

REKINDLING THE FIRE OF EVANGELISM

THE BELIEVER'S ROLE IN EVANGELISM



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January 22, 2017

If a person was lying on the ground dying and asked you, “How can I go to heaven?” What would you tell them?

During this series, would you ask God to lay some unsaved person on your heart? Would you commit to pray for them during this time and be open to how God would use you in their life?

In Evangelism there are four entities at work: The Seed, The Soil, The Sower and The Supreme Harvester.

THE SEED

The Seed Is the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

The Gospel is the “The Good News” which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Two Observations about Natural Seeds

- Even though the seed is dormant, it has life.
On the outside it may look like an inanimate object but inwardly it is teeming with energy.
- The seed has all that is needed to produce a fully grown plant.
As it germinates in the ground, it begins the process of growing into the plant it will be when fully grown

The Gospel Is the Incorruptible Seed (1 Pet. 1:23).

THE SOWER

The sower is you and me, the children of God (Matt. 28:19-20). We are the laborers in the field (Matt. 9:37-38). God uses people to deposit the seed of the Gospel into the hearts of unbelievers. As sowers we have two responsibilities—to plant and to water. In 1 Corinthians 3:6 Paul says, “I have planted, Apollos watered...” In verse 8 he gives further clarity to this concept when he states, “Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one. We plant the seed when we share the Gospel with the unbeliever. There are four ways that we can water the seed:

- Water with **prayer**
- Water with **love**.
- Water with **service**.
- Water with **lifestyle**.

THE SOIL

The soil is the hearts of the unbelievers. In Matthew 13:1-23 Jesus gave the Parable of the Seeds which reveal to us the four types of soil or hearts of the unsaved.

The Foolish Soil (19) “seeds fell by the wayside”

The first type of soil we see is foolish soil. This is a person who hears the Gospel and does not understand it because he is foolish. His heart is hard and the seed of the Gospel is not able to penetrate it. Because the seed is not able to enter in to his heart it just lies on top of it. The devil can snatch it away through pride, doubt, procrastination, etc

The Fearful Soil (20-21) “seeds fell on stony ground”

This soil enthusiastically receives the Gospel but like the first soil, it falls on a stony place and does not penetrate the heart. Therefore when tribulation and persecution arise the person with this type of soil in his heart becomes fearful and falls away from his profession.

The Fleshly Soil (22) “seeds fell among the thorns”

In this situation the seed fell in soil that was infested with thorns. This soil represents a heart dominated by the flesh. Its desire is for things that satisfy the flesh—the world and riches. The Gospel seed lands in this soil but it is overshadowed by the desire and pursuit of power, pleasures, prestige, and possessions. The seed is unable to take root because there are too many other things abiding in the soil.

The Fruitful Soil (23) “seeds fell into good ground”

The soil has been prepared to receive the seed. This preparation could have been caused by circumstances in an individual’s life or by the Lord nourishing the soil with His heavenly fertilizer

THE SUPREME-HARVESTER

The one who harvests the soul is God. In that familiar and often quoted passage the Apostle Paul said, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase” (1 Cor. 3:5-7). It is God’s job to give the increase or to harvest the soul. If we are faithful to witness to lost souls, we should not be discouraged if they do not receive Christ. It is up to the Lord to save them and when the person rejects the Gospel he in essence is rejecting God. The conversion of a soul is such a great task it requires the work of the Trinity. God the Son draws the unbeliever to Himself (Jn. 12:32); God the Holy Spirit convicts the unbeliever (Jn. 16:7-11); God the Father saves the unbeliever (Eph. 2:8-9).