

# THE EVANGELISM MODEL

## *The Biblical Framework*

The Evangelism Model is built upon a theology of evangelism. The following are passages that were foundational in its development or illustrative of its principles.

### **God: The Master**

**Purpose:** God's Glory (John 17)

**Passion:** Love for the Lost (Matthew 9:35-38)

**Plan:** The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

**Power:** The Holy Spirit (Acts, the whole book, particularly 1:8)

**Prayer:** Our Dependence (Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; Matthew 9:37-38)

### **The World: The Masses**

#### **The Personal Context**

##### Spiritual Proximity

The Pharisees (contrast Mark 12:34 with Matthew 23, particularly 15, 27)

The Crowds (compare Acts 2:40-41 with Acts 17:16-34)

##### Spiritual Process

Consider Paul's Life-Story

His upbringing and education (Philippians 3:5)

His life as a Pharisee (Philippians 3:6; Acts 9:1, 2)

His encounter on the road (Acts 9:3-7)

His three days in Damascus (Acts 9:8-9)

His visit by Ananias (Acts 9:10-19)

Consider Timothy's life-story (or others)

**The Social Context** (John 1:40-51; Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-17; John 4:39-42; Acts 10:24)

**The Cultural Context** (1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Compare the cultural context and messages of Acts 10:34-43 with 17:16-34)

**The Spiritual Context** (Ephesians 2:2; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

### **Believers: The Messengers**

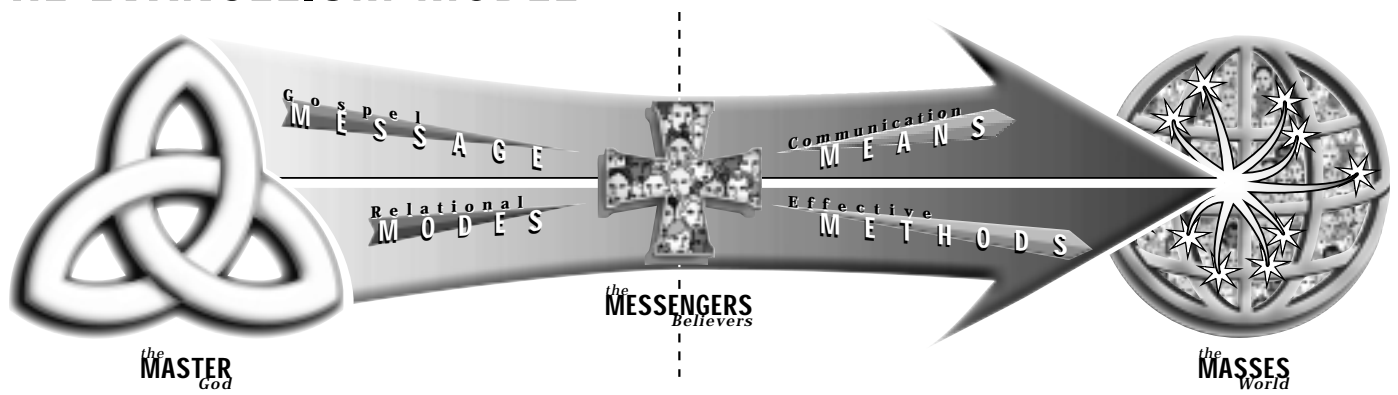
Compare and contrast each of these witnesses (consider their maturity, impact, motivation, message, relationship to audience, etc.)

**Lifestyle Witness:** The Samaritan Woman (John 4:28-30)

**Laborers:** The 72 Disciples (Luke 10:1-20)

**Leaders:** The Apostles (Acts 5:41-42)

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## The Gospel Message

**The Essence of the Gospel** (Compare 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 with Luke 24:45-48)

**The Fullness of the Gospel** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Luke 24:44 [Old Testament writings]; Romans [and New Testament Epistles])

For a full exposition see: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ: An Evangelical Celebration" (in *Christianity Today*, June 14, 1999, pp. 51-56 or on the Web at <http://www.christianity.net/ct/9T7/9T7049.html>)

## The Communication Means

**Theologically framed presentations** (Acts 2:14-39; Book of Romans)

**Life-story or testimonial presentations** (John 4:28-30, 39-42; Acts 26)

**Historical narratives** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts 7; Acts 13:16-44)

**Philosophical arguments** (Acts 17:22-31)

**Non-historical stories** (The Parables; Mark 4:33-34)

**Guided conversations** (John 3:1-21 ; John 4:7-26)

## The Relational Modes

**The Body Witness** (Acts 2:42ff; John 13:34-35; 17:22-23; 1 Corinthians 11:26)

**The Natural Witness** (John 1:40-51; 4:28-42; Luke 8:38-39; Colossians 4:5,6; 1 Pet. 3:15)

**The Ministry Witness** (Mark 1:38, 39; Luke 9:1-66; 10:1-17, Acts 5:41-42; 8:5ff, 26ff; 11:19-21; 11:22-24; 13 and on)

## The Effective Methods

The use of the agricultural cycle as a witnessing analogy: Cultivating – Planting – Watering - Reaping

**Cultivating:** While plowing is not used biblically in witnessing contexts, preparing the land for planting was an assumed agricultural practice (see Luke 9:62)

**Planting & watering:** 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

**Planting & reaping:** John 4:35-38

**Reaping:** Matthew 9:37, 38



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