

How To Give Away Your Faith

HANDOUT #4

The Key to Effectively Present The Gospel

Introduction

I. Leading Someone To Christ

A. We need to be prepared by depending on the Spirit's work of conversion.

1. Many people today assume they are Christians simply because _____ were raised in a Christian home or attend a church that identifies with Christianity but not by virtue of a second birth (John 3:3).
2. Others, believe they will go to heaven because they think they have never really done anything that _____ such as a murder or robbery.
3. Still others might feel that because they regularly pray and confess their sins, and even read the Bible. that they are _____ with God.
4. This is why it is essential that we be filled with the Holy Spirit when we share the gospel, and that we earnestly ask God the Spirit to convict people of their sinful and offensive standing before God who is _____.
5. When the Apostle Paul shares his “**ministry**” with the Church residing in Corinth — he reminds all of us — that to be able to effectively share the gospel we desperately _____ the supernatural work of the Spirit.

1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:3–4).

6. In verse 1 he affirms, “**As we have received mercy, we do not lose heart** reminding us that it is solely by God's mercy that we are privileged to share the gospel—and not because of anything we are or have _____.

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 1:12-14).

7. Knowing the wonder of the message he proclaimed compelled Paul, and it should compel us to speak boldly, so that we too can say ____ “do not lose heart,” being gripped by the message of forgiveness.

8. The way you view your calling to share the gospel — will largely determine how you fulfill it—because if you see sharing Christ as a burden & not a privilege you will do as _____ as possible.

9. Paul now goes on to contrast himself with the deceivers of his _____:

2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

10. Paul goes on to tell them that he did ____ need to manipulate or deceive his hearers into responding, as some had accused him of doing, because the Spirit Himself would enlighten them to the truth of what he shared.

“but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.

11. It’s possible to “**prove**” almost anything from the Bible — if one twists the text out of context & ignores the testimony of his _____ **conscience**.

12. In the Apostle Paul’s day, as in our day, many false teachers claimed to base their doctrine on the Bible—while handling it in deceptive _____.

13. *In the end*, not only is this wrong but it accomplishes absolutely nothing because salvation is a supernatural _____ of the Spirit & so he writes:

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

14. If you are familiar with this letter—then you know that as Paul defends his apostleship, he also addresses an important question: if he was such a faithful teacher of Scripture, then why didn’t _____ people respond?

15. And his answer is that the mind of the lost sinner has been blinded by Satan, and lost people naturally find it easier to believe the lies that tickle the ears than to embrace the truth that convicts the _____.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths (2 Timothy 4:3–4).

16. Because of the invisible spiritual battle, it is essential that we are filled with the Holy Spirit—and that we are depending on Him—to use ____.

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God (1 Corinthians 2:3–5).

17. Even though this Apostle was a great theologian whom God _____ to give us—thirteen of the twenty-seven—New Testament books, he recognized his need to depend totally “**on the power of God.**”

18. He understood that he could do nothing without Christ & that only when he was _____ could God make him strong (2 Cor. 10:1–12).

19. He can describe His preaching not as a “**performance**” but as a “**demonstration**” because he knew that it was not his experience or his skill or his ability—but the Holy Spirit’s power _____ him.

5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God (2 Corinthians 3:5).

20. Those want to share their faith must diligently prepare and make full use of every opportunity God has given them—but their confidence must not _____ in themselves—but on the Spirit to empower them.

B. We need to be prepared by meeting the condition for the Spirit’s filling.

1. There are two primary conditions that we must meet if we are to be spiritually prepared, so that the Spirit who lives in us, can fill _____.
2. First, we are commanded in Ephesians 4:30 _____ to “**grieve the Spirit.**”

30 Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

3. The word “**grieve**” is a “**love word**” because you can only “**grieve**” someone who loves you—and indeed the Spirit of God loves ____.
4. While your neighbor’s child’s disobedience might bother you, it is only when your own children do wrong that you truly grieve—for we only grieve deeply when we genuinely ____ the one who is doing wrong.
5. If we can be grieved over those whom we love, all the more is the ____ grieved out of His holiness & love for us when we do wrong (Lk 11:13).
6. Any known sin that is unconfessed & unrepented of, prevents the Spirit from filling us to produce Jesus’ character & His ministry through ____.
7. The solution to grieving the Spirit of God is to confess any known ____.

9 “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

8. This verse is not — an invitation to salvation — but an exhortation ____ fellowship with God—that we might “**be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work**” (2 Timothy 2:21).
9. God wants us to know — *in our **experience*** — what is already true of us **positionally** & unless we are *experiencing God’s forgiveness* then we are not ‘**walking in the light**’ as commanded & we are ____ filled (1 Jn. 1:7).
10. Positionally, every Christian has forgiveness of ____ their sins, past, present and future (Colossian 1:13, 14)—but practically not every believer is experiencing that forgiveness (Psalm 32; 1 John 1:9).
11. So first, there must be a “**sincere desire**” to be “**filled with the Spirit**” (Matthew 5:6) such that ____ that is cherished will prevent His filling.
12. Second, you can know that—you are “**filled with the Spirit**,” if and only if you are not “**quenching**” His filling your ____.
13. For this reason — we are commanded in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “**Do not quench the Spirit**” — or more literally — this can ____ translated, “**Quench not the Spirit**” (ASV, 1901).
14. We ‘**grieve the Spirit**’ when we do those things—we should not do and we ‘**quench the Spirit**’ when we do not do those things we ought to ____.
15. When the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, “**Do not quench the Spirit**” he is dealing in “**the positive aspects**” of the Christian ____.

16. The verb for “**quench**” speaks of “**suppressing fire**” which should not surprise us—since the Holy Spirit is likened to a fire dwelling in _____ believer and so—the **ISV** reads, “**Do not put out the Spirit’s fire.**”
17. The Holy Spirit desires to express Himself through our actions and our attitudes—and when we refuse to do what He leads us to do, or fail to let Him _____ through us as He desires, we “**quench**” Him.
18. The solution to quenching Him is to totally _____ to God (Romans 12:1).

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

19. *You must be willing to **go** anywhere He wants you to go, to **say** whatever He wants you to say—to **give** whatever He wants you to give—and to **do** whatever He _____ you to do as “**a living and holy sacrifice.**”*
20. Assuming you are not ‘**grieving**’ or ‘**quenching**’ the Spirit then you can by _____ trust Him to fill you according to His **command** (Eph. 5:18) to be filled & His **promise** to answer pleasing praying (1 John 5:14-15).

14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

21. *Knowing that* He will not fill a dirty or unyielded vessel, yet recognizing that it is His _____ to fill you, you must—by faith—believe His promise.

B. We need to be prepared to allow the Spirit to keep filling us.

1. **Negatively**, we are commanded not to ‘**grieve**’ or to ‘**quench**’ the Spirit, while **positively** we _____ commanded to “**walk by the Spirit**” (Gal. 5:16).

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

2. The tense of the verb indicates a continuous moment by moment dependence on the Holy Spirit to live His life in & through _____.
3. In the physical realm, walking by its very definition is a succession _____ *dependent acts* where one foot is on the ground & the other is in the air.
4. When one foot is lifted, it is done so in faith that the foot on the ground is able to support the full weight of your body—with each step trusting that the supporting foot — will allow you — to _____ forward.

5. In the same way, spiritually we must not live our Christian lives in ____ strength, but in the Spirit's power who is ready to fill us & to assist us.
6. This attitude of dependence upon Him is seen throughout the Bible in the many various commands that God gives His church to carry ____.
7. For instance, in the realm of sin, God _____ us in 1 Corinthians 10:12, **"let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall."**
8. In addressing the subject of sin & temptation, the Apostle Paul is reminding us that a '**self-sufficient**' attitude _____ stumbling.
9. The Christian who rests in past victories or in current resolve instead of walking in dependence on the Spirit is self-deluded and will _____.
10. God reminds us that others have fallen (1 Cor. 10:1–11), and that ____ too can fall if we become confident in our own strength (1 Cor. 10:13).
11. The strongest Christian is one who sees himself as weak and feeble, and he believes that he needs the _____ & the strength of the Spirit.
12. Even our ability to speak the gospel clearly and with power, comes only through the help of the Spirit, living His life through ____ (1 Cor. 2:4).
13. We started the Christian life by faith & so every day we are to _____ by faith just as the Apostle Paul told the Colossian church (Col. 2:6):

6 Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

14. When you came to Christ for salvation, you came in a bankrupt state, admitting your total inability to save yourself, and by faith you placed your full confidence on what Jesus _____ for you (Ephesians 2:8-9).
15. In the same manner, to grow in Christ you admit your total inability to live the Christian life by your own strength, and you choose by faith to '**walk by the Spirit**' depending on Him as a branch depends on a _____.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

16. In ourselves, we are powerless, fruitless and as helpless as a branch ____ off from a vine — we are unable to produce any fruit that pleases God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23) . . ."

17. *The responsibility* to produce these qualities or even the ‘**fruit**’ of _____ others won to Jesus (John 15:16), belongs to the Holy Spirit who works in and through us—as we depend upon Him to help us to live for Jesus.
18. Walking in the Spirit means you are living a life of faith based on the truths that God reveals in His _____ (John 15:7):

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

19. As we walk in the Spirit we live according to God’s word, trusting in the reliability of God Himself — made known through the _____.
20. The condition that sustain us to keep being **filled with the Spirit** is first to “**walk by the Spirit**” depending on Him—but second—we are also sustained to “**walk**” by the truths found in God’s infallible _____.
21. And so, beyond the command to “**walk by the Spirit**” in Galatians 5:16, you are also _____ to be one who “**sows to the Spirit**” in Galatians 6:8.
22. If you are abiding in Christ—then His Word will be abiding in you, because the Holy Spirit does not work in a vacuum, but He always works in — conjunction with the truths — found in the _____.
23. Therefore, we are commanded in Galatians 6:8 not to feed or “**sow**” to the “**flesh**” but to feed or “**sow to the Spirit**” as we _____ God’s word.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).

24. Only as your “**mind**” is renewed through the counsel of Scripture _____ more & more areas of your life conform to the Spirit’s plans, and you will discover—that He will use you—to share the gospel effectively.
25. You will also find as you are walking by the Spirit & you are sowing to the Spirit—that when you share your faith He will bring to your _____ various Bible verses that He will use to bring about the second birth.
26. Certainly, lost people have come to faith through persons whose _____ were not Spirit-filled, but a holy believer can be mightily used of God.
27. And so, while the Scripture & the theology behind it is very important for us to know, it is equally important that _____ are prepared spiritually.