



**As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

## Teaching 6 – Evangelism without Fear

---

### EVANGELISM WITHOUT FEAR

Fear takes many forms and has many sources. Earthquakes, fires, floods, tornadoes, cancer, prolonged illness, and people can be the cause of debilitating fear in our lives. However, with God's help, guidance, and intervention, we try to face our fears and become stronger in our Christian walk as a result.

Then one Sunday the pastor preaches about **witnessing and evangelism**, and we become fearful again. Why is there fear in many hearts when it comes to **witnessing and evangelism**? How does it come? What do we do about it?

How is the word "fear" used in the following verses?

**Exodus 15:16**  
**Hosea 3:5**

**Exodus 20:20**  
**Matthew 10:26-28**

**Proverbs 29:25**  
**Philippians 1:14**

**Isaiah 8:13**

### LEARNING FROM THE PAST:

We're not the only ones who have feared sharing God with others. There are examples of fearful evangelists in both the Old and New Testaments. A review of some of their stories will help us see how fear influenced their lives and what response God made to free them so they could be used in His purposes.

God had spared Moses at birth and arranged for him to be educated in the finest schools of Egypt. Through this, Moses became a leader to serve a larger plan than he could know or guess.

But Moses spent forty years thinking he was somebody. After another forty years out in the desert exiled from Egypt, he realized he was really a nobody. His last forty years were spent finding out what God can do with a nobody.

***Where would you place yourself in those three areas and why?***

How do you deal with negativism?

How does your life parallel that of Moses?

**Exodus 3–4** is the setting where Moses discovered that God uses nobodies. Moses had resigned himself to be a shepherd for the remainder of his years, but God's call was true.

Are you a person ready to allow God to form and shape you into a nobody He can use?

Let's examine how God changes someone into a shepherd. Often we use excuses for not answering the call of God on our lives. Read **Exodus 3:1–8** and then answer the second and third columns below by looking them up first.

Reference:

Moses' Response

God's Promise

**Exodus 3:9-12    3:13-25    4:1-9    4:10-12    4:13-17**

## LEARNING EVANGELISM FROM AN OLD AGE:

We usually see Moses as a great man of God, which he was. However, becoming a man who could evangelize both Egypt and Israel necessitated overcoming many fears.

- *Fear of insignificance.* No one knows me. I'm too young or inexperienced. **1 Timothy 4:11–12**
- *Fear of being alone.* Do I have to do this alone? Are you, God, going to be there? **John 14:16–18.** Hudson Taylor said, "God's work done in God's way will not lack God's support."
- *Fear of failure.* What if you can't or don't deliver your people? I'll look like a fool. **Mark 16:15–20, especially v. 20**
- *Fear of talking.* I have a speech problem. I don't talk very well. **Exodus 12** and **Jeremiah 1:6–10**
- *Fear of trying.* Send someone else—the pastor, elder, deacon, evangelist—not me. **John 21:15–17**

What could be the basis of your fears?

How can you change with the Holy Spirits?

## JONAH: A PREJUDICED MAN:

The book of Jonah contains some tremendous lessons about the battle between man's flesh and his spirit. Jonah was a man from Israel called by God to preach to the Assyrians in Nineveh. Rather than respond to the call to go, Jonah thought he could escape by traveling in the opposite direction.

The prophet Jonah visited Nineveh during the glorious days of the Assyrian empire. From about 885 to 625 B.C., the Assyrians dominated the ancient world. Numerous passages in the Old Testament report advances of Assyrian military forces against the neighboring kingdoms of Judah and Israel during these years. As early as 841 B.C., Jehu, king of Israel, was forced to pay tribute to the dominating Assyrian ruler, Shalmaneser III. This kind of harassment continued for over a century until Israel finally fell to Assyrian forces about 722 B.C. No wonder Jonah was reluctant to go to Nineveh; God had called him to visit the very heartland of enemy territory and to give the hated Assyrians a chance to repent! It was a radical order that would have taxed the

**Soul Saver Ministries**

12 Phoenix Crescent, Old Reynella South Australia, 5161    Tel: 0416 026 508

International +61 416 026 508

[www.soulsaverministries.org](http://www.soulsaverministries.org)

obedience of any prophet. Jonah's grudging attitude should not blind us to the fact that he did carry out God's command.

**Take a little time to read the short book of Jonah. Afterward, answer the following questions.**

What was the basis of Jonah's fears?

How did God respond to the actions of a pagan city and why?

What have you learned about yourself from Jonah?

Do you fear responding to God's call?

Whose Spirit is directing your life?

God called Jonah to evangelize, but his prejudice prevented it until God demonstrated His power. God is looking for willing, obedient people to do His work. Are you willing? How far can He send you? Only as we allow God to mould us like Moses and break us like Jonah will we be ready to evangelize under the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **FEARFUL PEOPLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:**

Experience teaches that we do at times fear. Perhaps you experienced a time when you met someone and automatically felt fear because of what you may have heard about that individual. If so, you are in good company with Ananias in **Acts 9**. God told him to go pray for a new convert, Saul (Paul). He was reluctant to go due to what he had heard about Saul. But with God's loving encouragement, Ananias eventually went to witness to Saul.

## **THE EARLY CHRISTIANS SPOKE BOLDLY:**

The early church boldly proclaimed the Word of God. Look up the following verses and make notes about boldness, as the Holy Spirit impresses you.

**Acts 2:14   3:11-12   4:8   4:13   4:29-33   7:54-56   9:20-22, 26-30   13:46**

### **Soul Saver Ministries**

12 Phoenix Crescent, Old Reynella South Australia, 5161   Tel: 0416 026 508

International +61 416 026 508

[www.soulsaverministries.org](http://www.soulsaverministries.org)

## **SUMMARY:**

**Romans 1:16–17** sets forth Paul's conclusion on the matter: he was not ashamed of the gospel. Could it be that lurking beneath our fear is shame?

If we are unashamed, we'll proclaim the gospel.

Fear like this is a spiritual problem, and requires a spiritual answer. The answer is found in believing the Word of God. God's Word is true and lasts forever. ***You can be a witness for Christ.***

By daily acting on God's Word, fear can be overcome. Study these last four scriptures about overcoming fear in spreading the gospel, and write out your insights.

**Ephesians 6:11-13    2 Timothy 1:7    1 John 4:18    Revelation 12:11**

**Revelation 12:11** prophesies that end time believers will overcome the enemy "by appropriating the victory of the finished work of Christ, by the public confession of their faith and patient endurance, even in the face of martyrdom" **Revelation. 13:10.**The church's constant posture under the authority of the Cross's victory by the blood of the lamb and steadfastness to the promise and authority of God's Word the word of their testimony is the key to their overcoming.

**God has called us to evangelize. After studying this chapter, what changes will occur in your life?**

**André Rivenell**