

Why Do I Need to Evangelize (1)

Reasons to Evangelize

By Victor Beshir

There are many reasons why we should reach out and evangelize or get involved in some missionary work. Some of these reasons are as follows;

1. Our Lord commands us to evangelize
2. Evangelism is the secret behind the success of the first church
3. It is critical to evangelize in the Western societies
4. Evangelism helps people to learn about our Lord's salvation and the eternal life. This knowledge may lead them to believe in the Lord, who through baptism will make them children of God.
5. Other groups have diligently worked on spreading their faith in Western Societies (i.e. *Far East Religions*, cults, Islam, and Atheism). Therefore, Christians need now more than anytime before, to have a complete and thorough understanding of their faith, as St. John warns us saying, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but *that* we may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." (2 John 1:7-9).
6. Modern Christian churches have lost their connection to the historical church, the church established by Christ and His apostles, which resulted in churches with "spiritual void" and consequently spiritual emptiness that made their members easy preys for other religions or groups.

In this lesson, we will discuss the first and second reasons.

First: It is Our Lord's commandment

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ's last words on earth were, "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 obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt: 28:19-20)
2. There are many other direct verses that urge us to do the evangelistic work. A good reference book that lists the verses is written by H.G Bishop Antonius Markos, called "An Introduction to the Theology of Mission".

3. The spirit and the essence of the New Testament are manifested in: "[For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.](#)" (John 3:16) So, God's heart is in the salvation of everyone. He offered the highest price anyone could pay, His life on the cross, after a horrible death. He is looking for us to spread this great news of salvation. Notice the words "that whoever believes." He did not talk about masses of people, but His love and interest is in the salvation of everyone.
4. The same intense burning desire of the Lord to save each individual is noted in [Luke 15](#), where He gives three parables: 'The Lost Sheep,' 'The Lost Coin,' and 'The Lost Son.' In each parable, we can see where God's heart is. How many of you come in contact with lost ones each day? It is the Lord's desire to find someone like you and me to carry out the gospel's joyful message, the word of life, and the light of salvation to those lost ones.
5. Take a look at this striking verse, "[There would be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance](#)" (Luke 15:7). Think about how much joy you may generate in heaven over the course of your life if you work as an evangelism worker!
6. Over 25 years ago, an old wise servant, named Ayaad, used to lecture in the Sunday school servants meeting that I attended. Ayaad was a truly spiritual person. His words always inflamed our hearts with the love of our Lord and His Children. His tears were a great witness to the flames of love burning in his heart for the lost sheep. Ayaad once told us this story: "One day, a Sunday school servant saw a person entering the church, whom he did not see in the church before. He ran towards him and welcomed him warmly. That person looked at the servant in amazement and asked if he knew him. The servant answered, 'yes, my beloved, I have been praying for this moment for twenty years.' These were Ayaad's last words before he sat down, bursting into tears. His words touched our hearts deeply that day because he was speaking from the bottom of his heart.

Dear friend, we need to learn how to care about the salvation of others, as we care about our own salvation. Imagine how you would feel on the last day, if you found out that your name is not written in the book of life? Think about it. Would you like this to happen to you? If not, then we should help others to have their names written in the book of life through evangelism. Our hearts need to be filled with God's love for the lost sheep, and we need to work in the field of evangelism as hard as we can.

Second: Evangelizing is the secret behind the success of the first church.

1. Historians estimate that the early church was growing on an annual rate of 40 %. This is why Christianity reached most of the civilized world, known at that time, in a very short duration.
2. The Holy Spirit was working strongly because people, like you and I, were ready to follow the Lord no matter what the cost was, including their life.
3. They truly believed that their lives were not theirs anymore, but rather the life of Christ in them. They no longer lived for themselves but for the Lord, who died for them and was raised from the death, as St. Paul says, **“He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again” (2 Corinthians 5:15)**. Can you and I compare our faith and our love to theirs? I would be the first to confess my weak faith. But let us courageously confess these sins, and ask God to help us not to live for ourselves anymore. Let our work in evangelism and our love for our brothers and sisters erase these years of ignorance of the value of the grace of God! God wants those people who put Him first in their lives, because He is their life. Away from God, we have no life, something all of us experience repeatedly, but hardly admit it. Isn't it time to surrender our will and our lives to God, and choose life instead of the spiritual death we live in now?
4. When it comes to evangelism, there is no more joyful news than what you read in the book of Acts. I urge you to start reading this book to enjoy learning about the source and influence of evangelism in the early church, the church of the Apostles.
5. To see what happened in the first church, I would like to quote just one verse, **“And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47)**
6. Now, I would like to ask, “How much joy did they experience? Was it an earthly joy that faded away and vanished after a while, or a heavenly joy that developed and transformed into more inner peace, more boldness to evangelize, and a lasting joy? I think the second answer is the correct one. I will not hesitate to say that,” the source of our sadness is our failure to commit our lives to God, and our lack of love towards the lost sheep.” Are you eager to start to evangelize? Although we are weak and we do not know that much about evangelism, God’s promises always direct us to look at Him rather than looking at ourselves. God promised that He would be with us unto the end of ages. My friend, no matter how old you are, how much you know, how strong or weak you feel, put your life in God’s Hands, and let His Spirit strengthen you, completing every weakness in you, and leading you.

You must, however, make it a very serious commitment in your life. Let it be one of your everyday necessities. Declare it to be a one-time surrender to God. Decide in your heart that this is the beginning of a life you always longed to live. Determine that there is no turning back, by the grace of God, the One Who loves you dearly and seeks your salvation first, before thinking about the salvation of others. I urge you to make this decision.

At the same time, after asking for your hard work, I'd like to show you what God does for you to realize the depth of His love for you personally and also for those who you will-with His grace-evangelize:

All the following verses are from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians:

- 1- "Has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ" (Eph 1:3)
- 2- "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love" (Eph 1:4)
- 3- "Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved" (Eph 1:5,6).
- 4- "you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power" (Eph 1: 18,19)
- 5- "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ." (Eph 2:4).
- 6- "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph 2: 10).

It is my invitation to you to discover the power of the grace of God that is waiting for your move to fulfill all what mentioned in the above verses and much more. I cannot tell you how delicious an apple is before I taste an apple. Similarly, we need to discover the power of His work inside us before we can give testimony about His work. How do we discover it? Through faith and practice of: prayers, reading the Gospel, repentance, partaking of the Holy Communion, and living for Christ.

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Questions to answer and send to the instructor:

- 1- Can you think of any other reasons as to why we need to evangelize?
- 2- Search the Bible for verses that talk about evangelism or missionary work (You may use a Bible Concordance, Online Bible search, such as: <http://www.biblegateway.com/>)

