



DEVELOPING YOUR EVANGELISTIC MINISTRY

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Preparing For Battle

In this study we will discuss developing your evangelistic ministry. "What?" you might say, "I already have an evangelistic ministry!" I recognize that some of you may already be active in evangelistic ministry, but even so, we must look at it from the perspective of kings preparing to go out to the fields of battle. If we were in our castles we would be sharpening our swords, preparing our armor and getting ready physically for what was ahead of us in our work for that season. But what does that preparation look like in the here and now?

Today's evangelist is an educated ambassador empowered with the tools necessary to be a voice. No, we don't have to be educated in computer science, but we must be educated in the subject matter required for us to be a relevant voice to our generation. The study you are about to undertake will concentrate on 7 key points, or actions, that directly relate to developing your evangelistic ministry.

Are you ready? Let's get started!

I. Personal Intercession

Personal Intercession is important because we want the thoughts and intentions of God. We want to know what He desires us to accomplish in our ministries in the harvest fields of the world.

You are the one who takes your personal life of prayer and worship with the Lord, and you focus it in a particular direction. Matthew 9:38 tells us to, "*Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field,*" but it's more than that, we want to *embrace the same passion* that Jesus displayed in Matthew chapter 9. When Jesus looked out onto the harvest fields they were white and ready for harvest, yet scripture tells us that He was troubled because they were like sheep without a shepherd.





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As we embrace the passion that Jesus had and the reality of the good news of the Gospel, we begin to understand that the Great Shepherd's heart is not just a pastor's heart that brings the people to one location and takes care of them, but in His heart we also find the Apostle, the Prophet, the Pastor, the Teacher and the Evangelist. These fivefold ministries are engaged in bringing in the harvest, equipping the body of Christ, and strengthening us together.

So, evangelists, as you go out into the field there is no excuse not to love or care for the people. You are empowered by the great Shepherd with the attitude of God's heart and God's love. You are one who knows that yes, you CAN defeat the lion—yes, you CAN defeat the bear—YES, you CAN do it with one small, smooth stone...but you do it with the passion, the love, and the commitment of your Savior, Jesus Christ.

Another area of personal intercession that we want to be involved with is praying for the pastors and the evangelists that are already out there in the field, and for the believers according to Romans 15:30-31, *"I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there..."* We want to be praying that they will join us in the struggle of reaching the lost for Christ.

We also want to remember that we should, according to Colossians 4:3, pray for open doors. *"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains."*

Years ago in Russia I remember a group of us getting on a little "puddle jumper" airplane with no seats and no stairs, we had to hoist each other up and throw our bags inside for our flight to a little place called Ust-Kut. We were going there to preach the gospel to a group of people who were on fire to bring the love of God to their community and the communities around them.

I remember them so well as I talked to them about the importance of passion for the harvest and seeing the harvest that God sees. I held up a map of the world and pointed to a spot way over on the other side of the world from where we all sat that



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day, saying “this is where I am from, Daytona Beach, Florida!” Their eyes grew big as they looked, and I said, “Yes, it is the uttermost ends of the earth!” We all began to laugh together because wherever you are, to someone else in this earth that is the uttermost parts of the earth!

According to 2 Thessalonians 3:1 we should pray that our message spreads, and we also want to pray that we would be delivered from wicked and evil people. There are those who don’t know Christ and they will have schemes to prevent the spread of the Gospel.

Many times in the middle of the night I have had a vision of a face, and sometimes knew it was an evil face and one that I needed to be very aware of as I marched out onto the field to do the evangelism event for that day, or to set up an event. I was sometimes warned that I might go to jail if I did the wrong thing, or I was warned that if this face shows up I was to remove them immediately. I've even been advised that this person was in desperate need of salvation and was going to die.

As we conclude this section, always remember that as an evangelist, a minister, or a layperson who is going out to reach the lost, we are to continuously meditate, memorize and reflect on the Word of God.



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