



[Evangelism-]

Can you identify these famous feet?

1. Mickey
2. Ronald McDonald
3. Dorothy
4. Elvis blue suede shoes
5. Big Foot

The Bible says this about feet: How beautiful (welcome/timely) are the feet of those who preach good news! (Romans 10:15). And upon these feet are the sandals with the readiness of the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15).

Today we continue (Part II) a new series entitled back to the start: getting back to the basics of our faith. Today's message is entitled Evangelism 101. What is evangelism? I have already lost some of you with that big word, it is simply bringing good news! Who would use good news today?

Read [Matthew 28:19-20]

Hindrances to Evangelism (Matt. 28:18-20)

1. Myth #1: Only "super apostles" share their faith

I know what you are thinking, you read this passage and you immediately said "a-ha!" Jesus is speaking to the 11 apostles. Correct, but these mighty men of God are also doubting in the previous verse. The **greatest impediment** to you living on mission is to think that only super apostles have the command to go. For every 1 Billy Graham- there are thousands we will never hear about until we get to heaven. The same Spirit given to the disciples is the same Spirit that fills you through faith in Jesus Christ! ***We are never called to build pedestals (For super apostles) but to stand on the promises of the Messiah.***

2. Myth #2: Evangelism is a spiritual gift

The Bible **NEVER** mentions a “gift of evangelism.” Ephesians reminds that some are called to be evangelizes, some pastors, and some teachers. These are men of faith who have the specific task to the ministry of evangelism. If evangelism were a spiritual gift then the Great Commission and the promise of Jesus’ presence (Matt. 28:20) would be reserved for only these individuals.

Evangelism is not a spiritual gift it is a gospel.

3. Myth #3: Evangelism is a program or a presentation

We have conditioned ourselves by our cultural norms and preferences to programmatic **standardization**. Often, standardizations are good. *I want my Big Mac in Alabama to taste like my Big Mac in California*. Why? Because they were trained. Here is the great danger, **we cannot train or program the Gospel—the Power of God!** The Enemy tempts us to believe that if we could only “**nail the presentation**” they we will be equipped. ***Jesus’ evangelistic method is GO!***

4. Myth #4: No one wants to hear anyway

First, that is categorically false. Studies show that the **Millennial generation and Gen Z (18-24)** are very open to spiritual conversations. Most are likely to join you for worship if you invite. However, we must think about the theological and **spiritual implications** of this statement. I believe the command to **Go** by Jesus implies He has already **prepared** a heart to receive. **Is. 43:8** **Bring out a people who are blind, yet have eyes, and are deaf, yet have ears. Even deaf people have ears.**

5. Hindrance #5: Only around church people

If the first four are hurdles we believe, #5 is a barrier you create. The more we **grow** in Christ the more we **grow** in Christian community. However, an ever-present danger is that we begin to **hide within** Christian community. Think carefully the geographical location and the anthropological collection within the great Commission. **Mountain + 11 disciples**. What did Jesus say to this Christian gathering? **GO!** **One of the greatest hindrances in your life to sharing the good news is Gathering instead of Going.**

May our prayer be today that we will not Hinder the gospel (1 Cor 9:12)

Helps to Evangelism (Acts 1:8)

We move from the last words His disciples in Matthew to the last words of Christ to all disciples in Acts.

1. Help #1: The Power of God

Whose power? God’s. To whom is it given? YOU! Listen to the words of Jesus Christ. You **Will** receive power **when** the Holy Spirit has come upon you. If you have professed Christ as Lord, you

have received the HS, and you have received the Power of God. "Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it." –Leonard Ravenhill. **Why?** Only the HS can convict, only the HS can draw men, only Christ can raise the dead to life! **The Gospel is the POWER of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16).** You give me the power of God and watch what can happen!

2. Help #2: The Power of Christ in you leads to the purpose of Christ through you!

If you **receive** the power of God for the purpose of God to be a witness, you **experience** the power of God when you are a witness. Bringing the good news to others is not something that you should do, it is who you are! Followers of Christ are messengers of Christ. **I rely upon the presence of the Holy Spirit at no greater time than when I am sharing the Gospel.**

If you want to experience the power of Christ be the witness that God has called you to be! **I remember looking at a cousin one day at a youth camp and saying: I am made at you because your not living like you should.** His answer: your right! And I began to weep as he put His trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. **The Power of Christ in you leads to the Purpose of Christ through you!**

3. Help #3: God's Grace

The Holy Spirit comes upon you when you believe in your heart and confess that Jesus Christ is your Lord. This is the moment of surrender when you find forgiveness and are declared righteous. This is the moment you realize that it is by grace alone in Christ alone through Faith alone. **One of the greatest indicators of you sharing the gospel is a daily confession of sin.** **DT Niles said it best: Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread.** Remember what the hunger pangs without God. *We too often forget what it was like to wander in the darkness.* **God's grace is the catalyst for us to bring the good news! (Tis grace was brought me safe...)**

4. Help #4: Knowing God has put people in my life who need to hear the Gospel.

Every single person listening to this message has someone in your life that **needs** the Gospel. I believe every single person has someone that God has sovereignly put in your life to **hear** the gospel.

Studies show:, **parents** emerged as the most likely dominant influence, named by three out of every ten born again Christians (29%). **Half** of all decisions (50%) were driven by someone with a close personal relationship with the individual – a **relative or friend**.

Last fall I decided to begin my coaching dominance in the world of 4-5 year old basketball. Throughout the short season my family was able to continue to build a relationship with a young lady named Stephanie. Every practice we would pray and encourage. Through the season Steph realized she was a sinner in need of Grace and decided to trust Christ for her forgiveness and righteousness. This year, Stephanie was baptized as a public sign of her new faith! 5 year old basketball. It wasn't about basketball it was about eternity.

This January I met a man named Mike at a funeral and gave him a card said let's do lunch. That week we had lunch we left with this: Jesus is worth it. On January 26th I received this text, "Good afternoon Josh, I wanted to share my news. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior!". Several months ago Mike and son were baptized as a testimony to the saving Grace of Christ.

There are people in your life today who need to hear the Gospel. *God sent them to you because you are their missionary!* You are the bringer of good news! *Are your feet sandled with readiness?*

5. Help #5: Use the open doors God gives you

You have something in common with every single person on the planet: sin. We all have the same sin nature. As one pastor called it: *stinking thinking*. Use the natural connections and doors that people give you to the Gospel. I remember at Lowes in August, the worker and I were conversing about football and how Alabama was worried about playing MSU this year. She asked me about our new coach. And the HS prompted me to say this: I believe we have an excellent new coach but he will let us down eventually. **But there is one man who will never let us down:** Jesus Christ. She opened the door to the Gospel. However, you must be led by the Holy Spirit. **Every conversation can and should lead to Jesus Christ.**

6. Help #6: Sharing the Gospel begins with intentional prayer

I will never know the hours of prayer that have gone before the Lord on behalf of the person who stands here today. Our hearts must cry out for others who are far from Christ. Do you have a list of people you pray for regularly? I have one in my office and some of you are own it. Every Sunday I kneel at the altar and pray for those who need Jesus.

Prayers for Andrew. A young man named Andrew put his trust in Christ this year and was baptized as a public declaration of his new life. Several months before I felt convicted for our Wednesday gathering to pray corporately for those far from Christ. So I passed out paper and then collected it in a popcorn basket and then asked everyone to pray for the person on their paper. Weeks ago, Andrew's mom Tiffany shared with me that she had grabbed Andrew's name. And after his baptism, and during a time of devotion she found that piece of paper.

There is power in prayer! Sharing the Gospel begins with intentional prayer!

Conclusion

Whose missionary, are you? Will you come to the altar on their behalf?

Maybe for the first time you realized the Gospel is not only good news, it is good news for you. **16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** Today what is keeping you from trusting in Christ alone today?

Notes

Evangelism (Ligonier Ministries)

“How are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (v. 15).

- [Romans 10:15](#)

Now that we have defined the Gospel, we will begin looking at what it means to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. Evangelism is the term we use to refer to the preaching of the Gospel. It comes from the same Greek word for gospel (*euangelion*) and means, literally, “gospeling.” When we evangelize we are “gospeling” — we are spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In biblical categories, witnessing involves making visible what is otherwise invisible.

The distinction between witnessing and evangelism is important because it is easy to think we are evangelizing when all we are doing is bearing witness to the Savior. Giving one’s testimony is a good thing, but it is not evangelism. Testifying to the work of God in our lives bears witness to what Christ has done for us; it does not by itself give the content of the Gospel. Living a righteous life manifests the work of the Holy Spirit, but we have not evangelized our neighbor if we have never shared the Gospel with him. No one is converted by our kindness or honesty; they are brought into the kingdom of heaven only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ ([Acts 16:25–34](#)).

Illustrations

The idea that among your still-professing Christians the vast majority are non-practicing reveals this is the last and asked Cindy to come back home with him. The two will be married 17 years in October.

Famous Feet

1. Mickey
2. Ronald McDonald
3. Dorothy
4. Elvis blue suede shoes
5. Big Foot

Application

Age at Which Americans Accept Jesus Christ as Their Savior

Age of Accepting Jesus Christ as Savior	
Under 13	46%
13 – 17	22
18 – 21	8
22 – 29	8
30 – 39	8
40 – 49	4
50 – 64	4
65 or older	1

Source: American Culture & Faith Institute, FullView™ surveys
in September-October 2017, N=636 born again adults.

Perhaps as expected, parents emerged as the most likely dominant influence, named by three out of every ten born again Christians (29%). Other family members also played a significant role in the evangelization of the nation, with relatives placing third on the list of most common influencers (listed by 16%). Overall, another 5% said that a friend had had the greatest influence on their decision. That means half of all decisions (50%) were driven by someone with a close personal relationship with the individual – a relative or friend.

Faith-related entities were the second most prolific category of influencers. Church events accounted for 20% of the conversions

The ACFI research found that just one out of every five adults (21%) strongly affirms a personal responsibility to share their religious beliefs with people who hold different beliefs than they do.

We all know that words, without deeds, are dead. However, deeds without words are also dead. Consider the following:

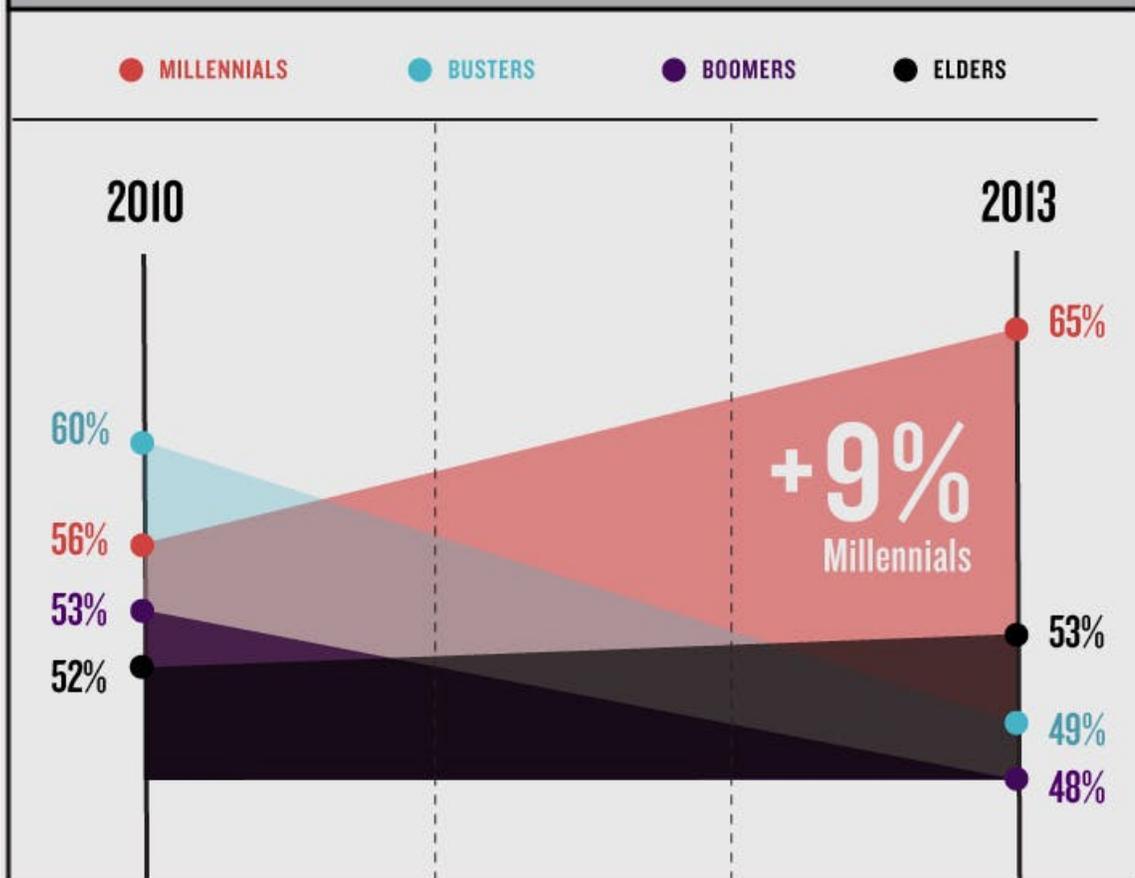
Let's say I have a neighbor, and I want to "preach Christ" to him using my deeds. I greet him over the garden fence. I invite him and his wife round for dinner, where I show them the best hospitality of which I am capable; I explain that I am a Christian, but make no attempt to shove the gospel down his throat. Noticing that his garden could use a bit of work, I offer him my lawnmower, which he accepts, and eventually, through repeated usage, breaks. I do not complain, or ask him to replace it; I replace it myself, and continue to allow him to use it whenever he sees fit. I help whenever I can. In all things, I seek to display unconditional kindness towards him, and to love him as I love myself. Eventually, he dies.

Now what have my actions preached to him? They have preached that Christians are people who do good things for their neighbor. They have preached that niceness, and kindness, and morally upright behavior are what make you a Christian. In short, they have preached justification by works. Your works have indeed "preached" something. But it isn't the gospel.

HOW EVANGELISM IS PRACTICED ACROSS GENERATIONS

Overall, the practice of evangelism has either remained the same or declined among different generations of born again Christians—except for one...

FOR MILLENNIALS, THE PRACTICE OF EVANGELISM IS NOTABLY ON THE RISE.



Barna Group

barna.org

This report is based on a telephone and online survey of 2,083 random U.S. adults, conducted from January 16-23, 2013. The sampling error is estimated to be within +1.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For more information on how Barna defines denominational demographics, please see barna.org/definitions

THE ECONOMICS OF EVANGELISM

The practice of evangelism looks different for born again adults depending on their household income.

NATIONAL AVERAGE:

FIFTY TWO PERCENT

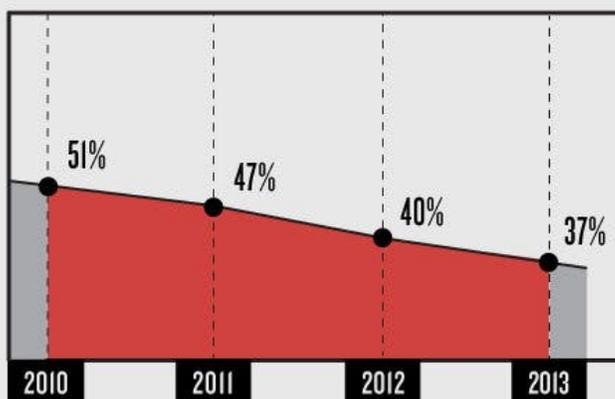
Born again adults who evangelized in the last year:



WHAT INCOME BRACKET SHARES THEIR FAITH THE MOST?

THOSE WHO MAKE
\$39k OR LESS
ANNUALLY

WHAT'S MORE, EVANGELISM AMONG MIDDLE INCOME ADULTS HAS SHARPLY DECLINED IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS:



Barna Group
barna.org

This report is based on a telephone and online survey of 2,083 random U.S. adults, conducted from January 16-23, 2013. The sampling error is estimated to be within +1.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For more information on how Barna defines denominational demographics, please see barna.org/definitions

