



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

## Teaching 8 – Evangelism with Gods Armour

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### EVANGELISM WITH GOD’S ARMOUR

Three divine provisions enabled the early church to fulfill its work and mission: 1) *Our Lord’s disciples were supernaturally equipped with power for service by the baptism of the Holy Spirit* **Acts 1:8** 2) *They were prompted to proclaim faithfully and forcefully the Word of God* **Acts 8:4** 3) *Gifted church leaders cultivated individual believers and oversaw corporate ministries* **Ephesians 4:11–16**, which resulted in the body’s natural expansion (numerical growth) and edification (spiritual growth).

**The church has always suffered when these essential elements were neglected. To any extent that they are neglected, the spread of the Good News is hindered.**

Which of these *three* areas is the primary focus in your church fellowship?

#### EQUIPPED WITH POWER TO SERVE:

Traditionally we understand that the church began on the day of Pentecost. This was one of three times each year when the Jews were required by the Law to go to Jerusalem to celebrate a feast. What were the other two occasions? **Deuteronomy 16:16, Leviticus 23:15-16**

After His resurrection, until he was “taken up ... into heaven,” what was the theme of Jesus’ teaching? **Acts 1:3**

What related question did the disciples ask in **V, 6**?

Whose assistance and authority must receive God’s kingdom and its power? **Acts 1:8**

This power and authority is available for what times? **Acts 2:38-39**

The apostle Paul has planned! He seemed to see himself as a military commander, and throughout his writings he challenged us to realize we are at war with the devil. Much of his teaching was centered on a spiritual form of military training.

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One such area of training is found in **Ephesians 6**. Here, and elsewhere, the apostle instructs about 1) the enemies we face, 2) the armour we have been given, 3) the weapons and resources we have, and 4) our victorious response.

What four kinds of spiritual rebels are mentioned in **Ephesians 6:11-12**?

What are we to stand against?

Identify the parts of our spiritual armour from **Ephesians 6:14–16**, and match them with the explanatory statements below:

- Unswerving confidence in the Word
- Assurance of our salvation
- Moral integrity
- Enabling us to stand firm and to move quickly
- Sincerity, truthful objectivity as to our spiritual standing and state.

To be fully equipped for spiritual warfare we must also learn to utilize another key resource: prayer **Ephesians 4:18**. We have great authority in prayer, based on our identification with Christ's death and resurrection **Romans 6**. Our authority in Christ allows us to speak against Satan and evil spirits in prayer.

Jesus said we have authority to bind and loosen **Matthew 18:18**

How did Paul indicate we are to pray at all times? **1Thessalonians 5:17**

What spiritual value is there in praying in the Holy Spirit? **Jude 20**

If we are to spread the Good News effectively, we must be supernaturally equipped with power for service and spiritual warfare by the Holy Spirit. Only then we can expectantly pray, "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

## **EQUIPPING WITH POWER TO PROCLAIM:**

Like the early apostles, the prophet Isaiah's passion was to declare the Word of God. Out of God's touch on his life, not born from personal emotion, Isaiah lifted his voice to proclaim that God's Word was supreme in the universe. At issue and always before him was the necessity to proclaim His Word. **Isaiah 40**

Isaiah has been called the "messianic prophet" and the "evangelistic prophet." He prophesied of both the first and second advents of Christ. His message spoke not only to those of his day but to the peoples of all time.

His name means "salvation," which aptly describes his message. He often focused on holiness, directing his contemporaries to cease from their social injustice, their quest for carnal indulgence, their trust in the arm of the flesh, and their hypocritical pretence of orthodox religion.

God's Word to Isaiah reveals a great deal of His will for people of all generations to live in righteousness. At the same time, the prophet draws attention to the Messiah, pointing to the King of all Righteousness, who alone is able to deliver us from ungodliness. This is the "Good News"!

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Look up the following verses in **Psalms 107 and 119** and note what the Word of God is and does.

Name the two things God sent His Word to do? **Psalm 107:20**

What are the two things God's Word is said to be?

How can a young person keep his life clean? **Psalm 119:9**

Where did the psalmist hide God's Word? **Psalm 119:11**

What can the Word of God do for us personally? **Psalm 119:107**

What is one of the main qualities of God's Word? **Psalm 119:140**

**Nothing is ultimately more important in our preaching and teaching than telling people about Jesus. Notice some of the principal parts of the message.**

- Jesus is the manifestation of God in bodily form. **John 1:1, Colossians 1:15–17; 2:9**
- God so loved the world that He sent Jesus to save it. **John 3:16**
- Jesus is the only way to the Father. **Acts 4:12**
- Jesus' shed blood is the only cleansing for sin. **Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:22**
- Jesus is currently seated at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. **Hebrews 7:25; 10:12**
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us. **John 15:26**
- Jesus is coming again. **John 14:3**

Jesus' goal for His church is to build it up by His Spirit. He does this by giving certain enabling abilities to the different parts He grafted into the body. Paul analyzed these abilities in **1 Corinthians 12:4–6**

What three kinds of differences did he point out?

Which "difference" would fit the following definition?

- A special capacity or function
- Sphere of service
- Degree of power

In **1 Corinthians 12:14–26**, Paul illustrated the necessity for this variety from the analogy of the human body. He pointed out the mutual dependence of all members.

- We ought to realize that we need each other. The Christian life cannot be lived alone. The body ought not to reject members who have been grafted in.
- We ought to respect each other, and not think less of someone with less spectacular gifts.
- We ought to sympathize with each other. The secular world took note of the early Christians and agreed: "Behold how they love one another!"

According to **1 Corinthians 12:7** what is the source of these spiritual gifts?

What is described as the overall purpose of these gifts? **1 Corinthians 12:8-11**

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In practical terms, there is no comparison between the infant church and the structured institution we know today as far as simplicity and effectiveness are concerned. Yet the unfinished task of spreading the “good news” of God’s grace for forgiveness and power for deliverance would be impossibility for us, too, except for the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s seek to emulate the best qualities of the New Testament church. We must start reaffirming and yielding to the true life of the body of Christ: And the end result will be that the body of Christ is strengthened and the task of evangelism advanced.

- giving ourselves to the equipping power of the Holy Spirit
- giving ourselves to the proclamation of the Word of God
- giving ourselves to the encouragement and cultivation of ministries in all members of the body.

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## CONCLUSION:

SURRENDER TO THE “SPIRIT OF THIS AGE” THE CHURCH SHOULD RISE IN FAITH AND OBEDIENCE AS ABRAHAM’S SEED GENESIS 12:3, ROMANS 4:16-17 TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF NATIONS.

It is neither pretentious nor arrogant to propose both: (1) the future of Australia is seriously imperiled, but salvageable; (2) the people whose faith and action are rooted in God’s call and promise are the sole instruments who can introduce this salvation. There are ten steps I see—ours to take in faith and obedience, or to neglect ... in surrender to futility.

### **1. Believe the Promise: 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 15**

The beginning point is to decide that the power of prayer is potentially effective to bring a saving turnaround, and the Almighty Himself underwrites that such prayer.

### **2. Love the Body: Romans 12:3**

Mutual respect and acceptance among all God’s redeemed is essential. But this requires an end to suspicion, criticism, judgmentalism, and separatism.

### **3. Bless Your Enemies: Matthew 5:44**

The stance toward those opposed to our best interest, as a people must be changed from one of snobbish and condescending anger to a posture of releasing, intercessory blessing.

### **4. Pursue Peace: Psalm 34:14, 1 Peter 3:11**

The embracing of every ethnic group is required by the mandate of the Creator, who “has made from one blood every nation of men”. Transethnic reconciliation is God’s order.

### **5. Live in Purity: Philippians 2:14–15**

The Word of God, lived out by the early church, showed that the way to assert moral superiority in a corrupt culture is to shine by example, not shoot as an adversary.

### **6. Value Life: Proverbs. 31:8**

The issues of abortion and euthanasia are not political ones, but morally decisive ones. Our commitment to life is born of a respect for the Creator’s world.

### **7. Invade Violence: Matthew 11:12**

The living church is not an institution, but an incarnation of Jesus Christ—His body, called to enter Hell’s terrain, not runs from its intrusions, reaching with life and love.

### **8. Serve the Needy: Matthew 5:16**

The ministry of the gospel involves compassion for the social need of humankind, as well as man’s spiritual need. Good works create a platform for truth to be listened to.

### **9. Preserve Liberty: Romans 13:1–7, 1 Timothy 2:1–4**

Responsible exercise of our privilege as free citizens and faithful attention to our responsibilities as believing intercessors are tools to employ.

### **10. Demonstrate: Declare, and Dispense the Gospel Romans 5:20**

As living evidences of the resurrected Saviour (demonstrating Him), let us be giving people—who present the truth with winsomeness and power, as the Holy Spirit fills us for the task.”

**André Rivenell**

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