Chris, you didn't miss it tonight. You didn't fail." I shot back, "Guys, I don't know what you're talking about. There is no one here!" In my mind, I was thinking, "Let's face it. These guys hear God. God moves through their lives. Things are happening through them, and it's not happening through my life. It won't happen through my life. It's for them and it's not for me."

At that moment, my mind went to a place of disempowerment. I literally believed that God would only use certain people. But my friends spoke up (I thank God for friends who will be honest and tell the truth with love). And this is what they said that impacted me: "Chris, most people would do nothing. They would go to church every week, hear another message, and repeat the cycle, but never put into practice what they feel God is telling them to do."

This statement changed my life, and I hope it changes yours. They said, "Chris, God loves your heart because you are willing to take risks. Most people wouldn't do that. Most people would just go to church." At that moment, sitting in the car, I felt the love of the Father come around me and embrace me. I felt the tender touch of God. It was as if He was putting His hand on my shoulder and saying, "Son, I'm with you."

This is my desire for you. I desire every born-again believer to know the pleasure of hearing God's voice, being used by God, and seeing people get saved. I want you to be activated and see healings take place through your life. I desire to see you disciple others and see multiplication take place. If you're a church leader, I want to see an evangelism and discipleship culture within your church. If you're a small group leader, my desire for your small group is the same; that you would have people coming into your small group who don't know Jesus and are getting saved and disciplined. My desire for you is that you would come alive in the harvest field. I want to pray for you:

Father, I pray for everyone who goes through this course, that You would set them on fire. I pray that they will be hungry disciples of Jesus, learn, and grow. Lord, I pray that they will practice what they learn and be doers of the word, not just hearers. I pray that as they learn and do, You will put the desire inside of them to teach other people. I pray that they will make disciples, who will make disciples, who will make disciples, in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.



The Call of the Good News

Lesson 01

I am so excited that you have chosen to go through the School of Evangelism. Whether you're part of a congregation, an individual, or at a house setting right now, we want to thank you so much for going through this. We're thanking you because we know that eternity will shift as you put into practice what you learn throughout this course.

If 10,000 individuals commit to sharing the gospel daily, did you know that 3,650,000 individuals will be impacted?! That's right. If just 10,000 individuals made a commitment to share the gospel every single day in one year's time, 3,650,000 individuals would have an opportunity to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. When someone gets born again, that is the greatest miracle.

Throughout this evangelism course, we will be teaching you a lot. We're going to share practical things. We will also share some theology around why we need to share the gospel. We're going to come alongside you and empower you to grow. We're also going to have some activations. I believe God will activate you to become a Kingdom ambassador for Jesus Christ. You have been called! You have been anointed! Remember that the great commission was never meant to be the "great suggestion!" It is still relevant today. It doesn't matter what anyone else will ever tell you. God's word is still alive. God's word is still speaking, and God's word is the final authority.

We pray the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ over you. We pray that you will become fruitful and multiply. Just like Jesus taught the disciples to be learners, doers, and teachers, we pray that you do the same as you enter the harvest field. We pray that you will want to be His disciple, put into practice what He is teaching you through His word, and then teach others what you are learning. Let's go on this journey together! We're expecting God to move in your life and through your life. Together, we get to celebrate what the Lord is going to do.

The Good News

Let's get started. The good news of Jesus Christ is still relevant today. I want to help you begin to articulate the good news. First, let me say this: It is good news that you were born again and are going through this course. I know that God will do a work inside of you. Other people will be greatly impacted because you are a learner, a doer, and a teacher of the word of God. My responsibility as an evangelist is to help equip you for the work of ministry. So, I will rejoice when people get saved through your life. You see, an evangelist isn't someone who just preaches the gospel and sees other people get saved. According to Ephesians 4, the role of an evangelist is to build and equip the saints for the work of ministry.

The Good News of Identity

One of the things I will be equipping you with within this course is how to share the gospel and communicate the good news. So, let's jump into it right now. First, the good news is that you have been born again! Knowing that you've been born again, born of the Spirit, and that you're a child of God is good news. You need to understand that you're no longer a sinner but a saint. If you have been born again, you have a new identity. As we go through this course together, you must look through God's lens and see yourself through it. Giving yourself a hard time is not going to help anyone. Looking at your past sins or what you did years ago will not help you move forward. You have to understand the power of the blood of Jesus. That's why we will be talking about the good news.

I received a word in 1999. The word was this: "Chris, stop giving yourself a hard time. God's not giving you a hard time, and every time you look at yourself in the mirror and give yourself a hard time, you're giving God a hard time. Don't give God a hard time."

I want to say to you right now-- If you are bringing up your past and meditating on it (the past that Jesus already paid for) and constantly focusing on it, you're not going to be able to move forward into the grace of God, the power of God, and what you were created for.

There is a word that God has for you: God is raising up people right now, and you're one of them. If you're in a congregation, you are part of an army that

God is raising who knows they have been born again, born in the Spirit, and are children of God.

In Ephesians 1, when Paul is talking to the Church of Ephesus, he says, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, to the saints, who are in Ephesus and faithful in Christ Jesus."

Paul never said, "to the sinners who are in Ephesus." He was writing to the Church. You need to understand that there is good news. The news is that you are now a child of God, you are a saint, and you have a new identity. Your identity is in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Your identity is that you are seated with Christ in heavenly places. You have an identity to see from Heaven's perspective. You have an identity that is found through the blood of Jesus Christ. You see, you have been blood-bought by Jesus--the same blood that was shed over 2,000 years ago has never dried up. It is falling right now. It has cleansed you of all your past sins. This is good news if you are born again, my dear friends. This is the foundation we will build on throughout this time together.

The Good News of Being Loved By God

So, let's talk about how we can communicate this good news from a place of understanding our identity. You see, we are sharing the good news, the gospel of the Kingdom, from a place of knowing that we are already loved. Throughout this whole time, you need to get it in your Spirit that you're not doing this to get love. You're not stepping out to share the gospel so that you can feel good about yourself. You're doing this from a place of knowing that you are already loved, that you are valued, that the precious blood of Jesus Christ has bought you, and that you are significant in the sight of God. Just because you begin to step out and see the power of God move through your life through people getting saved, healed, and delivered, your value will not grow. Your value to God will not grow any more than where you already are right now. You are significant and valuable to God right now.

Your heart will begin to recognize the value that God has placed inside of you. Your heart will burn with fire and passion for the truth that putting faith in the blood of Jesus Christ makes all things new and that you are a child of God. You may have been born again for thirty years or recently become saved. Whether you've been born again for thirty-plus years or have just been born again, you can trust in the blood of Jesus. Your past is your past. All things have become new.

Communicating the Good News

What is the Good News, and why is it important to know how to communicate it? Right now, I want you to write G.O.O.D. on a piece of paper. When you think about the words "good news," train yourself also to think G.O.O.D.

G - God loves you. Begin to think, "God loves you, and you have been created in the image of God."

When you communicate this to other individuals, you need to establish that God loves them. God doesn't hate them. They are valuable. They are significant to God. They have been created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27).

O - Our sins are what separate us from God. There is an issue. There was a virus that entered the garden that originated with Satan, who is a fallen angel. He wanted to be like God. In fact, he tried to overthrow God's Kingdom. He was kicked out, and that virus of sin, which is rebellion, lives in Satan. Then Satan deceived Adam and Eve when they were in the garden, and they took and ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They disobeyed God. You see, it's our sins that have separated us from God. Romans 3:23 says, "We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

O - Our sins cannot be taken away by good works, good deeds, or money-no matter who tells you this. It doesn't matter if someone tells you that you'll be more right with God if you give more money to an offering. That's not biblical. It does not matter what you give to God in the offering. That is not going to make you more right with God. It's our sins that separate us from God, and our sins cannot be taken away by performing good works, good deeds, or through our money.

D. - There is deliverance. Deliverance from sin took place on the cross over 2,000 years ago. As Jesus looked into the future, He saw you, He saw me, and He saw the world. He looked into the future, and He died on a bloody cross, but he didn't just die on the cross. What separates Christianity from any other religion is this: Jesus not only died on the cross, but Jesus rose again on the third day. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what separates Christianity from any other religion.

There is only one true religion, and it is Christianity. Deliverance came on the cross over 2,000 years ago as Jesus hung on a bloody cross. He rose again on the third day. He didn't just rise again, but He also ascended to the Father in Heaven. He sits at the right hand of God now. He is interceding for you and this generation that has not heard the gospel yet. Deliverance came through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Here's the deal. No one has to go to Hell. That's right. I said that no one has to go to Hell. Why? Because Hell was never created for human beings, Hell was created for Satan and the fallen angels who went with him. No one has to go to Hell.

The issue is this. Everyone who repents of their sins shall have eternal life with Jesus Christ. Everyone. The Bible is very clear. Romans 10:13 says, "...everyone

who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Jesus died on the cross for everyone. He rose again for everyone. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. No one has to go to Hell, and everyone who repents of their sins shall be saved.

Choosing to Change

I want to talk about repentance. What is repentance? Repentance is this: If you're going one way and suddenly realize through the gospel, "Oh, my gosh! This is the way that leads to Hell! This is the way of destruction." When the gospel is preached, repentance takes place, and you realize, "I'm going the wrong way." Repentance is a turning; it's a change of mind. It's a change of heart. It's a change of direction, and it's a change of purpose. So everyone who repents of their sins shall have life. Everyone.

You see, with Jesus, there is eternal life, but without Jesus, there is eternal death and destruction. Let me say this quickly: eternity is real. Heaven is real, and so is Hell. With Jesus is eternal life. Without Jesus, there is eternal destruction. Many people have bought into humanist thought patterns and universalism. Humanism sets man on the throne with all their accomplishments and everything they do. Universalism paints a picture of a Jesus who is so loving and caring that He would never allow anyone to go to Hell and everyone will be with Him. However, the truth is Jesus gives people choices. He gives people a free will. Even Jesus had a free will. We see Jesus in the garden, saying to God, "...not my will, but yours, be done..." (Luke 22:42). Jesus, the Son of God, is giving up His will to surrender it to the Father.

Salvation starts the moment you say "yes" to Jesus. Eternity is knowing Jesus. Eternity is having a relationship with Jesus. Salvation starts the moment someone repents for their sins and puts faith in Jesus Christ. Salvation is Jesus. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. So, when you're talking about good news, this gives you some structure to understand it. When you're sharing the good news, you need to understand that it is centered around Jesus, and Jesus is good news.

Jesus humbled Himself and became a man-- He identified with us. He identified with us, but He never sinned. He became a spotless Lamb and died on a bloody cross for you and me. You see, the blood that was shed over 2,000 years ago has never dried up. When interacting with people and sharing the good news, you're sharing about the Kingdom of God, where the King is Jesus Christ. You're offering them salvation, but you're also offering them a new life and lifestyle that has to do with the King. The King is Jesus. Salvation starts the moment someone believes, repents, and turns to Jesus Christ--- as they put faith in Him. Once they do that, they enter into a new realm. It's called the Kingdom of God. It's understanding that the King is there, and His Name is Jesus.

Father, I pray for everyone going through this evangelism course right now. I pray, God, that You would use them. I pray they would be one of those individuals from the 10,000 who say, "I want to look for someone to share the good news with every day. I want to be one of those individuals sharing the gospel and expanding the Kingdom of God wherever I go."

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, be honest and real with God about your current beliefs. Then take these to prayer with Scripture and dialogue with God concerning His heart for these questions.

01

How does knowing your identity in Christ help you share the good news with others?

02

What are things that God is asking you to surrender to Him to grow in sharing the gospel?

03

How is God wanting you to apply this lesson in your life? What is something you can do this week to apply it?



Activation Steps

01

Embrace Your Identity in Christ

Every day, remind yourself of what the Word says about your new identity in Christ--that you are a saint, not a sinner, bought by the blood of Jesus Christ over 2,000 years ago. This shift in perception is the foundation for understanding your role in God's spiritual army (See 2 Corinthians 5:17).

02

Understand and Live in God's Love

The disciples prayed that we would be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ. Root yourself deeply in the reality of God's unchanging love for you. This understanding should be the driving force behind your motivation to share the gospel with others. Recognize that your worth to God is not dependent on your good works or the miracles you see.

03

Communicate the Gospel Confidently

As you become firmly rooted and established in your identity in Christ and God's love for you, you will become empowered to share the good news with others.

Start by expressing God's love for them and their worth as those created in His image. Explain the G.O.O.D. news; the concept of sin and the salvation offered through Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Encourage them towards repentance and the acceptance of Jesus into their lives. As you communicate the gospel, remember, you're offering more than salvation - you're inviting others into a transformed life under King Jesus.



The Reality of Eternity

Lesson 02

I'm so excited to be able to share with you today about having an eternal perspective. Eternity is real. Just the other day, I was walking through a park and asked a person a question: "Hey, have you thought about eternity lately?" And he replied, "No." The truth is, many people are just living their lives right now, but they're not thinking about eternity. That is a dangerous spot to be in.

I'm going to share some verses with you that are going to help you. In Matthew chapter 23:33, Jesus tells the Pharisees, "You serpents, brood of vipers, how can you escape the condemnation of Hell?" Jesus is talking about Hell here and how it is a real place. It's a place of eternal judgment. Once you're in Hell, you're not getting out. It is for all of eternity. We need to understand the reality of eternity, and we need to have an eternal perspective. Heaven is real, but so is Hell. In our gospel witnessing, we must talk about eternity.

In the Western culture, we often water down the gospel so much that we can make it about just having people pray a prayer they don't even understand. However, Jesus talked about radical discipleship. Jesus told His disciples, "...whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?..." (Matt. 16:25-26).

Biblical Foundations

Repentance and eternal judgment are biblical foundations--an elementary teaching. Let's discover this in Hebrews. We will look at a verse here that I think will encourage you, but it may also challenge you. Hebrews 6:1 says this: "Therefore, leaving the discussion of elementary principles of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God, of the doctrine of baptism, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."

So, there is an eternal judgment, and one of the things the enemy wants to do (Satan), the god of this age, is deceive individuals. He wants to deceive the Church. He wants to water down the gospel. He is a deceiver, and he is at work deceiving the body of Christ to water down the gospel and not talk about eternity.

Now, if I were the Devil (which I'm not, and you're not), I would try to convince people that eternity is not forever and doesn't even exist. I want you to think about this: because of the word of God, we understand that there is the Kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. Jesus said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:2)

Who rules the Kingdom? Jesus Christ does. Jesus rules the Kingdom of God, but the kingdom of darkness is ruled by Satan. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy, and his whole goal is to take as many people to Hell with him as possible.

Our job, as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, is to understand the perfect will of God for our lives and His will for others. You see, it's God's desire that none perish. God doesn't want anyone to go to Hell. Hell was never created for human beings. Hell was created for Satan and his demons.

Biblical Understanding of Eternity

I want you to find Revelation 20:15-20 in Scripture. I'm talking about eternity because when we're sharing the gospel, we need to have a clear biblical understanding of eternity. Universalism and humanism paint a picture that takes people away from the foundation of the word of God and brings in thoughts that are not biblical. They are human thoughts and patterns. If we look at humanism, the very root of it is Satanism.

Satan wanted to be in charge. He wanted to be equal to God. He wanted to overthrow God's Kingdom. But God said, "That's not happening. You're out." Then we see Satan fall. Sin originated with Satan in the garden. Satan deceived Adam and Eve. So, in the garden, we see Satan deceiving Adam and Eve. And what was inside of Satan moved inside of Adam and Eve and spread.

It's called sin. But we know that Jesus came to break the curse. Now, Jesus,

through His death and resurrection, also gives people choices.

Let's look at Revelation 20:12-15. It says this, "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

I want to tell you that the Lake of Fire is real! Hell is real. There is an urgency that God wants to impart to the body of Christ: Have compassion; compassion that will lead us into action to preach the truth. Many individuals are afraid to offend others. They're afraid to offend someone because of how they may respond at that moment. Listen. When your heart is full of the love of God and the compassion of Jesus Christ, it sets you up with boldness to be able to tell the truth.

I want us to look at James 5:19-20. It says this: "Brother, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns them back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins."

Now, I want you to turn to 2 Peter 2. I want to impart an eternal perspective to you. 2 Peter 2:4 says, "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment..." I want to stop there. God delivered them into the chains of darkness to be reserved for judgment? Why would anyone want to water down the gospel and act like eternity is not real? It's clear here. It's a very dangerous thing to try to convince individuals that Hell is not real.

I want to add another scripture found in Revelation 14:6-7. It says, "Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people." Notice the words "eternal gospel." Then it continues, "and saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come and worship Him who made Heaven and on Earth, the sea and the springs of water.'"

There is an eternal judgment. Every one of us is going to stand before the Lord. So, when we're out and about in the community or marketplace, sharing the gospel with people, it must not be about just having someone pray a prayer they don't understand. What happens is people just pray a prayer, and they think it's okay, but they have not allowed the Holy Spirit to change their hearts,

change their minds, change their purpose, and change the direction they're going.

Fruit That Lasts

Jesus spoke about fruit. Do you remember what John the Baptist began to preach? He preached, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." (Matt. 3:8) There are a lot of people who ask, "Why do you preach Hell? Why do you talk about eternity so much?" Because the life we're living right now will echo in eternity. Everything that we do is going to echo in eternity.

I believe God wants to give us the fear of the Lord, and awe and wonder. That as we're sharing the gospel, we're telling the truth through compassion. We're telling the gospel truth that, within the gospel, there is a message of warning that people need to hear. There is an important balance of sharing the reality of Heaven and Hell. I pray that God uses you. I pray that you will live with an eternal perspective and that you will understand that God has a real plan for people-not only here on Earth but through all eternity. One day, we're all going to stand before Jesus.

I remember doing an outreach and giving people an opportunity to repent of their sins and put their faith in Jesus. A person repented and put their faith in Jesus, and we talked about eternity. Shortly after, this individual was killed. This individual was hit by a car. I know that individual made that commitment. I was able to report back that that person made a commitment to follow Jesus.

Eternity is so real. When we only have one life to live, we live in such a way that it makes sense in the light of eternity. Heaven is real, and so is Hell. Let's be individuals who are not afraid to talk about Heaven and not afraid to talk about Hell. Many individuals say, "Well, you know, Hell is just what's happening on Earth right now." No! That's not the case. If Hell is what's happening on Earth right now, then why is there such a war over souls?

We have to think about eternity. Why is there such a war over people even telling the truth? Why are people so plagued to talk about eternity? Why do they have fear? It's because there is an enemy who opposes truth and the gospel, and his name is Satan. Our job as ambassadors and children of God is to destroy the works of the Devil and to shine the light of God wherever we go.

I pray this message encourages you. I pray that there will be a fire that burns in your heart to say, "I want to dive into the Word of God. I want God's word to give me a spiritual impartation." The Bible says, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, joints and marrow." (Heb. 4:12) I pray that you receive an impartation through the Word of God. And remember, we're learning, we're doing, and we're teaching.

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer with Scripture and dialogue with God concerning His heart for these questions.

01 Reflecting on your own life, how often do you find yourself considering eternity? How does your perception of eternity affect your day-to-day choices and actions?

02 Write 1-2 sentences about how you would articulate the reality of Heaven and Hell to someone who has never heard these concepts before, or someone who doubts their existence?

03 In what ways do you feel equipped or challenged to demonstrate this urgency in your own life. How can you be an ambassador for Christ and share these truths?



Activation Steps



01

Reflect on Your Understanding of Eternity

Consider how the idea of an eternity in Heaven or Hell influences your day-to-day actions, decisions, and interactions with others. Remember, eternity is an intensely tangible reality and not just a far-off concept. Make a habit of asking yourself regularly, "Am I living today in light of eternity?"



02

Share the Reality of Eternity with Others

Remember that Hell was not made for us, but for the devil. When you share about the realities of Heaven and Hell, remind others of how Jesus paid for their sins with His own blood so they would be with Him for eternity and not experience the reality of Hell when they put their faith in Him and repent. Remember to approach these discussions with compassion and love, recognizing that many people may be unaware or afraid of contemplating eternity.



03

Commit to Deeper Study and Active Teaching

Immerse yourself in the study of the Word of God and deepen your understanding of eternity. But don't stop there. Commit to teaching what you have learned to others. Remember Jesus' model of learning, doing, and teaching others. Follow the fire of conviction, ignited by the Holy Spirit, to boldly share the gospel truth with everyone in your sphere of influence, regardless of the opposition or persecution that might arise.



Practical Guide to Evangelism - Part 1

Lesson 03 *pt 1*

In this lesson, I'm going to be talking about some of the practical sides of evangelism. This is going to be one of those lessons that you're going to want to go back to over and over again. I want to pray for you as we get started.

Father, I thank you for everyone who's reading this right now. I thank You that You have cultures of evangelism and discipleship that will be formed. And I pray a blessing on them, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Before we get into practicals, I want to make an important point. As you're stepping out and sharing the gospel, please know that you are already loved by God. As you're going through this evangelism course, please know that it's not more activity that makes you loved by God. You are already loved by God.

The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world..." Stop right there. God so loved the world. God already loves you. The verse continues, "...that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." If you want to know the love of God for you, look at the bloody cross. Look at the cross of Jesus Christ, but don't stay there. Look at the resurrection. Look at the resurrection of Jesus Christ because inside the gospel is the love of God for you. God loves you so much.

I'm going to share some practical things with you in this lesson. I'm going to talk about God using you as a believer. But please know this: You cannot gain more of God's love. You can abide in His love, but you can't gain more of His love.

Have a Kingdom Mindset

First of all, God is interested in changing the way that you think. We need to have a Kingdom mindset. Jesus preached the message of the Kingdom. His disciples did as well. We see that take place throughout the Bible.

Let's talk about having a Kingdom mindset. Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God. Let's look at a passage in Matthew 4. This was after Jesus's baptism. After He went through the wilderness for 40 days being tempted, the Bible says in Matthew 4:11, "Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." I want to say this: we need to have a paradigm of the supernatural--of angelic presence. Now, God gives us clear instructions that we can never worship angels, but we must not deny the supernatural activity of the angelic presence of God.

So, we see here that even Jesus is strengthened by angels. I believe that God wants to strengthen you right now. I believe that the power of the Holy Spirit wants to come upon you, strengthen you, and mobilize you. I also believe that God wants to give you heavenly assistance in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and manifesting the Kingdom of God.

Jesus went on to preach this in Matthew 4:17, "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" Notice that Jesus preached repentance, John the Baptist preached repentance, the disciples preached repentance, and the body of Christ right now is called to preach repentance. But He talks about the Kingdom of God first, and we must have a kingdom mindset. The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. It is near.

Then, Jesus began to enlist disciples. Now, as He began to enlist disciples, He did something very profound. It's something that you can do as well when you talk about the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, '..."Follow me..." Matthew 4:19 says, "Then He said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.'" I believe that there is an anointing that God is placing on your life to be able to follow Jesus first. To be a good leader, you must first be a good follower.

Jesus says, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." I believe that the Lord will put an anointing on your life to disciple and equip others. So, here we see these disciples, and what are they doing? They're learning from Jesus. They're obeying Jesus and teaching others to do the same thing.

Jesus talked about this Kingdom mindset--that the Kingdom of God is at hand. This is important because when you enter environments with darkness, you

have to understand that the Kingdom of God is at hand. The Kingdom of God is not at hand just at a worship service. The Kingdom of God is not just at hand in perfect situations. The Kingdom of God is also at hand in hostile situations. The Kingdom of God is even at hand in dark situations. The Kingdom of God lives inside you because the King lives inside you, and the Kingdom of God wants to manifest through you.

What Does the Kingdom Look Like?

What does it look like practically? So, say when you're going into the grocery store and walk by somebody, and you notice that you feel an overwhelming sense of compassion for them. You know you could just walk by, but something inside you says, "God, you live inside of me. Your Kingdom is at hand." You want to do something and decide, "I'm turning around. I want to go to that person and talk to them."

The Kingdom in a Grocery Store

I remember being in a grocery store, and I walked by this man and had this overwhelming sense of grief. As I stopped, I said, "Excuse me, sir. As I walked by you, I just felt God's love for you. Is there anything that I can be praying for you about?" He said, "No. Thank you. I'm good." I thought, "That's really strange. Lord, I really felt your heart for him." See, the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 14:17). You can feel His heart when you are living in right standing with the Lord. You don't have to force something. You can move with peace, and you can move in His joy and know that He's got you.

So, back at the grocery store, I went on a little bit further. As I went on a little bit further, I saw this woman, and I felt the same emotion that had nothing to do with her facial expressions. It's something I felt inside. It's an awareness that I feel. So I went to her, and I said, "Excuse me. As soon as I walked by you, I just felt this overwhelming sense of God's love for you and compassion. There's something going on. Is there something that I can be praying for you about?" She broke down, and said, "Yes, there is." She pointed over to the man that I just walked by. She said, "My husband and I just lost our son." I felt the heart of God just come around this woman. I began to pray for them, and God's Kingdom came. In God's Kingdom, He began to heal that couple's heart.

Healing at Costco

Yesterday, I was leaving the store. I was at Costco (And I'm very proud of myself because I didn't buy a ton of stuff. You have to be careful when you go to Costco!). As I left Costco, I saw this woman with knee braces on. I said, "Excuse me, Ma'am. Has anyone prayed for you yet for your knees?" She said, "Well, yeah. Thank you." I said, "And it's in your back, too. You've got something going on with your back right now." And she said, "How did you know that?" And I said, "Well, the Lord shows me things about people's lives often to bring

encouragement and reveal that God loves them." I said, "God wants to restore your heart. Something just happened recently."

She looked at me in awe and wonder. She said, "How do you know? I just went through a divorce. I just went through a divorce." And I said, "God wants to heal your heart." She replied, "I've got heart issues. The doctor just told me that I've got a bunch of heart issues." I said, "The Lord wants to heal your heart, and you need to forgive some individuals." She said, "Oh my gosh. My old boss fired me for no reason, and I'm so ashamed about something."

Then she opened up and admitted she wished her boss got hurt or had something bad happen to him. Then she said, "I feel so bad because I just found out that my boss has cancer. I feel like it's my fault and that I did something wrong." I began to explain to her about forgiveness.

In the parking lot, I got to pray for her, and she began to feel God's presence on her. This woman began to forgive. You see, she was a Christian, but oftentimes, many Christians allow unforgiveness to rule their hearts and lives. It's no wonder many Christians are dealing with heart issues--physical heart issues in their bodies. Oftentimes, people's physical elements are a result of unforgiveness. In the parking lot, I said, "You've got to forgive." At that moment, I led her through a simple prayer of forgiveness.

Now, I want to talk to you about forgiveness because when we see the power of God and receive forgiveness, we are empowered to forgive others as well. So we're talking about the Kingdom of God coming in. The Kingdom of God does not come with just observation but comes with power and demonstration (1 Cor. 2:4).

Forgiveness and Deliverance in a Hotel Lobby

I was in a hotel lobby, getting ready to check out of the hotel, and walked by these two young people. As I walked by them, I felt prompted in my heart to share the gospel. As I shared the gospel with them, I asked them this question, "Do you know what it means to be born again?" As I began to share what it means to be born again, they said they didn't know what that meant. I said, "Do you mind if I tell you tonight and share that with you?" I began to share with them what it meant to be born again. I shared some simple scriptures: John 3:16-17, Romans 10:9, and John 1:12.

I asked, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for you, and He rose again?" They answered, "Yes." I asked, "Do you believe that He has the power to forgive you of all your sins?" They answered, "Yes." I said, "I want to pray with you right now." I prayed with them right inside the hotel lobby. They were both wonderfully born again. Then I said, "I want to pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill and empower you." As I began to pray for them, the Holy Spirit came in a powerful way.

Oftentimes, when the Holy Spirit comes, He drives out things that don't belong there. This young girl, around sixteen years old, began screaming in the hotel lobby. She began getting delivered, and her boyfriend repeated, "What's going on!? What's going on!? What's going on!?" I reassured him, "It's going to be okay. She's going to be just fine."

One of the ways that you will begin to recognize the Holy Spirit, what He's doing and saying, is by spending time with Him and recognizing how He moves outside the four walls of the church. At that moment, I knew by the Spirit that she had unforgiveness. I told her, "You're going to be okay. I'm going to lay my hand on your head right now and ask the Holy Spirit to show you who you need to forgive."

As I laid my hands on her head, the Holy Spirit began to show her individuals she needed to forgive. I asked, "Who's the first person that comes to your mind?" She said a name. She was weeping and crying. She repeated this person's name, and I said, "Repeat after me. Jesus." She repeated. "I forgive (and she named a person's name) for everything they've done to me and everything they haven't done for me. I break the chains of unforgiveness and torment, and in Jesus' name, I release them. I shut the door to unforgiveness. And I open up my heart to your Holy Spirit. Fill me right now."

I began to pray a simple prayer like that. She forgave that individual and other individuals. Then, she was baptized in the Holy Spirit. You should have seen her light up like a Christmas tree!

I pray that God would use you in a mighty, mighty way. In the next lesson, I will share some other practical things that will help you as you step out and share the gospel. My friends, the Kingdom of God is at hand!

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer with Scripture and dialogue with God concerning His heart for these questions.

01 What are some ways that you can cultivate a Kingdom mindset in your daily life and interactions with others?

02 Are there moments in your life when you have felt a strong sense of compassion or conviction to reach out to someone? Reflect on those experiences and consider how they might be connected to what God would want to do in that moment for those people through your yes.

03 How can you be more attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit outside of church settings and recognize opportunities for evangelism and ministry in everyday places?

Activation Steps

01

Cultivate a Kingdom Mindset

Take time to reflect on the message of the Kingdom of God that Jesus and His disciples preached about. How did the disciples bring the Kingdom of God to their everyday lives?

02

Step Out in Compassion

Pay attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the overwhelming sense of compassion for others. Be open to opportunities to pray for and minister to those in need, both within and outside the church or worship service.

03

Seek the Presence and Guidance of the Holy Spirit

Spend time cultivating a relationship with the Holy Spirit through prayer and seeking His presence. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in identifying His presence and actions, even outside of formal church settings. Be sensitive to His promptings and be willing to step out in faith as He directs you to share the gospel and minister to others.



A Practical Guide to Evangelism - Part 2

Lesson
03 *pt. 2*

In this lesson, I will be talking once again about some practical steps that will help you as you step out and share your faith. I want to read a passage in Matthew 28. This passage is known as the Great Commission, not the great suggestion. I will share something so practical that you will ask yourself, "Wow, why haven't I seen this before?"

Matthew 28:16-17 says, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted." Let me say this: it's possible for Jesus to walk by, but some individuals will still be in doubt and unbelief. Some in the Scripture were worshiping, while others were doubting. What would it be like if the whole body of Christ recognized and worshipped Jesus for who He was and is?

Matthew 28:18-20 says, 'And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."' In the Great Commission, we see that God is commissioning the body of Christ to make disciples.

Water Baptism

One of the things that I want to highlight is water baptism. Throughout the years, we have seen a great theme of leaders baptizing individuals inside churches. I celebrate and welcome that. But God wants to use every believer to make disciples. And part of making disciples is water baptism.

If you've never baptized someone in the name of the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, I want to encourage you to do it. That is a part of your inheritance. Just as you are called to lay your hands on the sick and see them recover, you are also called to make disciples. You're called to teach them what Jesus taught you to observe. You are called to see the expression of the Kingdom of God manifested through your life.

Share From the Heart

I want to discuss another practical tool. When you're sharing the gospel, learn to share from your heart. Your mind is a wonderful tool. But if you're going to speak from your mind, you will only impact people's minds. If you learn to speak from your heart, there will be a conviction that God has placed inside your heart, which will pierce the hearts of others through the power of the Holy Spirit. If you want to see minds change, speak from your mind, but if you want to see hearts and minds change, learn to speak from your heart. Learn to speak from the conviction God has placed inside your heart.

Your Jesus Story

The Bible talks about your testimony. Let's look at the Bible in Acts 26. We will see that the apostle Paul knew his Jesus story. I believe it's important that you know your Jesus story because you'll come across all kinds of individuals, whether you're in the workplace, in your neighborhood, or you meet a stranger at the grocery store. You may even travel by plane a lot like I do. You need to be equipped to share your Jesus story.

You might be asking, "What is my Jesus story?" Your Jesus story is found in Acts 26. What was your life like before Jesus? Paul declares what his life was like before Jesus. Then he talks about how he met Jesus. Finally, he begins to declare what Jesus has been doing in his life and through his life.

You have a Jesus story. Now, if you have a past of drug addiction, alcoholism, or crime, it doesn't matter because you have been bought by the blood of Jesus. If you are a born-again Christian, you also don't need to feel less than other Christians if your testimony does not include being saved from drug addiction, alcohol, or some sin that we label.

You see, the blood of Jesus has purchased your life. The blood of Jesus has changed your life, and you have a powerful testimony. It's even more powerful when you learn how to articulate it. I want you to get familiar with your Jesus story. I want you to identify it right now. If you can, I want you to take out a pen

and paper and write down these questions: (1) What was my life like before I met you, Jesus? (2) How did I meet Jesus? How did I start my faith in Jesus? (3) What has Jesus been doing through my life since I met Him? Those three leading questions will help you create a roadmap for articulating your Jesus story.

Now, when you get this written down, I want you to practice it. I want you to practice sharing it to articulate your story in three minutes or less. Please remember that although your testimony is powerful, you need to learn how to communicate this story in three minutes or less.

The Jesus Story

You see, you have your Jesus story, but then there is the Jesus story. You must get familiar with your Jesus story, but also the Jesus story. The gospel is what Jesus has done. It's how we were enemies of Jesus Christ, how Jesus Christ reconciled with you, and how you were a sinner. Jesus came for you while you were a sinner and paid for you.

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ died on a bloody cross. He looked into the future and saw you. The Jesus story starts at creation. God created the Heavens and the Earth, but His greatest creation was you.

Adam and Eve were formed, and Satan, a fallen angel, deceived Eve. Sin originated with Satan, not with Eve. Sin originated in Satan because he was a fallen angel. There was a virus that lived inside of him. When he lied and tempted Eve, the virus of disobedience spread. The Bible says, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Rom. 3:23).

Articulating Your Jesus Story

Let's go back to your Jesus story. What was your life like before you met Jesus? I want you to write it out. I want you to begin to talk about it and to get familiar with articulating your Jesus story.

I'm going to model this for you right now. I'm going to share my Jesus story in three minutes or less. When I share my Jesus story, oftentimes, I can share different parts with different people as the Holy Spirit leads me. Knowing your audience is significant.

If I just met someone and we've already done the introduction, while we're just having small talk, I'll say something like this: "You know, when I was eighteen years old, somebody began to share Jesus with me, and I didn't want to hear anything about Jesus. I saw hypocrisy inside the church, but as he began to share Jesus with me, something changed inside my heart. It was like I couldn't even sleep. When I woke up the next morning, I was aware of three things. (1) Jesus is the Son of God. (2) I'm a sinner and on my way to Hell. (3) I don't have to go to Hell because Jesus paid for my sin.

I remember taking the Bible that Mike gave me. He was an inmate. You see, I was in jail at the time. He gave me a Bible, and I took it into my cell. I got on my knees and began to pray an honest prayer from my heart. All of a sudden, I began to repent and put my faith in Jesus. I felt this presence come around me. I felt God's love for the very first time. I felt like a nine-hundred-pound weight came off my shoulders! I knew I was forgiven. Since then, I've been traveling and sharing the gospel all over the world, telling people about Jesus, and how He saves, heals, and delivers.

You can share your story in many different ways. You can articulate it in many different ways, but you need to know the themes of your story. Inside those three questions are themes, and those themes will also be memories. Within those three questions, think about the memories that come to your mind of your life before Christ Jesus, how you met Christ Jesus, and what Christ has been doing in your life and through your life. Then, I want you to get good at articulating the gospel of Jesus.

Repentance and What to Share

I want to talk to you about repentance and faith for a moment. We see that the apostles preached repentance, and Jesus preached repentance. Luke 24:46-47 says, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem." So we see that repentance is necessary when you're sharing the gospel with someone who has never even heard about Jesus. There are many people who have never heard about Jesus.

I also want to encourage you to talk about creation. You see, true science will always point to the Creator. Talk about the Creator, creation, and how Jesus created it.

Talk about what God has done. Talk about the fall and how sin came in like a virus. Talk about how the law was set in place, but no one could actually take away their sin through the law. The law showed us our need for Jesus Christ.

Talk about the prophet Isaiah and how he looked into the future. The prophecies came through the prophets of old, the minor prophets, and the major prophets. They prophesied that there would be a Savior who would come. Talk about that Savior, Jesus.

Talk about how the prophet Isaiah prophesied about a virgin birth and how that child was Jesus. Then, talk about what Jesus did and how He lived a sinless life as a spotless lamb to take away our sins. This will lead to how He died on the cross and rose again on the third day. He didn't just die on the cross. He rose again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Practice, Share the Gospel, and Baptize

I encourage you to get good at knowing your Jesus story and articulating your Jesus story. I want to encourage you to practice. Practice with other believers and share the gospel with each other. Give each other feedback.

A young man said to me, "Chris, I want to get good at sharing the gospel with people." I asked, "Do you have a job?" He replied, "No." I asked, "Do you have any responsibilities?" He answered, "No." I asked, "Are you in debt?" He answered, "No." I replied, "Well, your job is now sharing the gospel with 100 people weekly." He responded, "100 people?!" I said, "You told me you want to get good at it. If you want to get good at anything in life, you have to do it over and over again."

I'm excited about you making disciples. And part of discipleship is water baptism. So, I want you to begin to see how essential water baptism is throughout the Bible. Take notice that Jesus Himself never baptized anyone; His disciples baptized people. Notice how Paul even said that He baptized very few people. You would think that the apostle Paul would do a lot of baptisms, but he didn't.

So, who was doing the baptisms? It was the disciples. I want to encourage you that God has anointed you to make disciples. Water baptism isn't just for the pastor. He's not supposed to do all the baptisms. This is something that God wants to equip the body of Christ with. Just as you are called to lay your hands on the sick and see them recover, you're also called to make disciples. The harvest is great!

I also encourage you to get good at articulating your Jesus story. There are so many individuals who struggle with this, but I encourage you to take the pressure off of yourself. Just practice. Many people don't start because they don't know what to say. Just start somewhere. Just start and start again. Don't quit. Keep moving forward because as you share the gospel, people will get saved! Eternity is real.

As we close, I want to remind you that the Holy Spirit is the greatest evangelist. Your responsibility is to be faithful in sharing the gospel with love, and His responsibility is to bring the conviction of sin. You can't do that. It's His responsibility. You can preach it with truth, but you let the Holy Spirit be the Holy Spirit.

I want to pray for you. *Father, I pray in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Lord, that they would find themselves learning, articulating their own Jesus story, and sharing the gospel. God, I pray for repentance to be preached. I pray for many souls to be saved, healed, and delivered. I pray that they would become disciples who make disciples who make disciples. Amen.*

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 What is your Jesus story? What was your life like before you met Jesus?

02 How did you meet Jesus and start your relationship with Him?

03 What has Jesus been doing in your life since then?

Activation Steps

01

Step into the Transformative Power of Worship

Be intentional to set aside time to recognize Jesus' presence and worship Him in the secret place. From the secret place to the public place. In worship, you will find that an unwavering faith settles in your heart and replaces fear with boldness.

02

Discover and Articulate Your Own Jesus Story

Take time to reflect on (1) your life before encountering Jesus, (2) how you met Him and started your faith journey, and (3) the ongoing work He has done and continues to do in and through your life. Write down your answers and use them as a roadmap to articulate your Jesus story. Practice sharing within 2 minutes or less,

03

Share Your Jesus Story with Others

Recognize the significance of personal testimonies in sharing the gospel. Look for opportunities to share your Jesus story with others, whether it be with friends, family, coworkers, or strangers you encounter. Be intentional about speaking from the depths of your heart, relying on the conviction that God has placed within you. Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to pierce the hearts of others as you share your story, aiming to witness not only changed minds but also transformed hearts.



Cultivating a Life of Prayer

Lesson 04

Many people want to be used by God, but quite frankly, they have a prayerless lifestyle. We must understand that being used by God comes through having a relationship with God. God wants to meet us in the secret place and manifest Himself in the public place. This isn't about works; it's about having a Divine relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the One who saved you, the One who called you, and the One who actually wants to partner with you to expand His kingdom.

I first want to talk to you about expanding the Kingdom of God through prayer. Often, many people want to be used by God, but they have never really developed a lifestyle of prayer with God. This means they don't even know the heart of God. If we want to discover the heart of God, we have to discover it in the place of prayer.

Now, when I talk about prayer today, we must first understand that God is the One who is inviting us into a lifestyle of prayer; we are not the initiators. He is the One who has already initiated this by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, down to a bloody cross for you and me. Jesus Himself sits at the right hand of God right now. The Lord wants to teach us how to pray from Heaven's perspective. You see, God is initiating, and He wants to give us a heart to see from Heaven's perspective.

I want to read some passages here that will encourage you. I desire to spark a prayer life inside of you, where you would say, "Lord, I want Your Kingdom to be manifested in my life and through my life. Through the relationship we're forming, I want to see the power of God manifested."

I will share some things about my life and how the Lord has encountered me in prayer within the secret place. Because of those encounters, I have developed a lifestyle for the public place. I pray that this message inspires you to go into your room, shut the door when no one else is around and that you will encounter Him.

Intimacy With God Through Prayer

While breathing right now, the most valuable thing you can do is develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God our Father. In this passage, we're going to talk about a lifestyle of prayer and going from the secret place to the public place.

In Matthew 6:5, Jesus spoke to His disciples. He said, "...when you pray." He didn't say, "...if you pray." He said, "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward..." So, the Lord is actually talking about a heart condition here. He's talking about people praying for attention instead of the right reason.

In Matthew 6:6-15, He says, "But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Embracing Prayer and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

In 1999, the Lord began to challenge me to live a lifestyle of prayer. At first, I was challenged by some YWAM leaders in Chico, California, to have a devotional life. At the time, it felt religious because I was the kind of guy who did whatever I felt like doing. I didn't have any structure in my life. I didn't have discipline in my life.

I was an individual who just did whatever I felt like doing. I had some leaders in my life who challenged me, saying if I wanted to grow in my relationship with the Lord Jesus, then I needed to make it a priority. That is why I found myself getting up early in the morning. I started with just five, ten, or fifteen minutes of opening my Bible.

The more I did that, the more I could feel the heart of the Lord pulling me in. It was like I could feel the heart of God; like He was pleased with meeting me. He had things that He wanted to share with me when no one else was around. I began to discover the verse in Matthew 6 above, and I applied it to my life. He was looking for me in the secret place where I could go into my room and shut the door, and in faith, He would be there when no one else was around.

I began this journey of saying, "Lord, I want to go into my room. I want to shut the door, and I want to be with you." I went through the school of ministry, and I remember doing this all the time as a student. I would go into my room and shut the door. I would lay on my bed and say, "Holy Spirit, come in." It was there that I could feel the tangible presence of God.

When I began reading about the Holy Spirit, it became a reality that He's not an "it" but a person. He's a person who has emotions. He's a person who has feelings. He is a person who speaks to me. It was there in my room, when no one else was around, where I discovered the voice of God speaking to me. I could sense what was on His heart and feel His burden.

I began to dream with God, and I could see things in my heart. I saw myself in the place of prayer. I could visualize people getting healed. I saw people in my heart being saved as I preached the gospel, and then I would see real people get delivered. I dreamed with God and could feel God's heart for individuals. This all started in a place of prayer.

In this same place of prayer, I began to ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I felt His presence in my room when no one else was around. All I could feel was His heart, presence, and compassion for people. I knew that there was more. In the place of prayer, God was inviting me into the more. There is more, no matter what you've experienced with Jesus Christ. No matter what encounters you've already had or the testimonies you may have. There is more. The Bible says He doesn't give the Spirit by measure.

So I began to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Keep in mind that I already spoke in tongues, but there was no power moving through my life. He was about ready to baptize me with the Holy Spirit and fire.

So, I began to study revival, and I would read about how God would move through people's lives in powerful ways. One of the things that I noticed was that God was using everyone in those past revivals in a profound way. They had

all been baptized in the Holy Spirit and with fire. I began to pray it, yet He was the One who initiated it.

You've got to get this in your Spirit. He initiated, and I responded to His invitation. I was hungry for the invitation. He began to stir my heart like He's stirring your heart right now. I prayed, and I prayed. I was praying the prayer that was on His heart and His desire for me.

From the Secret Place to the Public Place

One day, I was in a room with all these other students. It's very interesting that while some people can be having encounters, others aren't. I don't know why. All I know is that day, God chose to encounter me in a new way. It felt like my day with the Lord as I stood on that prayer line.

People began to pray for others. I prayed, "Lord, touch my life. I'm not going to leave this place until You touch me." You see, I was so hungry. I was so desperate inside. I was hungry to be used by God. I had moved all the way across the country to come to this ministry school. I was prayed for by Bill Johnson, whom I love and value so very much. I didn't feel anything at first. I know it's not about feelings, but let me say this. When Heaven touches your life, you often feel things you haven't felt before. That day, I felt God touch me.

I stood on that line and prayed, "Lord, I won't leave this place unless you touch me." About 15-20 minutes later, I felt this pulsating presence begin to shoot through me! It was like I had stuck my hand into a live wire socket. God began to show me how He would use me all over the world. He began to show me people getting healed and people getting saved. Then He showed me locations I would go to. The Lord would ask me, "Will you go?" I replied, "Yes, I will go." Then the people said, "We're waiting for you to come." The Lord asked, "Will you go?" And I replied, "Yes, I will go." This encounter lasted around twenty minutes. After this encounter, I knew the Lord wanted me to do something with what was given to me. You see, we get to live from the secret place to the public place.

I wasn't waiting for this experience. I was being faithful. I was stepping out and sharing the gospel. God was already doing some things in my life before this encounter, but this was another level. From that day, I noticed God's miraculous power begin to move through my life.

I went to the mall with a friend of mine. He saw a vision of someone with a white tank top and a young girl limping with her parents. We saw this same person at the mall. I approached her and told her that my friend had a vision of someone who would have a white tank top like she had. She was on a sports team but had a sporting accident. As I began to ask her if I could pray for her, she responded, "Yes, my parents are fine with it." I laid my hands on her. The power of God came on her ankle and then her leg. She was instantly healed! She wept and cried, saying, "Mom, Dad, all the pain is gone!" I responded, "Oh God, look

what You have done!" This was the first notable miracle that I had seen in public.

I went around the corner, and someone was coming outside a bar near the mall. I preached the gospel to this man as he came out of the bar. I saw the power of God come upon him and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. There was no difference in the words I shared, except for the Person of the Holy Spirit and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. God Himself showed up! The Holy Spirit showed up! The anointing of the Holy Spirit showed up! The encounters I was having in the secret place began to be seen in the public place. He showed up and brought conviction upon this man. It wasn't my ability. It wasn't my words. It was the power of God!

My prayer for you is that you would meet with God and respond to the invitation that He is giving you to go from the secret place to the public place. I pray that you understand that you're not just praying prayers from your own will but have surrendered your will to His will. You're praying from Heaven's perspective. You're praying, "Lord, let Heaven invade Earth." I pray that in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, God would inspire you to go into your room, shut the door, and, in faith, believe that Jesus Christ Himself is going to show up in your room.

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 In what ways have you experienced the transformational power of prayer in your life? Are there areas in your life where you are longing for more of God's presence, power, and influence?

02 How can you move towards creating a deeper, more intimate prayer life? Do you see prayer as a religious obligation or an invitation?

03 How have your private encounters with God in prayer influenced your public lifestyle? Can you share a specific instance where your secret time with God led to a public demonstration of His power and love?



Activation Steps

01

Establish a Prayer Routine

Understand that God calls you to build a deep relationship with Him. To do this, you must establish history with God in the secret place. Be consistent. Start small. Even just a few minutes each day can make a significant difference. Make it a habit to wake up early, retreat to a quiet place, and open your Bible. Engage with God in prayer, invite the Holy Spirit into your space, and listen for God's voice. Your prayer time should not be about a checklist of desires but a moment to connect and build a relationship with God.

02

Seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Based on the stories of those who have been profoundly used by God, it is evident that they all experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, during your prayer times, earnestly seek this baptism. Ask for more of His power and fire in your life. Immerse yourself in understanding the history of revival and the profound impact of the Holy Spirit's baptism on those used by God.

03

Move From the Secret Place to the Public Place

Understand that the invitation from God is to move from the secret place to the public place. Once you have established a prayer routine and sought the baptism of the Holy Spirit, stay aware of God's leading to use you in public to manifest His Kingdom on earth. Be open and willing to be used by God wherever you are. Be courageous to share the gospel, pray for the sick, and operate under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Your time spent with God in the secret place will equip and empower you to do His work in the public place.



Core Values of Evangelism

Lesson 05

Core values are the inner structure around how we build our lives. They motivate us with how we live. I'm going to cover ten core values that I know are going to help you with sharing the gospel. I will share some testimonies of things I've learned throughout the years. These are testimonies that felt like failures at one time. However, from God's perspective, they were lessons that helped me impact more people afterward and produced fruit in my life.

I know you've heard a lot of testimonies already. I know you're fired up. I know you already have your own testimonies. Through this course, hopefully, you're interacting with people and sharing what God is doing in your life.

Core Value One: Love and Compassion

The first core value for evangelism is the value of love and compassion. I want you to think about praying for B.O.B. Now, you may be asking yourself the question, "What about Bob?" I'm not talking about the movie, guys. I'm talking about the acronym for Bob. This is what B.O.B. represents.

B- Burden - A burden of compassion for the lost.

O- Opportunity - The eyes to see opportunities to share the gospel.

B - Boldness - Boldness to speak the word of God.

As I talk about the first core value, I'm talking about the love and compassion of Jesus. We know that Jesus was moved with compassion. First Corinthians 13:1-3 says, "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing." We can do all these things, but we're like a clanging cymbal if we don't have love. So, the love of Jesus has to be the motivation for everything that we do.

Years ago, when I was 23 years old, I went on one of my first trips to South Africa. On this particular trip, we saw incredible miracles, signs, and wonders take place. We literally saw the lame walk and the blind see. At this time, I was getting ready to speak at a small crusade. It was an open-air gospel campaign. While I was getting ready to speak, the Lord spoke to my heart. He asked, "Chris, are you going to pray for the sick tonight so you can have another story and testimony of the miracles that happened? Or are you going to pray for the sick tonight because you love them?" At that moment, I had this overwhelming sense of conviction in my heart. God's Holy Spirit brought a conviction inside of me that I have to preach the gospel through His love and compassion.

A wise man once said, "If you're not moving with the Dove, you're not moving in love." The Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us to keep loving people and Jesus well. As I go through these core values, love is the number one core value. Colossians 3:14 says, "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

Core Value Two: The Presence of God

The next core value is the presence of God. John 1:32-33 talks about the Spirit of God descending and remaining upon Jesus. John the Baptist recalls, "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"

We need the presence of God. We need to be aware that it is the Holy Spirit who brings about conviction. It's not you or me, but the presence of God with man. The presence of God with men and women is the game changer. In Luke 4:18, Jesus declared, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." quoting Isaiah 61.

This is what it says in Isaiah 61: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified..."

We must understand that we need the Spirit of God upon us, the presence of God upon us, if we're going to be an effective witness for Jesus. We must not lock up the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit must have freedom and the ability to move in and through us.

Core Value Three: Boldness

The third core value is boldness. Acts 4:29-30 says, "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

We need boldness. For the Church, we need boldness. As an individual, we need boldness in this generation to be able to declare, "I believe in Jesus. I love Jesus with all of my heart!" We need boldness to proclaim the truth. Society constantly tries to put fear in individuals, but we need boldness. This boldness comes from the Holy Spirit.

Core Value Four: Eyes to See Opportunities

The fourth core value is having eyes to see opportunities. As a 21-year-old man, I began to pray, "Lord, show me. God move on my heart. I want to feel what you feel. I want to sense what you sense. I want to see the opportunities of John 4."

In John 4:35, Jesus says, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." Don't say, "Revival will come in another four to six months." Look around right now. Look at the opportunities. We have opportunities all around us; when we're in the grocery store, at school, when we leave the parking lot at church, or even within the church. God wants our hearts to be raw so that we can feel and see what He sees.

Core Value Five: Honor

The fifth core value is honor. People are people; they're not projects. I remember in the early days of my life, I was so inspired to see a miracle take place. I'm still inspired, but God has changed my heart over the years. He showed me that people are people. They're not projects. They deserve to be treated like individuals. There was this gentleman who was in a high-powered wheelchair. My friend and I wanted to pray for him, but he just wouldn't let us pray for him. So he took off, and I thought to myself, "Man, this isn't right! He's supposed to get up out of his wheelchair."

So I told my friend, "He's going get out of that wheelchair, whether he likes it or not!" So I chased him down to the stoplight. I chased him down. Looking back, I

realize that I began to force myself on him so that I could pray for him. He began to swear at me. He repeatedly said, "No." As he left, the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He said, "Chris, you didn't even treat him like a person. You treated him like a project. You didn't ask him his name. You just treated him like a project."

I had this overwhelming sense of conviction come upon me. I realized that God wants me to love people and be moved by compassion. Not only does God want me to value His presence. Not only does God want my eyes to see the opportunities. Not only does God want me to trust in Him and ask Him for boldness. God desires that we treat people like people, and that looks like honoring people.

Core Value Six: Power

The sixth core value is power. First Thessalonians 1:5 says, "...our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction..." We owe the world an encounter, not just a good slogan.

I remember being in an airport, and I walked by this group of women. I said, "You know, Jesus loves you." And one of the older ladies said, "Oh, wow, isn't that sweet?" About 5-10 minutes later, one of the women walked back to me. She was the younger woman in the group, and asked, "Do you mind if you pray for me?" I asked what she wanted prayer for. She said, "Well, my lover has just left me, and my kids were just taken away from me." She repeated, "Can you pray for me?" As I looked at her, I felt the Holy Spirit say that her lover was another woman. I looked at her, and I wanted her to see the love of God, the love of the Father, oozing out of my eyes and in my heart.

I began to share the simple gospel with her. I talked about repentance and about putting faith in Jesus. She was so open and receptive. She repented right there in the airport and gave her life to the Lord. I said, "I want to pray for you now. Are you ready?" She replied, "Yes." I laid my hands upon her, and the power of God came on her. She fell out under the power of God in the airport. People around were frantically asking what happened. "What happened? Is she okay? I'll call the paramedics!" I reassured them that she was fine.

Do you know what happened when she got up from the floor? It was only thirty seconds to a minute, but it felt like many hours had passed. She saw that someone was laughing. She said, "Let them laugh! They don't understand what happened to me." I asked her what took place. She explained, "When you laid hands on me, I felt fire go through my whole being! I was getting ready to go home tonight to commit suicide, but not now!" You see, friends, as you're reading this, we need the power of God. We need the Holy Spirit moving through our lives.

Core Value Seven: Faith in the Gospel

The next core value is putting faith in the gospel. We don't need to put faith in ourselves, our articulation, or our ability to communicate. It's not faith in sharing using our own cleverness and our own wisdom. We need to put our faith in the power of God.

In Romans 1:16-17, the Bible says, 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."'

Core Value Eight: Speak the Truth With Love

Core Value eight is to speak the truth with love. Ephesians 4:15 tells believers to speak "the truth in love." Truth and love together is a powerful team.

We must be individuals who are committed to speaking the truth with love. When you decide to speak the truth with love, it creates history with individuals. Eternity shifts when individuals speak the truth with love.

Core Value Nine: Joy

The ninth core value is the Joy of the Lord. The joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10). In Galatians 5:22, the joy of the Lord is actually a fruit of the Spirit. It says, "But the fruit of the Spirit is...joy..." Joy is a fruit that God wants to produce in you and through you.

When individuals see the joy of the Holy Spirit in your life it is attractive. As you share the good news, joy is evidence of God in your life. Joy is a witness of the truth of the gospel.

Core Value Ten: Understanding Your Role as a Farmer

The tenth core value is to understand your role as a farmer. The power of God is in the seed, which makes you a farmer. I am also a farmer, but the power of God is in the seed.

I want you to look at Mark 4:26-29. Jesus taught a parable, saying, '... "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."'

The emphasis is not on the farmer but on the seed. Your role is a farmer. As you share the gospel, the power is in the seed. The seed is the gospel. Understand that sharing the gospel makes an eternal impact in hearts and lives. As a farmer, you don't have to produce the fruit. All you need to do is be faithful in communicating the gospel truth.

Father, I pray for everyone who just went through this. I pray they discover these ten core values and that these form something incredible inside of them that will help shape eternity. Amen.

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 Take time to reflect on the ten core values of evangelism. Which values are you living right now, and which do you need to grow in? What is your plan to grow in these core values?

02 How does the core value of love and compassion impact your approach to evangelism? How can you ensure that love remains behind all your actions and words?

03 In what ways can you seek to cultivate boldness in your life? How can you practice boldness and overcome any fears or hesitations that may hinder your ability to speak the truth of God's Word?



Activation Steps

01

Reflect and Evaluate Yourself Using the Ten Core Values

Take time to reflect on each of the ten core values presented and evaluate how well they are manifested in your life. Ask yourself questions like: How is love and compassion evident in my actions and interactions with others? Do I consistently seek the presence of God and allow Him to guide and empower me in my evangelistic efforts? Evaluate your own journey and identify areas for growth and improvement in applying these core values into your life.

02

Set Intentional Growth Goals

Based on what God has shown you, set specific action goals to cultivate these core values in your life. For example, set goals to step out in boldness and share your faith with others, overcoming any fear or hesitation. Make it a habit to intentionally look for opportunities to share God's love and truth in your daily interactions. Set goals to practice honor and respect towards every person you encounter, treating them as unique individuals created in God's image. Create similar growth goals for each of the ten core values.

03

Seek Accountability and Support

Engage in accountability and seek support from like-minded believers or a church community. Share your goals and aspirations with trusted friends, mentors, or a small group. Regularly check-in with them to share your progress, seek advice, and receive encouragement. Consider joining a small group or participating in activities that align with these core values, allowing you to learn from others and become laborers of the harvest together.



The Priority of Discipleship

Lesson 06

Discipleship is not something separate from evangelism. Oftentimes, we want to make a distinction. We'll separate them, saying, "This is evangelism, and this is discipleship." I propose that evangelism and discipleship were never meant to be separated. They were meant to walk right alongside each other.

We're going to discover the Great Commission in Matthew 28 (It was never meant to be the Great Suggestion) and how it is directly connected to discipleship. Let's discover this together.

Kingdom Authority

Matthew 28:16-18 says, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

He is talking here about spiritual authority. He is the One who created the Heavens and the Earth. When He said He had all authority, He was about to give a commission. Whenever Jesus is speaking, it is very important that we pay attention to what He is saying, let alone these are some of the last words that He spoke to His disciples. So our ears really need to listen to the next thing He's about to say.

Matthew 28:18-20 says, 'And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."'

Jesus doesn't just have authority in Heaven, but on Earth. So we see from this that in the Great Commission, there is evangelism and the activation of the Body of Christ to baptize, teach, and make disciples.

Jesus' Call to Teach Others

Of course, there is the five-fold ministry according to Ephesians 4 (See Eph. 4:7-16). Christ gave some gifts to edify the Church, and one of the gifts is to teach. Here in the Great Commission, we see that, as disciples, we are all called to teach. Therefore, I want to declare right now that you all have a teaching ministry, and according to the Word of God, you have been called to go. That means that you are called to spread the Word of God. You have a calling on your life to share the gospel.

There are a lot of individuals who say evangelism isn't for them. That may sound really good. You can even write a book to justify why you don't feel like God has called you. Let me tell you, the Word of God is clear that you have an assignment to go. We have to ask, where is God calling us to go? Where is He calling us to be? How is He sending us to get the good news out? We must realize that we have been called and sent to go.

Jesus' Call to Baptize Others

Jesus highlights another area of calling to believers. He talks about water baptism. There are a lot of individuals who say it is the responsibility of the pastors, deacons, or elders to baptize. But I want to bring us to the Word of God right now. Even Paul, the Apostle, did very few water baptisms. Jesus Himself didn't do the baptizing; it was actually His disciples. We need to have a biblical understanding and not just live by man's traditions. We need to ask, "Where is it in the Word?"

We need everything backed up by the Word of God because "...the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Heb. 4:12) We need to have a biblical understanding and impartation of the Word of God. The message of evangelism and discipleship was never meant to be two separate messages divorced from each other.

We see in Matthew 28 that Jesus is telling people to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. For those who have never done any water baptisms, ask yourselves why. Now, this question isn't to cause guilt or shame.

I'm asking the question because people often don't do something that conflicts with the traditions they were taught. That's what can happen. It's the same issue with healing. With healing, we say, "Well, that's what the pastor does. That's what the apostle does. That's what evangelists do." We don't even realize that we bought into a disempowering gospel where it's only reserved for "the professionals."

Your Called to Disciple Others

Why do I say this? Because I felt like that when I was growing up. I felt that I wasn't gifted or called to certain things when I was born again. All I felt called to do was have good character and share the gospel with some people. I didn't believe God could use me to mentor others. I didn't think that was for me. I thought my main calling was to love Jesus with all my heart and have good character. But then I realized the Word of God had called me to more.

You see, something happens when the Word of God comes alive inside of your heart. When I was a child, people prophesied over me that I was called to be an evangelist. But those prophecies and words did not register in my heart until I began to read the Word of God. I began discovering things in my spirit man through the Word of God. I want to help and encourage you right now. Everything that you see in the Word of God, take for yourself. It is meant for you. Wrap your faith around it.

So, evangelism and discipleship go together. You can actually disciple someone before they even pray a prayer. You can disciple someone by your lifestyle. You can invite people on a journey of discovering who Jesus is. Do you remember what Jesus said to the disciples? He said, "...Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matt. 4:19)

Evangelism and discipleship go hand in hand. Oftentimes, evangelists think it's other individual's jobs to make disciples. That's not biblical. We should all have someone that we're pouring into. We should all have someone that we're mentoring. We should all have someone that we're discipling. Why? Because it's biblical.

The Eight Blessings of Water Baptism

I want to share some things that will help you as you step out. After you lead someone to the Lord, I want you to be excited about making disciples. I want to see you get so excited about actually baptizing people. I've shared this with individuals, and they respond, "Oh my gosh! I've never baptized anyone in water before!" However, they want to learn how to do it. I will share with you some spiritual blessings that come upon individuals who are water-baptized.

Maybe you've never been water-baptized. Well, today, you can be. I was baptized as a child, but I didn't really understand what was happening inside my heart. I did something based on what other people were doing, but I didn't have the

inner conviction that I would literally lay down my life for Jesus Christ. I did something because I saw my older brothers doing it. There wasn't an inner conviction that I would lay my life down for Jesus Christ.

Water baptism is for individuals who have made a commitment to follow Jesus. Water baptism is identifying with Jesus's death and identifying with His resurrection. Later, I was water-baptized when I was 21-years-old. I had a real conviction of who Jesus was and what He had done for me.

I want to share eight blessings that will encourage you in water baptism as it relates to discipleship.

1. The Blessing of Obedience

There is peace in your heart when you choose to obey God. The obedience here is getting water baptized as God told us to in His Word.

2. The Blessing of Being Under the Authority of Jesus Christ

If you want to gain spiritual authority, come under Jesus' authority. One of the ways that you come under His authority is by being water baptized, which is coming under His lordship.

3. The Blessing of Understanding the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Baptism is a symbol of being crucified and risen with Christ. When you are baptized you begin to understand the gospel in a deeper way.

4. The Blessing of a Clean Conscience From Having a Pure Heart

When you are water-baptized, your whole past is done away with! It's buried. And when you come up, you are a new creation. You are clean by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

5. The Blessing of a New Identity

Your past identity, which was founded in sin, is removed and replaced with the new life in Christ Jesus.

6. The Blessing of a Testimony

You have the knowledge of what Jesus has done for you and can do in your family and friends' lives as well.

7. The Blessing of Doing God's Word

The blessing is that you can do everything that the Word of God tells you because you are a believer and a disciple of Jesus Christ. This includes baptizing others. That's exactly right. As a new believer who is baptized, you are qualified to baptize others in the name of the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. You're qualified because you're a new believer in Jesus Christ. You don't have to wait twenty years to baptize someone. Nowhere in the Bible does it instruct that.

8. The Blessing of Being Connected to the Body of Christ

First Corinthians 12:13 says, "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit." When you are baptized, you are part of a larger family of believers who have done the same.

I just shared with you eight spiritual blessings on water baptism. Baptizing others is part of what it means to be a disciple. Teaching others to do the same is also what it means to be a disciple. How can you begin to disciple other people? What are the steps?

Phases of Discipleship

I want to talk to you about phases of discipleship for someone who makes a commitment to follow Jesus. After they've repented of their sins and put faith in Jesus Christ, there are some phases that individuals go through. First of all, we need to recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One who initiates the following. The individual follows based on a heart that responds to the call of God. So, it's understanding that God calls him or her to be a disciple. We see that they are responding to the call of God to follow Him. When interacting with individuals, you teach them to follow Jesus.

Obey Jesus' Commands

One of the ways that we follow Jesus is by observing what He has commanded. There are many commands in the New Testament. Jesus commands that we love Him and that we love each other. Jesus commands that we forgive. As soon as they're born again, we can teach new believers how to forgive those individuals who have done them wrong just as Jesus forgave them. Jesus teaches us about giving; not just financial giving but giving our lives. Jesus teaches us about doing good works and things that please Him. Jesus teaches us about serving each other and laying our lives down for each other. So, we need to understand the commands that Jesus gives us.

Learn From Scripture

How can we learn from these commands? How can we put them into practice? As a disciple, one of the things that we can do is point the new disciple to the Word of God. There are four simple questions that you can ask a new disciple when you're reading passages from the Word of God. Remember, the Word of God is living and powerful. The Word of God is always speaking. The Word of God is relevant for today. It is relevant in this generation.

As you're taking people through the Word of God with a simple passage, ask them:

- 1) How is God being revealed in this passage?
- 2) What is my invitation?
- 3) How can I obey God?
- 4) Who can I share what I'm learning with?

Activate New Disciples

In every disciple's DNA, there is a call to multiply. Every disciple has been created to know Jesus through a personal relationship and to teach others about Jesus. Some studies show that a new believer will share about Jesus with others the most in the first year after receiving Him.

We're doing this evangelism course right now because you may not have been taught the importance of sharing the gospel with other individuals when you got saved. Most likely, you were incorporated into a church setting that, unfortunately, never taught you the importance of how to fish. It never taught you the importance of sharing your Jesus story and seeing others experience what you just experienced. The first year someone gets born again is the best time to activate them towards sharing the gospel.

Why do we think in our Western mindset that people need more training, more training, more training, and more training? When people are young in the Lord, the truth is they do need training. They do need guidance. But there's a passion that God has placed in their hearts. Why water down that passion? We need to guide that passion. We need to help direct that passion. We need to help lead that individual in a way where they can communicate their Jesus story.

You see, evangelism and discipleship were never meant to be divorced. They were never meant to be separated. They go hand in hand, like peanut butter and jelly. The best thing you can do to help somebody who just gave their life to the Lord is to ask them, "Who can you share that you got saved with? Who can you begin to share with? Write their names down?"

Have them begin to take a proactive step. Then you can also ask them, "Who has been praying for you? Has anyone been praying for you?" Maybe there was someone who had already shared the gospel with them. Someone may have been praying for them. Now they can tell them they are born again. Why? Because that teaches them right away that they are in intercession as well. It teaches them right away that they're an intercessor.

You see, often, we put people in categories. We might say, "Oh, that's an intercessor. That's what they do." Or "That's an evangelist." We put people in categories. Yes, according to Ephesians 4, God gives gifts. But let me remind each of us that we are all called to pray. All of us are called to share the gospel. All of us are called to make disciples. So, the greatest way to see people get activated is when they are born again.

It is not to stuff them into a boring classroom where no one is passionate about soul winning. I'm just going to say it right now. Don't stuff them in a boring classroom where there's exegesis and hermeneutics on how to study the Bible, but no outlet for them to preach the gospel. Don't do that. Don't teach them that is what Christianity is. That is not Christianity.

Christianity is not having a bunch of head knowledge without experience. Christianity is being a learner, doer, and teacher. That's what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, to be one who learns from hearing and applying the Word of God.

James puts it this way: "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1:22) You see, we have to hear, and then we have to do. They go hand in hand. So, I encourage you to understand that evangelism and discipleship go hand in hand. God wants to activate every one of you right now.

Let me pray for you. *Father, I pray for every individual who is reading this right now. I pray for a fire in their heart. I pray, Lord Jesus, that for some of them who have made evangelism and discipleship into two different categories, could You make it simple for them and make it about You? Make it about loving You and loving people. Lord, just make it simple. God, we pray for that. Make it simple. Make it all about You. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 How does the concept of discipleship being inseparable from evangelism challenge your current understanding or practices?

02 Reflect on the eight blessings of baptism. How have these blessings manifested in your own life and how can they influence your approach to discipleship and evangelism?

03 Consider the idea of discipleship as a non-stop cycle of evangelism and multiplication. What steps can you take to develop a more active role in evangelism and discipleship within your community?



Activation Steps



01

Embrace Your Role as a Disciple and Teacher

Acknowledge your assignment in the Great Commission, as stated in Matthew 28, to evangelize and disciple others. Recognize that teaching the Word of God and spreading the gospel is a task for all believers, not only for pastors or Church leaders. See this as a God-given assignment and find the specific way God wants you to share His message.



02

Understand and Engage in Baptism

Familiarize yourself with the concept of water baptism and its importance, as it is not only the responsibility of the pastors. If you have never baptized anyone, challenge yourself to understand why. If you haven't been baptized, consider taking this crucial step in your life. Ask your pastor and believing friends about being baptized. You can be baptized in a backyard pool, the beach, or even a bathtub.



03

Memorize the Eight Blessings of Baptism

Spend time studying and memorizing the eight blessings that come from baptism. As you gain a deeper understanding of these blessings, share this understanding with others as part of your discipleship. Understand that your discipleship is about sharing your knowledge, experience, and the blessings you've received, ultimately leading others towards a relationship with Jesus.



Embracing Radical Obedience

Lesson 07

I hope that as we go through this topic, radical obedience, you are challenged to the core and realize that God is looking at your heart. Let me first draw the picture. Do you remember the story when Saul was anointed king but refused to obey the voice of the Lord in First Samuel 15? If not, go there in the Bible and read the story. Samuel rebuked him and said, "You've got a stubborn heart. Disobedience is like witchcraft." (1 Sam. 15:22-23, paraphrased) God is looking for obedience to His Word and voice.

God's Voice Blesses

Let me say this: If you feel God's heart speaking to you about stepping out to pray for the sick, to give a word to someone, or to encourage someone, then that's *not* Satan speaking to you. There are a lot of individuals who are wondering, "Is that God? Is it Satan? Is it me?"

I encourage you to move in faith. Go for it. Satan doesn't want anyone to be blessed. So you need to be able to position your own heart right now to believe that if God inspires and encourages you to step out in faith, that will not be Satan. It won't be Satan who wants to see someone get healed. It won't be Satan wanting to see someone's life delivered. That is the Spirit of the living God. I encourage you to remember Isaiah 26:3: "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

Testimonies of Radical Obedience

I'm going to share some testimonies of radical obedience. As I share these testimonies, I am inspired because I know what God is ready to do in your life! I want to pray for you.

Father, I pray for everyone who reads these testimonies that it would be like the prophetic word of the Lord inside of their spirit man. I pray their spirit man will leap with joy and say, "I believe that God will do this in my life as well. I am designed to hear the voice of God and step out in the supernatural." I pray this over you in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

God Changed My Wife's Family Line

During World War Two, when Hitler was in power, an evangelist came from America and preached the gospel in Europe. He was stirred. He was motivated by love and compassion. He saw people dying, and he knew that eternity was real.

My wife's grandmother is from Germany. She was there while Hitler was in power as a young girl. She remembers this same evangelist coming through Europe preaching the gospel. She went to one of those tent meetings, heard the gospel for the first time, received Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior, and was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

She was changed for a lifetime because of one individual who came from America to preach the gospel in Europe! My wife Stephanie's whole family line was changed and transformed because her grandma was born again. She just recently stepped into eternity with Jesus. When you take a step of obedience, please know that God will back up His Word. At first, it may not look like what you want it to look like, but trust the process and what God is doing in your life.

Waitress Healed by the Power of God

A while back, I was praying and getting ready to meet someone the next day over lunch. I prayed, "Lord, show me what you want to do at lunch." Suddenly, I had this overwhelming sense that the person serving us at the restaurant would have a stomach issue.

The next day at lunch, we ordered our food and started eating, and I said to the waitress, "This might sound strange, but do you have any problems with your stomach? Because last night, the Lord spoke to me that whoever waits on us would have a stomach issue." She became emotional and responded, "How did you know that?!" I answered, "The Lord sent me here to pray for you."

I got out of the booth, stood up, prayed for her, and the power of God came on her. She began to weep and cry under the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was instantly healed by the power of Jesus!

Healing in a Gun Shop

Recently, I was driving and getting ready to go to the gym. The Lord told me I needed to go to a gun shop about twenty minutes from where I live. God told me that there was going to be a Bible study happening there. I thought to myself, "A Bible study at a gun shop?" It sounded very strange, but I decided to follow His leading.

Sometimes, we need to be faithful with the small piece that He gives us, and when we invest our faith behind that small piece, the obedience creates peace in our hearts. We don't always get to see the ripple effect behind our obedience, but we trust that it will sow a seed for the future. In this case, this small act of obedience became a powerful God encounter!

I called my friend and said, "Gerald, you know how I'm teaching you about radical obedience and how you need to obey the Lord? Let me let you in on a story right now. The Lord spoke to me about going to a gun shop. Now, I don't know what is going to happen, but I sense that the Lord told me they would have a Bible study."

Sure enough, they had a Bible study there! I just so happened to have my Bible in my car and took it inside. While I was listening to the Bible study, they talked about rest.

Let me say this quickly: Faith comes out of resting in who Christ is in you. Faith does not come out of striving. Faith comes out of resting in who Christ is. Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27).

After the Bible study was over, I went to the leader, a man named Mike. I said, "Mike, I was getting ready to go to the gym, but the Lord told me you guys were having a Bible study. By any chance, does anyone here have pain in their body?" He pointed to a woman there and said, "I think she does." I had a feeling that someone had pain in their back. It was her.

As I prayed for her, the power of God came upon her. This was how I prayed for her: I asked if I could lay my hand on her back. She said yes. I put my hand on her back. I didn't shout, and I didn't scream. What I did is I stepped into the authority that God gave me as a believer. There is an authority that God gave you and me as believers. The Bible says '...these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will...lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'" (Mark 16:17-18) So I laid my hands on her back and began to command all the pain to leave.

I did an interview process with her. I asked, "How does it feel?" She answered, "All the pain is gone!" She asked, "Can you pray for my hip now?" I replied, "Okay, go ahead and put your hand on the hip." She responded and put her hand on her hip. Then I put my hand on her hand, prayed, and commanded all the pain to

leave. After a short while, I asked, "How does it feel?" She replied, "All the pain is gone." I confirmed, "All the pain is gone?" She answered, "All the pain is gone."

Then she asked, "Can you pray for my knee?" I replied, "Absolutely! I can pray for your knee." I had her put her hand on her knee, and I put my hand on her hand, and I commanded all the pain to leave. She was instantly healed!

The next thing I knew, there was a line of other individuals who wanted prayer, and the power of God began moving in that unlikely place, a gun shop! God wants to use you, too! Faith is spelled R.I.S.K. I encourage you to obey the Lord Jesus Christ. If He is putting something in your heart, go for it.

God Heals at an Apartment Complex

Once, while I was in Georgia, the Lord spoke to me about praying for an individual who was in pain. I was at a church service and was getting ready to speak. But the Lord spoke to me, saying, "There is someone in pain in an apartment complex." I thought to myself, "God, I'm supposed to be speaking soon, but you want me to leave right now and go pray for someone?" Let me say this: to whom much is given, much is required. God was testing my heart, and He will also test your heart.

I told one of the pastors, "I've got to go right now. I know God wants to heal someone. The Lord is speaking to me about someone He wants to heal at an apartment complex." The pastor responded, "Okay, Chris. We trust you."

I took one of the pastors with me and knocked on a few doors. I knocked on the third door, and a woman answered. I said, "Excuse me, ma'am. I don't know if this means anything to you, but I was at this church, and the Lord told me there was someone in pain who I needed to pray for."

She responded, "I have just been praying for God to heal me. I've been in excruciating pain! I just got out of surgery. I was in the hospital. I'm in excruciating pain."

I said, "The Lord has sent me here to lay my hands on you and command all the pain to leave you." I laid my hands on her and commanded the pain to leave her. The power of God came on her, and she was instantly healed by the power of Jesus Christ.

God Speaks at 7 AM

The following testimony I want to share with you is a vulnerable one. It's so important that we watch over our hearts. I was at a certain location and praying through some stuff early in the morning. I just wanted my heart to be at ease and to forgive certain people who had done me wrong. I was praying and knew that the Lord didn't want me to fester on what had happened. So I was up early in the morning, releasing it to the Lord and forgiving individuals.

The moment I finished forgiving was around 7 AM, and it was then that Lord showed me a street. I wrote the street down in my journal. I picked up my friend Gerald and another friend. We were out and about, and hours went by. I had totally forgotten that the Lord spoke to me at 7 AM that same morning.

As we were in a grocery store, we had an hour-and-a-half break before another meeting. I remembered that God gave me a street, Sonoma Street, that I had written down in my journal. I said, "Guys, I don't have time to rest this afternoon. I've got to go to Sonoma Street." So we got in the car and went to Sonoma Street. We drove around asking God, "Lord, what do you want to do?" There was one apartment complex that was highlighted to us on Sonoma Street.

We parked, got out of the car, and there was this woman by another car. So we walked up to her, and I said, "Excuse me, ma'am. The Lord has sent us here." When I said that, she began to get emotional. I said, "God loves you, and He sent us here." Then the Lord began to show me things about her daughter, so I began to prophesy about her.

Little did I know, at 7 AM that morning, she was crying out to God and prayed, "God, please send help!" She had gotten sick and had been out of work. Her car broke down, and she didn't know how her car was going to get fixed. The Lord knew her condition, and the Lord sent us there. He spoke to us at that moment and said to help her. That's exactly what we did.

We got her car fixed, and she began to share the testimony of what God did for her. The testimony began to spread. She had been witnessing to her friend who was in the occult and had a new age mindset. As she shared with him about what God had done, he was shocked that God would speak to an ordinary person, just like you, and send them to another person who needed a miracle. That day, this woman realized that God loved her so much.

You see, when people have an encounter with Jesus Christ, it reveals their need for Him. It also reveals that Jesus loves them so much. Let me say that again. It reveals their need for Jesus, but it also reveals that Jesus loves them so much.

Woman is Born Again and a Financial Miracle

I remember being in another church service and, during the service, the Lord spoke to me again that I was to leave. He led me to a location about twenty minutes from where I was. Now, this was at a conference. I said to God, "Lord, are you kidding me? You want me to leave right now?!" At that moment, I had a heart issue. I knew my hands could stay up during worship, but my heart wasn't yielding, my will wasn't folding to God. I felt conviction that I needed to yield to the Lord.

So I took a friend, Richie Seltzer, and drove twenty minutes away. As we drove, the Lord said, "Look for apartment number five." He showed me a vision. I had a

sudden picture of an apartment complex, and then He showed me apartment number five. This was the first time I had been to this apartment. I knocked on the door, and a young woman who had two little kids came to the door. God had already told Richie that he was going to give away a certain amount of money that day, but he didn't know who he would give it to.

I said to this woman, "Excuse me, ma'am. I know this sounds strange. I was at a church, and God told me to leave and come to your apartment." I asked, "By any chance, do you know what it means to be born again?" She replied, "No." Then I explained the gospel to her, and she was born again!

Now, one of her daughters had a little plastic purse. When Richie noticed her pick up that purse and give it to her mom, he knew she was the one he needed to give the money to. Richie reached down and put a bunch of money into this plastic kid's purse. You should have seen the tears coming down her face! You see, God not only knew her spiritual need to be born again, but God also knew her financial need. She needed a financial miracle.

I want to say this: God wants to use you in power. God wants to use you in incredible ways. There are a lot of people who say door-to-door evangelism does not work. I absolutely disagree! I think we need to become bold in our faith and share the gospel with others. Listen, if the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, which are cults, are going door-to-door, then I think we need to wake up. We need to realize that door-to-door evangelism is still effective.

Alex is Born Again

I knocked on this one individual's door one time. His name was Alex. Now, Alex had just gotten out of prison. When I knocked on his door, he was stand-off-ish. I shared the gospel with him, but he didn't want to hear anything I had to say the first day. I said, "Alex, I'll be seeing you again. I'll be coming back."

I kept my word and was consistent. I knocked on his door the next week because that was a neighborhood we had adopted. The following week, as I shared the gospel with him, God had changed his heart within a week's time. Alex gave his life to Jesus Christ! Then, Alex was baptized in water and went to college. Since then, Alex's life has been radically changed and transformed by the power of Jesus Christ!

God is speaking to many of you right now. God wants to use you. I encourage you to take a step of faith and obey Jesus. I want to pray for you.

Father, I pray right now for every story and testimony I just shared, Lord, that You would use them to prophesy radical obedience. Lord, I pray that you would demystify evangelism. Let it be about love, radical obedience, and preaching the simple truth of Jesus Christ; that He saves, heals, and delivers. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 Reflect on a moment in your life when you sensed the leading of the Holy Spirit. Did you obey and act on it? If so, what were the outcomes? If not, what held you back?

02 Looking at the various testimonies shared, what fears or reservations do you have about taking similar steps of faith in your own life? How might you address these fears to become more radically obedient to God's voice?

03 In the story of Alex, we saw the transformative power of persistent evangelism. How might this influence your approach to sharing the gospel, especially with those who are resistant at first? Are there specific people in your life who you feel led to reach out to with the gospel?



Activation Steps

01

Practice Active Listening

Make a conscious effort to listen for God's voice in your life. This can happen in quiet moments of prayer, during Bible study, or even in unexpected moments during your daily routine. Ask God questions and write down what He says. Pay attention to these leadings and be open to the possibility that God might be leading you towards a specific action or decision which may be uncomfortable and even inconvenient. Just be faithful and be consistent.

02

Take a Leap of Faith

Once you sense God's voice, don't hold back. Whether it's sharing the gospel with a stranger, giving a word of knowledge, praying for someone's healing, or even taking a detour from your daily routine, take that step of faith. Trust that God is guiding you and that He will use your obedience for His greater purpose. Remember, faith spells RISK.

03

Practice Radical Obedience

Determine to be radically obedient to God's instructions. This could mean moving beyond your comfort zone and overcoming fear. Remember the testimonies shared here, and let them inspire you to trust God in every situation. His direction may not always make sense in the moment, but the end result reveals His power and purposes.



Deliverance and the Four Doors

Lesson 08

In this lesson, we will be talking about deliverance. I will share the four doors that open up the demonic realm in people's lives. Then, I will share how you can minister to individuals in the public place through deliverance.

Listen, deliverance doesn't have to only take place inside of a church service. Deliverance can take place on the highways and the byways, in the marketplace, or wherever you go. We can see it clearly modeled through the life of Jesus Christ. Jesus was always casting out demons. That's right. Jesus was always casting out demons. In the Great Commission told by Mark (Mark 16:14-20), believers are called to cast out demons when they preach the gospel. So let's talk about it.

Jesus gives us a command in the Great Commission to cast out demons and to expand His kingdom through preaching the gospel. We need to understand that demons are a part of the kingdom of darkness. There's a Kingdom of light, and there's a kingdom of darkness. When the finger of God drives out demons, the Kingdom of Heaven is being manifested. When the Kingdom of Heaven is being manifested, it is colliding and clashing with the kingdom of darkness! Darkness cannot stand the light. When the light comes on, the darkness has to flee!

The Door of Unforgiveness

There are four doors that the enemy is always looking for so he can get into people's hearts and lives. The first door that I often see is unforgiveness. The enemy is always looking for individuals who have unforgiveness. In Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus teaches that if you don't forgive others, the torturers will be released upon you and imprison you.

There are many individuals who have been tormented by demon spirits because of unforgiveness. They came into their hearts and lives because of unforgiveness. Unforgiveness opened a door into their lives for demons to torment them. Now, that's not just my opinion. That's what the Bible says, according to Matthew 18 (See Matt. 18:21-35).

The Door of the Occult

The second door is the occult. Many individuals think that white magic is okay. It's not okay. Many individuals believe that Ouija boards are okay. They think, "It's just a little Ouija board. There's nothing really to it. There's nothing wrong with doing that."

The truth is that any form of magic is of Satan. We need to call it for what it really is. There is no innocent white magic. It's all from the Devil. Many individuals live with demon spirits because they've consciously or unconsciously invited demons to live inside of them through magic and the occult. The occult has different forms, and they all originate from Satan.

Let me say this quickly: Humanism is witchcraft. You may think, "Whoa, I didn't think you would go there!" But humanism is witchcraft. Anything that exalts a man above God is a form of witchcraft. It's a form of satanism. Anything that exalts man above God is satanism. Many times, people have idols in their lives, and they don't even realize it. They have idols of wealth. They have idols of gold. They have idols of silver.

They have idols in their lives. God does not want anyone to have idols in their life. Yes, even Christians can have idols in their lives. So we must identify the idols that are in our lives and in our hearts. We must resist them and make Jesus our Lord in every area of our lives.

We need to talk about the occult. Many people are demonized because they have literally gotten into magic. I've talked about this before, but Harry Potter is not innocent. Listen, Satan is a deceiver. He is on the prowl right now for our children in this generation. Satan is using white magic and all these things that look so innocent, like Harry Potter. Satan is a deceiver. I am seeing young kids get delivered of demons after they repent, renounce Harry Potter, and get rid of it.

Don't tell me, Mom and Dad, that it's good. It's not just a story. I've seen young

kids get demonized by getting involved in a little white magic like Harry Potter. Don't email me and tell me how innocent it is, how it's just a little movie, or how we don't want to get rid of the books in our house. You need to do that. If you're reading this right now, get rid of any form of magic.

There are many people who are into yoga. They do certain poses, which are forms of praying to gods. Listen, stop it. You can stretch, but you don't need to pray to all these false gods. There is only one true God, and His name is Jesus Christ. Shut the door. Even now, say, "I shut the door."

The Door of Sexual Immorality

The third door that people open up in their lives is sexual immorality. And people justify this all the time. They open the door in their heart and become demonized because of sexual immorality.

Pornography

I see men and women who have no spiritual confidence because they're watching pornography all the time. They have no ability to step out and manifest the power of God because they are bound. They have opened the door of porn in their life.

Homosexuality

Some individuals live a homosexual lifestyle, go to church, and think it's okay. Now, I am not trying to point fingers at anyone. I'm asking you, "What are you saying yes to?" We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We all need Jesus. I'm just openly declaring the Word of God that involves how demonic spirits can be invited through lifestyle decisions.

What are you saying yes to? Listen to me. Some individuals may be constantly living worldly and sleeping around. Those decisions do invite demons into their lives. The good news is that Jesus can free them. Each and every one of them can become free.

If someone is in the Church and is in an immoral sexual or homosexual relationship, the worst thing you can do is justify it, saying, "It's okay. It's no problem." Yes, it is a problem. Oftentimes, people are afraid to share the truth in love. Because of that, people live lifestyles that are bound to demonic spirits. There are individuals who live under the pressure of demonic spirits, but God can set them free.

Deliverance Prayer

When I lead someone to the Lord, I ask them to repeat a prayer I give them to pray. I say, "Repeat after me. Jesus, I break up with any spirit or anything that doesn't line up with Your cross and Your Spirit. I tell it to go now. I want only You in my life." They repeat this, and many have told me they feel like a one-hundred-pound weight was lifted off their back.

I ask them, "What's going on? Can you describe what you're feeling right now?" They often say that they feel peace. Some say they don't know how to describe it but feel something they have never felt before. I get to tell them, "That's Jesus. You're getting to experience Jesus because you have said yes to him right now!" Remember, when you give up your peace, you give up your authority. Isaiah 26:3 says, "You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

The Door of Fear

The fourth door is fear. Second Timothy 1:7 says, "for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." Oftentimes, we have the choice to give in to fear or not. Many individuals open the door to fear all the time.

Fear is constantly tormenting them. The Bible says, "...perfect love casts out fear..." (1 John 4:18). This means that we invite Jesus, and His perfect love will replace the fear. I have felt fear many, many times. It's just a decision to listen to the fear or God. I have never regretted listening to God. Even the disciples prayed, "...Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness..." (Acts 4:29).

Across the body of Christ, deliverance ministries are on the rise. What do I mean by that? I believe that more deliverance ministries are being highlighted to individuals who will begin them.

The Need to Steward Deliverance

Let me say this: Just because someone gets delivered of a demon doesn't mean they will stay free from a demon. In Luke 11:24-26, Jesus teaches that once that demon leaves a person, they better get filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.'"

Many individuals can experience deliverance, but if they go right back to their habits, those demon spirits will come back in. The Bible says they will even come seven times worse than before. So, when someone gets delivered, it's very important that they get filled with the Holy Spirit directly after.

Something happened many years ago. I lost contact with an individual who had been delivered from a demon. Unfortunately, he didn't stay on the right path, and those demons came back seven times worse.

Let me tell you the story. I was out and about in the community, taking people out on the streets, praying for people, and ministering to people. When we do this, we're often only looking for people who are highlighted, who stand out to us. Often, that's who God is directing us to connect with.

Sometimes, we'll ask the Holy Spirit, "Where should we go?" Other times, we've felt that a specific location in the city was highlighted to us. Then, we will go there over and over again. This time, I felt we needed to go to a downtown area in Redding, California. So, I brought some young people with me who were learning and wanting to grow in stepping out. They were looking for someone who would model it for them and had a little more experience. I was that individual in that moment.

I brought them out on the streets. I remember getting ready to talk to this gentleman who was about to go inside a building. It was a retirement center, and he was connected to someone there, but he wasn't retired.

He was probably around 47 years old and was dressed a certain way. I won't judge him at all, but I could tell he was struggling with his identity. So, I began to chat with him and share how much Jesus loved him. At first, he didn't want to hear anything that I had to say. I felt the person of the Holy Spirit. Now, remember the Holy Spirit is the greatest evangelist, and we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

As I approached him, I felt the tangible presence of God come upon me. I asked, "Can I pray for you?" And he let me pray for him. As I drew nearer, I laid my hands on his head. As I began to lay my hands on his head, I said, "Boom!" He fell out under the power of God on the street! The next thing I knew, he slid around like a snake on the ground and reached for someone's pant leg. One of the guys I had with me on the street jumped up and yelled! I saw that this guy's hand had turned into a claw. It was like his hand bent like a claw. It was wild.

I recognized at that moment that it was a demon. So I stood over him and commanded the demon to leave his life. I began to preach the gospel to him, and the demon left him. The next thing I knew, he was receiving Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and was baptized in the Holy Spirit. He got up and began praying in tongues, baptized in the Holy Spirit.

He got up and asked, "What in the world happened to me?" We told him what happened to him, that he had a demon living inside of him, and he had Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. He made a commitment during that encounter to give his life to Christ.

Lordship

God demands that He be the Lord of our lives. Here's the deal: nowhere in the Bible does Jesus teach "once saved, always saved." Let me explain because I know I just freaked out some of you.

Jesus talks about lordship. Jesus talks about following and obeying Him. Jesus talks about making sure that your heart is right. Jesus talks about surrendering your will to His will. So, throughout the journey, this man started off really good.

Do you remember Mark 4:1-20, when Jesus taught a parable about different types of ground? Remember the passage about when the seed is sown? If not, I encourage you to read the passage right now and then come back. Well, I'll tell you this. The man in downtown Redding had many seeds sown and was delivered. But guess what happened? He never allowed that seed to grow deep into his heart and make roots.

Something happened after he got delivered. About eight months later, I saw this individual, and he was worse than before. He said to me, "I can't point the finger." I explained to him that he had the responsibility to make a commitment to go after the Lord. We gave him some steps, but he had the responsibility.

I pray to God that God gets a hold of him. Although he was delivered when we saw him the first time, the demons had all come back eight months later. His face totally changed. This is one reason why discipleship is so important and why evangelism and discipleship go hand in hand.

Testimony of Deliverance From Witchcraft

I had another group of individuals who were out once sharing the good news. During that outreach, I was preparing to share the gospel with people when I saw a certain gentleman. As I walked by him, I said, "Man, Jesus loves you so much." Sometimes, when you talk to individuals, you may not have the full picture. So, I began to share how much Jesus loved him and shared the gospel with him. As I began to share the gospel with him, the power of God came very strongly. The Lord's presence was in that parking lot. The power of God and the Kingdom of God were manifested right there.

As I began to talk and share the gospel with him, I said, "I want to pray for you." Once again, I felt His presence come around and show supernatural activity. Let me say this quickly: for you or me to deny angelic presence is silly because angels are present with us all the time. Angels are sent to help people inherit salvation. We were never called to worship angels, but we can't deny that angels are there.

So, we prayed for him. The power of God came upon him. He was out cold under the power of God on the pavement, and God was touching his life. He began getting delivered. Guess what he did? He surrendered his life to the Lord, got up and said, "I don't want this anymore."

He started taking things out of his bag. He had a witchcraft magazine and a bunch of marijuana. He declared, "I am done!" He got rid of all of it. You should have seen it! He threw everything in the dumpster. Then he put all the marijuana in the dumpster and spread it out all over. He began to pour Coca-cola and a bunch of stuff over it so that no one would get it later. I saw the tenacity inside of him after what Jesus had just done in his life.

Testimony of Deliverance From Unforgiveness

My wife and I were in Ireland, and while we were there, we had the honor to preach at both a Protestant and Catholic gathering together. After one of the sessions, a lady came up to Stephanie and me and began to talk to us. And all of the sudden, boom! She hit the ground and began to slide around like a snake. Everyone around was taken back. Then I said, "Guys, it's going to be fine." I felt the Holy Spirit lead me in that moment to kneel down and say, "You're going to be fine."

Then I felt the Holy Spirit speak to me and say, "forgiveness." I laid my hand on her head and said, "You're going to be fine. Ask the Holy Spirit who you need to forgive."

The Holy Spirit began to show her individuals whom she needed to forgive. As she began to forgive them one by one, I led her in this simple prayer: "Jesus, thank you for forgiving me of all. I forgive this person for everything they've done to me, everything they haven't done for me, and I break the chains of unforgiveness and torment. I command them to leave me right now, in Jesus' name."

As she began to pray that prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to fill her heart, she was completely set free! She got off the ground, and she looked completely different. The power of God came upon her life. I want to encourage you that when you're out in the community sharing the gospel, God can move powerfully!

Specific Wisdom for Sexual Immorality

The last story I'll share is about sexual immorality. Many people who don't know Jesus Christ as their Lord live in sexual sin. If you have ever run across someone who's in a church and living in sexual immorality, they are bound by demon spirits. The greatest thing that you can do is have compassion on them. Don't judge them; have compassion on them. Tell them the truth: to renounce it and shut the door. Renounce it and shut the door.

A belief came into the body of Christ about twenty years ago that justified pornography. I saw this belief begin to form inside individuals. People began to say, "You know, I don't watch it all the time, so it's okay." It began to create this pattern in people's lives of being bound. They may not feel any spiritual confidence and feel bound to their habitual sin (See Romans 6). They may not feel any authority coming out of their lives. I'm not picking on anyone. I'm just saying that God wants people to be set free. Why? Anyone who is bound by sexual immorality, and I label pornography as sexual immorality, has their confidence stolen. That's exactly what the enemy wants to do: steal people's confidence.

God Wants to Use You to Close the Doors

God wants to have compassion on individuals. He wants to help individuals who have these strongholds in their lives. God wants to help them shut the doors. You're going to run into people all over the place who are dealing with these four doors. God will help you minister to them. The greatest thing you must do is recognize that the Holy Spirit is the greatest teacher.

The reason we develop a relationship with God in the secret place is because we love Him. We love the Lord, and we discover the voice of the Holy Spirit in the secret place. It's in the public place where we begin to hear how the Holy Spirit speaks. He will speak to you. He is the greatest teacher, and He will teach you on the job. He will teach you in the moment. He will teach you. Some of the greatest classroom settings are in the moment. I encourage you to pay attention to the Holy Spirit. Watch God move in you and through you. I pray that God blesses you and stirs your faith. God wants to use you in a powerful way! It's all about what you say yes to. Start by saying yes to God, and He will direct your path!

Reflection Questions

As you answer these questions, get honest and real about your current beliefs and practices. Then take these to prayer and dialogue with God about His heart for these questions.

01 Reflecting on the four doors (unforgiveness, the occult, sexual immorality, and fear), which ones have you possibly left unguarded in your life? How might you begin to close these doors in your own life?

02 In this lesson, it was stated that deliverance isn't always permanent and emphasized the importance of filling the void with the Holy Spirit. How can you maintain freedom and deliverance in your life and others? What steps can you take to grow in God and ensure the constant indwelling of the Holy Spirit?

03 In what ways have you experienced or witnessed the power of forgiveness and its ability to break the chains of spiritual bondage? How might you apply this understanding of forgiveness to your own life, and extend it to others who may be struggling? Spend some time with Jesus and ask if there's anyone you need to forgive.



Activation Steps

**01**

Acknowledge and Close the Four Doors

Reflect on your life and identify any possible doors of vulnerability that might have been left open for demonic influence. These doors could be in the form of unforgiveness, involvement in the occult, sexual immorality, or fear. Recognize these weaknesses and actively work to close them. This might involve forgiving someone who has wronged you, renouncing past involvement with occult practices, or making a commitment to receive deliverance ministry.

**02**

Seek Deliverance and Spiritual Growth

If you feel oppressed by demonic influences due to the open doors in your life, seek deliverance. This could be through prayer, seeking help from a trusted pastor or friend, or attending a deliverance ministry. After experiencing deliverance, it is essential to fill the void with the Holy Spirit to prevent the return of the demonic influence. Cultivate your relationship with God, immerse yourself in His word, and seek to grow in God to avoid falling back into old patterns.

**03**

Engage in Discipleship and Deliverance

Once you've closed the doors to maintain your own freedom, use your experience to help others who may be struggling with similar issues. Share your story, offer your insights, and provide comfort and support. Remember the call of Jesus in the Great Commission to cast out demons and expand His kingdom. Consider joining or starting a deliverance ministry in your community to help others experience the freedom that you have found. Remember that God wants to use you to bring His transformative power into the lives of others.



Chris Overstreet

Founder & Director



[Become a Partner](#)

Dear Partner in the Gospel,

Hi, my name is Chris Overstreet, and I am so excited about what God is doing all across America right now. At Compassion to Action, we exist to impact communities by preaching and demonstrating the good news of Jesus Christ, equipping believers in evangelism, and putting compassion into action.

We have seen God move in mighty ways. We've seen people equipped to become ambassadors of Jesus Christ and to make disciples that will make disciples. Would you consider becoming a partner at Compassion to Action or giving a one-time gift? Your partnership will help us make an impact.

When I think about eternity, there's nothing better than investing in souls. When we only have one life to live, we live in such a way that it makes sense in the light of eternity. Lives have been changed by the power of God. We've been seeing people get saved, healed, and delivered because of individuals like you who believe in the vision.

Would you be a Compassion to Action ambassador? Would you pray about partnering with us? We can't do what we're doing apart from individuals like you.

There are all types of gifts that you can give. You can give a one-time gift, or you can become a monthly Compassion to Action ambassador and give monthly as the Lord moves on your heart. No amount of money is too small to partner with us.

We're so thankful for your partnership and excited about seeing lives changed and transformed all over America and beyond. Thank you for your partnership and generosity.