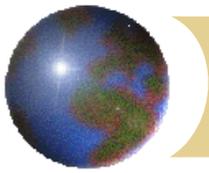


**“FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE
YOU FISHERS OF MEN”**



**Matthew
4:18-22**

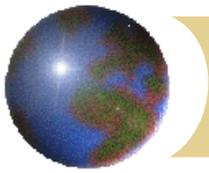


Fishers of Men

“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”
Psalms 126:6

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” Proverbs 11:30

“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Matt 24:11-14

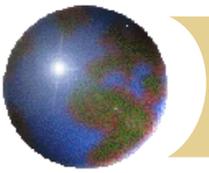


Do You Share His Burden ?

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 2:9)

Does God want souls to perish?





Fishers of Men: Sharing His Burden

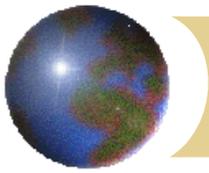
What does it mean to become “Fishers of Men”?

The phrase “fishers of men” was spoken by Jesus when He called two of His disciples, Simon Peter and Andrew, to follow Him.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. “And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:16-17)

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. Matt 4:19





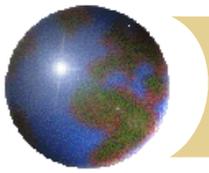
Becoming “Fishers of Men” is a Process.

It involves:

- ✦ Understanding the need for men to be saved (fished/rescued) from this world into the kingdom of God.
- ✦ Being confident to witness.
- ✦ Being confident to teach/share the gospel.
- ✦ Being committed to uphold the Great Commission, (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:45-49; Mark 16:15-16).

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
(Mark 16:15-16)

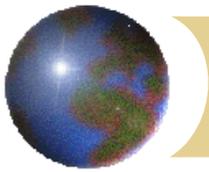




To Become Fishers of Men

- ✦ We need to be properly equipped and trained.
- ✦ “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph 6:12)
- ✦ Putting on the whole armor of God as instructed us in Ephesians 6:10-18 is part of that equipping.
- ✦ It is important that we have the shield of faith to ward off opposition from demonic forces who don't want to see men saved by the gospel of Christ, and, also have the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Faith mixed with God's Word produces results.



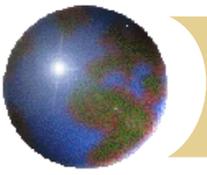
The Benefits of Being Fishers of Men

- ✚ When you teach others you teach yourself. “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself ?..”
(Romans 2:21)

- ✚ You are counted as wise. “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise”. Proverbs 11:30

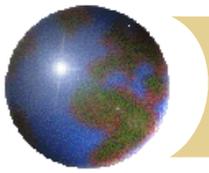
What is he counted as who does not win souls?

- ✚ “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.” (John 15: 2)
- ✚ Bearing fruit builds faith, creates excitement, and increases testimony.



Stagnant versus Inflow & Outflow

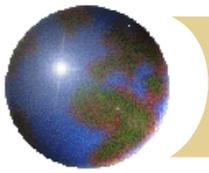




You Must Have Inflow and Outflow

A stagnant body of water has no source of inflow and no outflow. It has no constant refreshing or regeneration taking place.



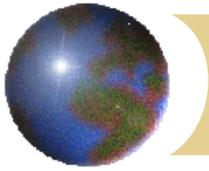


You Must Have Inflow & Outflow

Where there is a source of inflow and outflow, *life* is constantly regenerating.

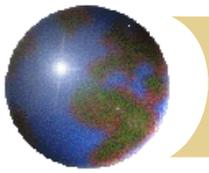
You have to have **inflow** and **outflow** in your life to avoid becoming stagnant





Having Inflow and Outflow

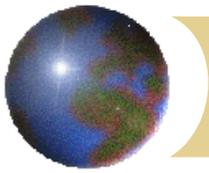
- ❖ **Spiritual inflow is received from hearing the preaching of the Word of God, from study and from prayer.**
- ❖ **Spiritual outflow is sharing that which has been received with others.**
- ❖ **As God is our Father and the church is referred to as our mother, mothers must nourish themselves properly (*inflow*) so that they can feed (*outflow*) newborns properly.**



Healthy Inflow and Outflow

- ❖ Lack of proper nourishment and nurturing in the mother will produce babes (young ones) with poor immune (defense) systems.
- ❖ A healthy momma has a lot of love, patience and milk which the newborn needs.
- ❖ The mother must be properly prepared so that she can properly care for and provide the “sincere milk of the word” to the newborn babes so “that they may grow thereby”. 1 Peter 2:2

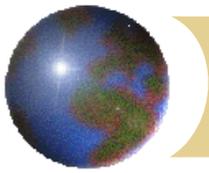




Having an Inflow and Outflow

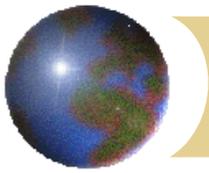
- ✦ The more you come to church (training sessions, etc.) the more you are refreshed and regenerated.
- ✦ The less you attend church, the less you are refreshed and regenerated. An unhealthy weak body (branch) does not produce a strong healthy body nor does it produce strong healthy children (fruit).
- ✦ *“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples”. John 15:8*





Keeping an Inflow and an Outflow

- ✦ The attack on the church today is focus on self. Every man doing his own thing in his own tent, not making time to properly develop his own spirit. “.. *lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*” (2 Tim 3:4)
- ✦ Another problem today is fear. If you have fear you don't have faith. Fear and faith cannot coexist, for one is the opposite of the other. Fear is never natural but always a product of the work of the adversary. *Fear of rejection, fear of failing, etc. ..*



Having Spiritual Outflow

- ✦ “For God hath not given us the **spirit of fear**; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Tim 1:7)
- ✦ You cannot allow external stuff to excuse what you don’t have in you. I live in my flesh but I do not walk after my flesh.

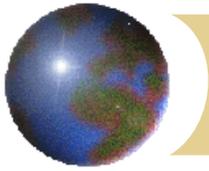
“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”

(Gal 5:17)

- ✦ With enough inflow and outflow you will **weaken** the lust of the flesh and **strengthen the inner and spiritual man**.



Deny the lusts of the flesh and increase spiritual power.

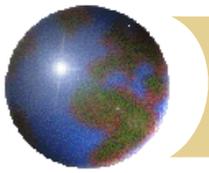


Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

10. We have been commanded to imitate Paul who showed his love for God and for sinners by his obedience to the Great Commission.

“Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved. Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

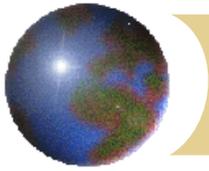
(1 Cor 10:33-11:1)



Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

9. It deepens our prayer life. Fears and sense of inadequacy drive us to our knees. We reveal our love for the lost in crying out to God for them even as Christ did for us.

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”. (2 Cor 12:10)

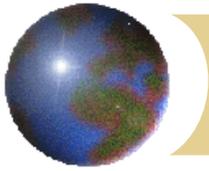


Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#8. It deepens our gratitude for the cross. As we continually preach the cross it deepens our understanding of what God did for us in Christ. We will find ourselves practicing what we preach more.

“ And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

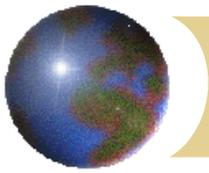
(1 Cor 2:2)



Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#7. It causes us to search the scriptures. Wanting to know how to answer every man will send us to God's Word.

*“ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
(2 Tim 2:15)*



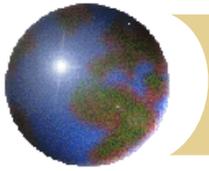
Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#6. Evangelizing deepens our walk with God.

Interacting with the lost results in greater confidence and faith in God.

“..hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

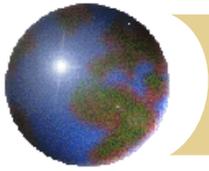
(Philemon 4-6)



Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#5. To remain in silence is sin. As soon as the Holy Spirit was given, the apostles began to preach the gospel, for God had granted everlasting life to dying humanity.

“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” (James 4:17)



Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

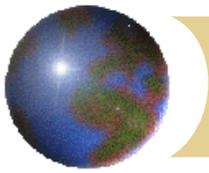
#4. Obedience is evidence of our salvation.

“He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ..” (Hebrews 5:9)

“But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46)

What did Jesus say?

To deliver the gospel of salvation to everyone.



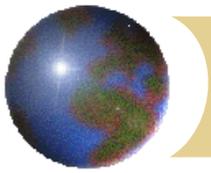
Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#3. Love your neighbor even as you love yourself.

A firefighter rescuing people from a burning building may prefer to be home with his family, but he ignores his fears and denies himself so that others can be saved.

Our thoughts should not be on ourselves but on the fate of the perishing.

“And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh”. (Jude 22-23)



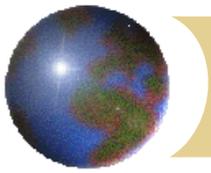
Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#2. Hell exists. Jesus said, *“But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!”* (Luke 12:5).

God’s Word tells us what awaits guilty sinners.

How coldhearted not to warn of its reality.

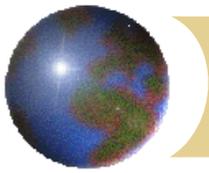
“Your house is on fire”.



Top 10 Reasons To Share the Gospel

#1. We have been commanded to do so. We have been commanded to preach the gospel to all creation. Jesus said,

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ..” (Matt 28:19-20)

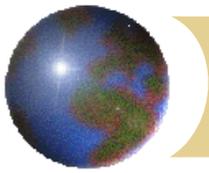


Becoming Fishers of Men

Notice what Jesus commanded us to do in Matthew:

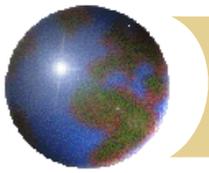
1. Make disciples *“Go therefore and make disciples..”*
2. Baptize them *“.. baptizing them in the name”..*
3. Teach them *“.. teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” ..*

In obedience to Jesus we will (1) learn discipleship, (2) learn about the necessity of baptism, (3) learn to teach.



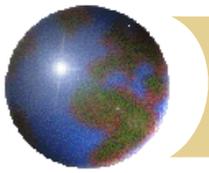
Top 10 Reasons to Share the Gospel

- ✦ 10. We show love for God and sinners as we imitate Paul.
- ✦ 9. Deepens our prayer life.
- ✦ 8. Deepens our gratitude for the cross.
- ✦ 7. Causes us to search the scriptures.
- ✦ 6. Deepens our walk with God.
- ✦ 5. To remain silent is sin.
- ✦ 4. Shows evidence of our salvation.
- ✦ 3. We deny ourselves, loving others even as Christ loved us.
- ✦ 2. Hell exists, and like God, we should want no one to go there.
- ✦ 1. We have been commanded to preach the gospel to everyone.



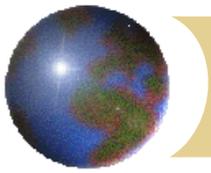
Fishing For The Lost

- ⊕ As fishers of men, the only effective ‘bait’ is the gospel of Jesus Christ. *To those who are perishing, the message of the cross is foolishness, but to us, it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1:18).*
- ⊕ The gospel message has the power to change lives, shine light into darkness, and deliver sinners from hell.
- ⊕ There is power in no other message, and, no other ‘bait’ can catch the fish of God. *“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile” (Rom 1:16).*
- ⊕ Jesus’ message to Peter and Andrew was follow me; learn of me; know and understand my mission and my message.
- Only then can we be fishers of men.



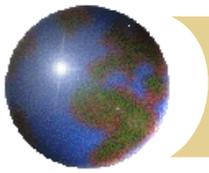
Fishers of Men Know

- ❖ No well reasoned argument will convert the soul of a darkened mind because “*the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*” (2 Cor 4:4).
- ❖ But God can penetrate the darkness with the light of His glorious gospel, and He uses us to do it. He knows which ‘fish’ are ready, therefore, we are to seek His wisdom and His guidance on all ‘fishing’ expeditions. Prayer is essential.



They Are Waiting On Us

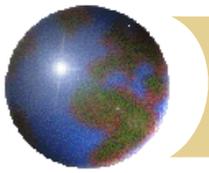
- ⊕ The need of our moment is rescuing souls.
- ⊕ The Bible doesn't contain the Word of God, it **IS** the Word of God.
- ⊕ The Word of God saves, changes our thoughts, guides us in life. *Believe this.*
- ⊕ When you feel the Holy Ghost that's God letting you know someone close by is hungry for Him.
- ⊕ Your witness is powerful. Don't be afraid of it.



What does it mean to believe?

- ❖ Strong's Exhaustive Concordance defines believe as 'pisteúō':
 - a. to put in trust with
 - b. to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to a person or thing)
 - c. to entrust (especially one's well-being)
 - d. to commit (to trust).

- ❖ Greek Lexicon defines believe as 'pisteúō' (from pístis, "faith," derived from peíthō, "to persuade, to be persuaded").
 - a. to credit
 - b. to have confidence in
 - c. to entrust
 - d. to be persuaded as persuaded by the Lord
 - e. to have faith in – believing.



Fishers of Men: Next Steps

Becoming Properly Equipped:

- (1) Understand discipleship and the need for all men to be saved.
- (2) Understand the necessity of baptism.
- (3) Understand the Word we preach.
- (4) Learn to teach. (Marvelous Light, Exploring God's Word)
- (5) Have confidence to witness.
- (6) Have confidence to share the gospel.
- (7) Put on the armor of God and war against the adversary to release bound and blind souls.
- (8) Go out and 'fish' reaching the lost and bringing them into the house of God.



“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. Matt 4:18-22