



Knowing, Living, and Speaking the Gospel

Lesson 1: Healthy Evangelism

Lesson outline

- Knowing
 - What is the gospel?
 - Don't assume the gospel
- Living
 - Living the implications of the gospel
 - Understanding true Biblical conversion
 - The gospel made visible
- Speaking
 - Taking action – sharing your faith
 - Taking action – sharing your testimony

Introduction

What is evangelism

- Evangelism is teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade

'Do' or 'Be' ... that is the question!

(1) We are people of faith by first believing in Christ

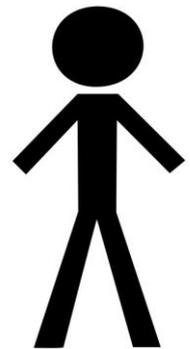
(2) We are people of faith by becoming faithful followers

- *Hebrews 3:19, 'So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.'*

Desire



Do



The necessity of 'being'

- Understanding sanctification: two sides of the one coin

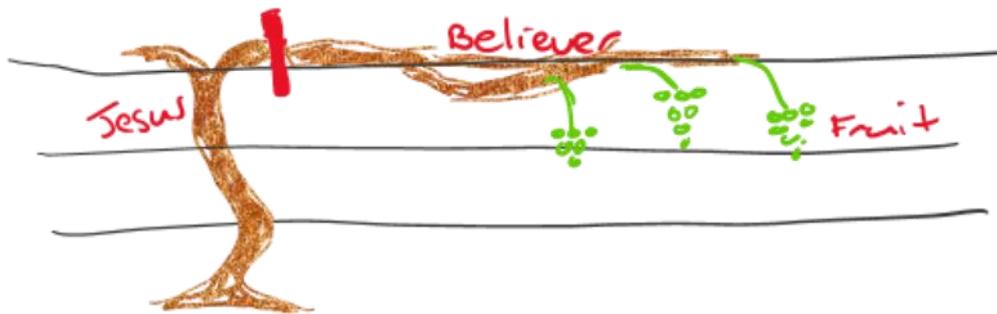
(1) Positional

1 Cor 1:2, 'To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus'

(2) Experiential

John 15:2, 'Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away'

- **John 15:5**, 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.'



Hudson Taylor's response to John 15:2:

"As I read, I saw it! ... I looked to Jesus and saw (and when I saw, oh, how joy flowed!) that Jesus had said, 'I will never leave thee.'"

"At the heart of the discovery was that the fruit of the vine comes from abiding not striving. To let my loving Saviour work in me His will, my sanctification, is what I would live for by grace. Abiding, not striving nor struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power; resting in the love."

The danger of just 'doing'

- Pragmatism: an approach to something that evaluates in terms of its success of its practical application.
- Pragmatic evangelism evaluates success and method over anything else.
- If evangelism is more about the result, more about the method, and less about the message, then, whatever people are drawn to, that will be the only thing that keeps them.
- *Our aim is to be heralds of the Good News because it is better than all else. And we are careful not to peddle the gospel.*
 - **2 Cor 2:17**, *'For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.'*

Conclusion

- We understand that to be a healthy evangelist is not firstly about what we do but who we are.
 - We are people of faith who live by faith.
 - We are people who abide in Christ and abide in His Word and rest and rely upon His power to convert souls.