

## **Seven Desirable Conditions for Effective Evangelism**

There are also some desirable conditions which are more effective for starting and maintaining fires than others. While a burning match is a fire, it is not the biggest, hottest, brightest fire. A fire ignites quicker and burns better and hotter with a magnesium flint (ignition), a blacksmith's bellow (oxygen) and charcoal soaked in lighter fluid (fuel). In a similar way, there are several DESIRABLE CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM--

1. **Godward Communication.** The Bible describes and prescribes prayer to God for the salvation of men, for opportunities for evangelism, and for assistance in every area of this enterprise. A man with prayer on his lips is a man who understands his desperate need for God to act. If God does not act, men are not saved. To be an effective evangelist, you must pray.
2. **Authentic Compassion.** The two greatest commandments are to LOVE GOD completely and to LOVE MEN sacrificially. The rest of God's expectations for man hang on these two commandments to LOVE. Complete love for God and sacrificial love for men is the appropriate foundation for evangelism since the act of evangelism itself is a profound demonstration of love for both God and men. Evangelism involves both loving the truth (1 Cor 13) and speaking the truth in love (Eph 4). To be an effective evangelist, you must have authentic compassion for God and men.
3. **Genuine Concern for Lost People:** Concern, founded on authentic compassion for God and men earns a hearing. There is no substitute for a broken-heart for lost people. Genuine concern is both a motivating factor that enhances evangelism behavior and a sound platform for engaging lost people in Gospel conversations. It really does matter to lost people that they matter to you. If you genuinely care, they can see it in your eyes. They can hear it in your voice. They can observe it in your body language. To be an effective evangelist, you must be genuinely concerned.
4. **Godly Character:** Character earns a hearing and demonstrates the message that following Jesus Christ makes an important difference in the thoughts and deeds of the

believer. One common objection to the Gospel is that there is little evidence that the message is valid in the lives of those who claim to be believers. Don't be a poster-child for this objection. To be an effective evangelist, you must have Godly character.

5. **Biblical Content.** The Bible is the source of the Gospel Message itself, which is an essential element of evangelism, and evangelism is not possible without it. The Gospel Message is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe. Therefore, biblical content is indispensable for evangelism. While a relatively small quantity and poor quality message may often be enough power of God unto salvation for all those who believe, the tendency toward conveying a minimal Gospel Message should be resisted. One might fairly argue for the direct proportional relationship between the quality and quantity of a particular Gospel presentation and the power of that particular presentation. In other words, one might fairly argue that a more content laden message is a more powerful message. To be an effective evangelist, you must convey a high-quality, high-quantity, biblical content-laden message.
6. **Verbal Clarity.** Evangelism is a communication event, so like all communication events is subject to the Tower of Babel effect—confusion of language. The Gospel Message is transmitted by the evangelist to the lost person through language. The art of communication called rhetoric is a useful tool for effective evangelism. A particular Gospel presentation is more powerful when it is communicated clearly. To be an effective evangelist, you must communicate the Gospel Message clearly.
7. **Christ-Confidence.** Most believers do not even attempt to do evangelism because they are simply A-F-R-A-I-D. They lack confidence. They are insecure. Their fear of all sorts of things—failure, self-humiliation, rejection, etc.—is a Goliath-like foe that must be slain. And it can only be slain by confidence. Not self-confidence, but confidence in Christ. For self-confidence is misplaced confidence. Self-confidence is not well founded confidence because the self is not capable. It is true that you can do all things that should be done, including evangelism, through Christ who strengthens you. After all, Christ Himself promised in His farewell speech to His apostles to be with us on our disciple-making journey through life. To be an effective evangelist, you must have Christ-confidence.