

Title: **The Anatomy of an Evangelist**
Text: **Acts 14:1-7**
Date: **May 4, 2025**

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Big Idea

When we think of evangelism, we likely think first of using our mouths. And that's not wrong. Evangelism is "preaching the gospel"—and for that we need our mouths. But there is more to evangelism than just using our mouths. We also must use our eyes and our ears and have hearts full of Christ's love.

Just as there is more to the face of an evangelist than the mouth, so too there is more to evangelism than just talking. And the way God composes the face, we might say, reminds of this. In fact, I think the fact that we have two eyes and two ears and only one mouth is God's creative way of telling us that the eyes and the ears have twice the work to do—they're doubly important. And yet, in evangelism, we often skip right by them and go straight to the mouth.

Two Eyes

"[A]s many as were appointed to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48) and "they . . . spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed" (Acts 14:1). God is sovereign in saving sinners. But we have a role to play in evangelizing. Both are true. Both are essential. How they come together, I don't always know. It's a bit of a mystery. But they do. If the evangelist is going to be healthy and effective, he or she must keep an eye on both of these realities.

"If you are in the habit of distributing [gospel] tracts [or evangelizing] and have never seen fruit, I suggest the following . . . : Precede all your labors with earnest, diligent prayer. . . . Expect everything to come from the blessing of the Lord and nothing at all from your own exertions. At the same time, work! Walk through every open door, be ready in season and out of season as if everything depended on your labor. This is one of the great secrets in connection with successful service for the Lord—work as if everything depended on your diligence, and trust in the blessing of the Lord to bring success" - George Muller

Two Ears

Listen Up

Generally, we might say that listening up is simply reading the Bible. It's getting into the Book. Letting him speak to you through his Word. But then, in the more particular sense, this listening up also involves staying sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading as you go about your day and engage with the various people in your life.

Listen Out

Listening out in a general sense means we're listening to the culture at large. We're paying attention to what the culture around us values, what they fear, what they're driven by, what they're longing for, what the predominant metanarrative and worldview is.

But then, in the more particular sense, listening out means you're listening to the person—to the individual you are actually trying to reach with the gospel.

One Mouth

- You'll speak with *power*, but not with *pride*.
- You'll speak with *persistence*, but not with *pushiness*.
- You'll speak with *conviction*, but not with *callousness*.
- You'll speak with *compassion*, but not with *compromise*.

A Big Heart

"[T]he love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor. 5:14-15).



Reflection Questions

- In evangelism, why do you think it's important to use our eyes and ears in the way outlined this morning before we use our mouths? How would it help you personally?
- Think prayerfully about the people God has put in your life. Who do you sense he is calling you to share the gospel with? What might it look like to engage your eyes and ears before you open your mouth?

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Our Mission & Values

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FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

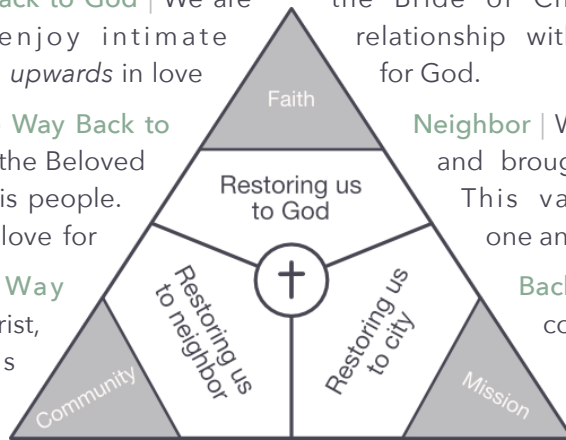
COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Los Alamitos Creek Trail Women's Walk

Calling all Mercy Hill Women! Enjoy God's creation and get to know each other better during our walk. Bring a friend! After the walk, hear about new DNA groups.

- When? Saturday, May 17th
- What time? 9:00-11:00am
- Where? Starting point → Almaden Lake Park, 6099 Winfield Blvd., San Jose. Go through the parking lot past the bocce ball courts to the amphitheater next to the lake. Parking in the lot is \$6, but free on Winfield Blvd.

Scan the QR code below to find a link to RSVP.

For more info, please contact Marcia Bolster (mbolster2@yahoo.com) or Margaret Wang (marhsieh@gmail.com).

All Church Hangout - Today!

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

All Church Campout (6/20-22) - REGISTRATION OPENS THIS WEEK!

Post-Missions Emphasis Week - What's Next?

Scan the QR code below for more info!

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.