

# ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES TOOLS FOR LIFE

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## CHRIST'S METHOD OF EVANGELISM

Ellen White gave us a very clear description of Christ's witnessing method:

"The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then he bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Since this was Christ's method of witnessing, when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Christ begins living more fully in us, He will begin seeking to manifest this method of witnessing through us. He will begin leading us to "mingle" with those in our circle of family and friends, putting in our hearts a desire "for their good." The greatest good is for them to come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Christ's method was to take the initiative in contacting those around Him. He wants you and me to do the same. If you find this difficult you need to continue to pray for the Lord to help you with this, and He will! Remember, it is Jesus in you who prompts you to do this. As you continue to yield yourself to His control in every area of your life, your witnessing will become more and more like His method.

When we continue to pay for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, more and more of the love of God will be manifested in our hearts:

"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).

This love will be seen in our ministry to others. They will begin to gain confidence that we really do care for them and will be willing to share with us the things that concern them. Everyone has hurts, disappointed dreams, frustrations, and problems with which they are struggling. This is the very reason Christ has led you to them. He knows their needs, and knows that you have the answer for them. Christ wants to reveal that answer through you to them. He wants to reveal Himself to them through you. Ellen White wrote concerning this:

“Christian sociability is altogether too little cultivated by God’s people... Especially should those who have tasted the love of Christ develop their social powers, for in this way they may win souls to the Saviour” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 172).

“So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 36).

How does this all apply to the Spirit-filled Christian? First, pray for Christ to continue to fill you with His Spirit and give you the passion for souls that He has. Make a list of those in your circle of family and friends who you feel do not know Christ, or who may be a Christian but do not know the important message of Christ’s second coming. Begin praying for these individuals every day, applying the prayer principles listed in the previous devotional. Next, pray that God will provide the opportunity for you to begin coming close to them to help them in some way. We must be willing to invest the time and energy it takes to come close to people. Our interest in them must be genuine, truly caring for them and wanting to help them. When in contact with those you are praying for, look for the openings God gives you to share with them.

Always remember that God is already seeking to draw their minds and interests to Himself. In many cases He just needs us to make ourselves available for Him to speak a word of encouragement to them. God will give you the words to speak. He knows what they need to hear, and Holy Spirit power will attend the words you speak.

## **Personal Reflection and Discussion**

List the elements of Christ's witnessing method.

Why do you think Christ chose this method for witnessing?

What should Christians do if they don't have the desire to witness for Christ?

What specifically should the Christian ask God to do in relation to witnessing?

How do you plan to apply Christ's witnessing method?

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