

EVANGELISM – Sharing the Gospel

3 questions for which we need answers:

- A. **Who** is involved in sharing the Gospel?
 - B. **How** do we go about sharing the Gospel?
 - C. **What** do we share?
-

A) Who is involved in sharing the gospel?

Evangelist – “one who announces glad tidings” or, “one who shares the Gospel”

Who are some evangelists that you know and what do they do?

Let’s see what God’s word has to say about the “evangelist”.

Eph 4:11-12 ... *“And He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

The prime job of the evangelist is to equip the saints for the work of ministry in evangelism. So that the equipped saints can go out and evangelise!

Evangelism is not the job of a handful of Billy Graham’s and Reinhardt Bonke’s; it’s the job of all believers (the saints). In the past we have left the work of evangelism to these few individuals that we have called “evangelists”, and while we have seen quite a lot of people come to the Lord through their campaigns, they have really only scratched the surface and there is a far better way.

Quote: “Share Jesus without Fear” – William Fay: “a survey from the Institute of American Church Growth showed that 75-90% of new believers come to Christ through a friend or acquaintance who explains the good news on a one-on-one basis. Only 17% of all conversions come through what is called an “event” – a pastor giving his Sunday morning message, a Billy Graham crusade, or a Friendship Sunday. Yet, most churches devote the majority of their time, energy, and money to these kinds of events.” (Businessmen invest for maximum return, evangelism should do the same)

So who is to be involved in spreading the gospel and doing the work of evangelism? We – the saints – it’s our privilege and one of our main reasons for being a Christian.

The reason Christ came to earth as a man to die on Calvary’s cross was to bring lost people back into a relationship with the Father. He came to seek and to save the lost. As born again believers we are containers of Christ and He still has the same goal, to seek and save the lost, only now He does it through us. We are His ambassadors!

2 Cor 5:17-20 ... *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us ..."*

So, who is involved in evangelism – in sharing the good news with the lost? You and me! ALL OF US who call ourselves believers! (Remember - *All that is required for evil to prevail is that good men do nothing*)

B) How do we go about sharing the Gospel?

The Lord has given us a clear strategy for reaching the lost and we find it in His word:

Luke 10:1, 5-9 ... *"Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to **every city and place where He Himself was going to come.**" "But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"*

The pattern we are to follow:

1. Pray – speak peace into the homes, businesses and market place
2. Fellowship – eat, drink, chat to them and develop a rapport with them, show them Christ's unconditional love, be their friend
3. Meet their needs – heal the sick, help where help is needed, pray for specific needs
4. Share the Gospel – "the kingdom of God has come near to you"

There is a sequence and process here and it is all about first preparing the 'soil', then planting the 'seed'.

Let's look at each of these in turn:

1. PRAY – Speak Peace into the homes:

1 Tim 2:1-4, 8 ... *"**First of all**, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life (NKJV "quiet and peaceable life") in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Therefore I want the men in every place to pray...*

Starting with prayer is essential for two main reasons:

- i) Psa 127:1 ... *"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."*

If God is not in it from the very start our efforts are doomed for failure. Prayer invites God onto the scene and it seeks His guidance and releases His strength and His peace so that we can accomplish that which He desires, the salvation of the lost and the growth of His kingdom.

- ii) The reason we start off by praying, and specifically to release **peace** into the homes and neighbourhood, is to **change the spiritual climate or atmosphere**.

We must establish an atmosphere of peace with the lost:

- a) Jesus is the friend of sinners. For far too long Christians have been perceived as the 'enemy' by unbelievers because of our unfriendly approach and condemnation. The 'repent or burn' approach has done a lot of damage because it portrays a 'holier-than-thou' attitude, which unbelievers hate. If Jesus is the sinner's friend, we cannot be perceived as being their enemies. So our approach needs to be one of unconditional love and peace.

Example: Preaching the truth without love is like giving someone a nice kiss when you have really bad breath. No matter how good a kisser you are, all they will remember is your bad breath!

John 3:17 ... *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."*

- b) The more we pray and bless the lost the less likely we will be to let out words of condemnation towards them for their poor behaviour or lifestyle. Words like: "oh look how evil he looks", "Oh what a foul mouthed horrible man he is", etc. Words of condemnation.

Prov 11:11 ... *"By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
But by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down."*

- c) We speak peace to counter the turmoil and blindness the devil has caused in the lives of the unsaved.

2 Cor 4:4 ... *"the god of this world (the devil) has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ..."*

We must pray and release peace and also pray Eph 1:17 that God will give to them a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ. If we do this we will release an atmosphere of blessing which will weaken the grip that the devil and his demons have on the lost.

Example: When you are trying to work or read and have a lot of noise going on around you, lots of boisterous activity, lots of disturbance, you cannot hear or concentrate properly and get very frustrated. That's when some peace is so appreciated. The lost are surrounded by Satan's 'noise' and disturbing activities and distractions. We must pray and release peace into their lives to counter this demonic 'noise' and allow them the peace and quiet atmosphere in which to hear

the voice of the Holy Spirit as He quietly speaks to them and opens their hearts to be receptive to the truth and prepares them to receive the good news.

If we first pray and release peace into the lives of those with whom we desire to share the Gospel, we will find that when we go to the second step of meeting and greeting them and developing a rapport with them that they will have sensed the peace that we have prayed over them and the peace that flows out of us. The peace of Christ that flows from us is tangible.

Before we move on let's look at some other passages concerning peace:

Jer 33:4-9 ... *"For thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah which are broken down to make a defense against the siege ramps and against the sword, 'While they are coming to fight with the Chaldeans and to fill them with the corpses of men whom I have slain in My anger and in My wrath, and I have hidden My face from this city because of all their wickedness: 'Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of **peace and truth**. 'I will restore the fortunes of Judah and the fortunes of Israel and will rebuild them as they were at first. 'I will cleanse them from all their iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will pardon all their iniquities by which they have sinned against Me and by which they have transgressed against Me. 'It will be to Me a name of joy, praise and glory before all the nations of the earth which will hear of all the good that I do for them, and they will fear and tremble because of all the good and all the **peace** that I make for it."*

Zech 9:10 ... *"And He will speak **peace** to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth."*

Isa 9:6-7 ... *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of **Peace**. Of the increase of his government and **peace** there shall be no end..."*

Psa 122:6-7 ... *"Pray for the **peace** of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. May **peace** be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces."*

Peace is to be established first in the cities and homes as it prepares the way, changes the spiritual climate, for the gospel to be received.

For far too long the spiritual climate of our neighbourhoods and cities have been controlled by the devil and his hosts. It's time the Church exercised its God given authority and take control by praying for a change in the spiritual climate.

Eph 6:15 ... *"and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of **peace**."*

Walk around your neighbourhood praying and releasing peace into the homes you will be visiting. Kick the devil out of town! Jas 4:7 ... *"RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE!"* Rom 16:20 ... *"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*

Gal 5:22-23 ... *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; **against such things there is no law.**"*

There is no opposing force or law the devil can apply against the peace we release into the neighbourhood and homes and lives of the lost. Hallelujah! So let's get serious about walking our neighbourhoods and praying and releasing peace towards the lost. Let's change the spiritual climate in preparation for seed sowing!

2. FELLOWSHIP – unconditional love demonstrated towards the lost:

The next step after praying peace into the homes, the businesses, the marketplace and the city, is to get close to the sinners. Show yourself to be their friend.

Offer them unconditional love and acceptance. Be open, honest and gracious with them.

By now they will have felt the peace that you have been praying and releasing towards them. If you follow this up with unconditional love and simple friendship you will win them over as friends and people who will confide in you and trust you. Approach your neighbor, the people across the road, the local shop keeper at the corner café, your hairdresser, or barbour, the folks at work, your relatives, people in jail and so on.

Whatever you do, at this stage, don't start "bible bashing" them or condemning them. The reason why many people go to drugs, alcohol, gambling, crime, homosexuality and other such things is because of the rejection and strife they have experienced in their lives. Broken homes, alcoholic parents, lack of education, and many other negative things that have shaped their lives.

So the last thing they want is someone to come along and tell them that they are losers going to hell and all the things they are doing are evil. They will read that approach as REJECTION and they will shut down to you so fast it isn't funny. The sinner knows their condition. They know their failures and that they are missing the mark. But they are blinded as to how to get out of their predicament. What they need is help and the way to help them at this stage is to show them **unconditional love and acceptance JUST AS THEY ARE**. They want a friend; someone who will uplift and encourage them, not someone who condemns them.

Jas 2:13 ... *"mercy triumphs over judgment"*

Luke 10:27 ... *"and He answered, you shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself."*

And Jesus went on to tell them that the Samaritan (people Jews hated) was his neighbour.

It does not matter how evil, or dirty, or horrible the person may be, if we are to see them come into the Kingdom of God then we are to shower them with unconditional love.

1 John 4:20-21 ... *"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."*

Jesus always showed grace and mercy first. Grace and mercy projects the message that Jesus is willing and eager to accept the sinner just as they are. Grace tells them that they have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

In Luke 15 we have the parable of the prodigal son that demonstrates Jesus approach. The father ran towards the filthy, smelly, dignity deprived son and embraced him. He didn't worry about whether his nice new designer suit would get dirty, he just threw his arms around the boy and gave him a huge big hug. Jesus offers the sinner a loving hug before a much needed bath. He immediately calls for a robe, ring and sandals and orders a feast to celebrate. He showers unconditional love and grace on the wayward boy.

He didn't say, "I'll just stand here and wait for him to come and confess his sin and ask forgiveness. He must show repentance before I can possibly respond with any form of love. He's been very bad and I must make sure he knows how bad he is before I can possibly forgive him. Then I must read the word to him and show him how bad he has been and make him grovel in shame so he won't ever do this again." He didn't say, "if he cleans up his act then I'll accept him and show him love". He didn't say, "go take a bath you filthy rat then I'll give you a hug". No, Jesus showed grace and mercy and unconditional love.

Jesus approach was one where grace preceded truth.

John 1:14 ... *"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of **grace** and **truth**"*

There are a number of these 'binary truths' in the word and we do well to take note of them and of the order and reason for the order of the truths. We saw one in Jer 33:6 (*"I will reveal to them and abundance of **peace** and **truth**"*) and now we have one in John 1:14 (*"full or **grace** and **truth**"*). Peace before truth and grace before truth.

If we reverse the order and start immediately with hitting the sinner with the truth, bible bashing approach, we run the risk that they see this as condemnation and will feel rejected and we will lose them. Also, this will cause them to become hardened against other who may try and share Christ with them at some later stage. No one wants to be told, "you are wrong and I am right".

If we reverse the order of these binary truths we will tragically diminish the effectiveness of our efforts to see the lost come to Christ.

Sinners need first and foremost to see God as a God of compassion and love. Although we want to present Jesus as the Truth, we must present Him through the loving arms and embrace of grace. Truth without grace condemns and kills.

So what are we to do?

Invite them to have a barbecue at your place; go fishing with them; go to the footie with them; show interest in the things they are interested in; pop in for a brief chat now and again; bake a cake and take it to them; give them a bunch of roses from your garden; just be their friend. Do this for as long as is necessary to win their confidence in you as their friend and one who accepts and loves them unconditionally.

It took me 35 years to see my best mate come to Jesus and it's now 40 years and we are still showing unconditional love to his wife who we trust will one day accept Christ.

Never give up. As fishers of men remember fishing requires patience!

Once we have loved and accepted and shown grace and mercy to the person and have established a good rapport with them, we are ready to go to the next step.

3. MEET THEIR NEEDS – heal the sick, help where help is needed, pray for specific needs:

Now is the time to demonstrate that God cares for them in a practical way and is longing to meet their needs. If they see God as a caring loving God they will readily accept the Gospel message when you present it to them. Praying for them and helping them is part of the 'soil preparation' process that is essential before 'seed planting'.

If you see that they are unwell offer to pray for their healing. If you sense that they are down or depressed offer to pray for them so that God can deliver them from the problem. If they are in financial strife offer to pray and ask God to provide for their needs.

Even if they don't believe in God or in prayer, it is unlikely that they will refuse help even if it is in the form of prayer. If they see you as a genuine friend it is very unlikely that they will reject your offer to pray for them.

Praying for specific needs and offering help gives God the opportunity to demonstrate His great love for the person or family concerned in a tangible way. This gets the attention of the person; it tells them there is a God who loves them just as they are. It tells them that God is willing and longing to help them.

1 Cor 1:23-24 ... *"but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the **wisdom** of God."*

1 Cor 2:4-5 ... *"and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."*

This is another off the binary truths we do well to take note of. God's **power** demonstrated first to liberate the captive so that when the truth, God's **wisdom**, is presented they will be able to hear and receive the truth.

John 8:32 ... *"and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

To 'know' the truth you have to be able not only to hear it but to be able to receive it, to let it rest in you and spring up and bear fruit in you. The demonstration of God's power and mercy to a sinner is the 'heart preparation' or 'soil preparation' that is needed to get the attention so they will hear and receive the truth of the Gospel message.

When the unexpected happens, especially when it is much needed good, the sinner will want to know the identity of their benefactor. It will get their attention and then they will listen and receive the word.

Examples from scripture where God's power was demonstrated to get the listeners attention are:

Moses: Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3). The burning bush that was not consumed by the fire certainly got his attention. Once it had his attention God was able to speak to Him and convince him of the task God had for him to do. When he questioned God about his ability God had him throw his staff on the ground and it turned into a snake and that really got Moses attention.

Elijah: Calling down fire from heaven on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). That really got the attention of the people of Israel who had forsaken God and gone after Baal. When God answered with fire and consumed the burnt offering, the water drenched wood, the stones, the dust and the water in the trenches, the people fell on their faces and declared that the Lord was God.

Paul: On the road to Damascus (Acts 9). God had to use a blinding light and audible voice to get Paul's attention. Paul was changed from a church persecutor to the most significant apostle in the church.

Peter and John: Going to pray and healed a lame man (Acts 3 & 4). They met a lame man and prayed for him and God healed him. They didn't first preach the Gospel to him and say if you turn your life over to the Lord then we will pray and trust Him to heal you. No, they prayed for him, they showed God's unconditional love for him just as he was. Their bold trust in God to heal was answered. And that caused such a stir and got the attention of the crowds to the point that they were ready to receive the word and 5000 (men were counted) were saved that day.

Jesus and Lazarus: Jesus let Lazarus die and remain dead for four days then raised him from the dead so that the people would believe in Him.

John 11:41-45 ... *"So they removed the stone Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me. When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth. The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him."*

It's time to be bold. It's time we will put our trust in God who has said:

"Call on Me and I will answer" (Jer 33:3)

"If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." (John 14:14)

*"Therefore let us draw near with **confidence** to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb 4:16).*

This step of praying for the needs and taking care of needs and helping the needy is vital as it will inevitably result in people coming into the Kingdom of God. In the scriptures we see a direct link between caring for the needy and Church growth:

Caring for the needy	Church Growth
Acts 2:44-46	Acts 2:47
Acts 4:32-35	Acts 5:14-16
Acts 6:1-3	Acts 6:7-8
Acts 10:2	Acts 10:44-48
Acts 11:29	Acts 12:24

If we follow the sequence of events:

- 1) Pray – release peace into your neighbourhood, your workmates, your relatives and friends
- 2) Fellowship – show them unconditional love and acceptance. Be their friend.
- 3) Meet their needs – pray for them, help them, let God demonstrate His power to liberate them from the grips of Satan.

When we have done these things, then the soil is prepared and ready for the "seed", so we can now move to the next step of sharing the Good News.

But before we look at sharing the gospel there is something we must be aware of:

Although it is important, generally, to adhere to the sequence or process discussed above (1 - pray and release peace, 2 - fellowship and be their friend, and 3 - pray for their needs and help them in practical ways) sometimes the order may need to be rearranged. This will be spontaneous and you will 'know' when this is to happen.

For instance: you may have progressed from step 1 to step 2 to find that, even before you can get to know them, they are in desperate need and so you immediately offer to pray for them so that God can heal them – like what happened with Peter and John when confronted by the lame beggar, where they skipped step 2. So we must be sensitive to the situation and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Also, if you have walked your neighbourhood and prayed peace into the homes, you may elect to follow that up by dropping off in the mail boxes of the people you have never previously met an invitation to pray for their needs. A carefully drafted note offering to pray for needs, health, etc. with a section for them to mail back requesting prayer, may be the way you can get to know them. The offer of prayer can follow two possible paths: 1) you ask them to return a slip with their name address and contact number and for them to write down the need for which they would like prayer, or, 2) you can tell them that there will be a "Prayer Fair" on a certain day (arrange one to be held soon after the mail drop) at your

local church where they can come and have someone pray for them. Either way, you get to pray for them and to follow up to see how they are doing. At the follow up stage you can then get to know them and offer friendship and love and take things from there.

These are alternatives that we must be aware of, but the important thing is to be sensitive to the situation at hand and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In general, however, the process to follow is the one we have discussed as this follows the pattern set out by our Lord and is the way people are prepared for the seed to be sown into their lives.

4. SHARE THE GOSPEL – “the kingdom of God has come near to you”.

Now they will be prepared and ready to hear and receive the gospel and to put their faith in Jesus.

In fact if they have seen Christ in you as you have shared His love with them and God has answered prayers for them and they have seen the hand of God move on their behalf to bring them the answers, it is most likely that they will be asking you questions about the Lord and this will give you the right to speak into their lives and it presents the opportune time to share the truth with them.

So now we sit down with them and quietly share the Gospel message. Take them through the scriptures that declare the truth concerning the message of the cross and offer them the opportunity to pray and receive Christ as their Savior and their Life.

C) What do we share?

Ps 139:1-18 Start with the fact that God knows them and considers them to be precious and valuable to Him.

Eph 1:4 Then explain that since the beginning, before the foundation of the earth, it has always been God's plan for us to live by His life.

Rom 5:12 But then sin entered the world and cut man off from God. The Bible calls this sin. The first man and woman ever to be created sinned and introduced sin to the human race.

Rom 3:23 As a result we have all sinned and are out of fellowship with God.

Rom 6:23 As sinners we are cut off from God unless we accept God's free gift of salvation we will live an unfulfilled life and spend eternity in hell.

1 Pet 3:18 Christ took our place and was sacrificed to pay the price of sin so that He could bring us back into fellowship with God and so that we could live by His life in the way He originally planned for us to do. This enables us to live a fulfilled life here and eventually to enjoy all eternity in His presence in heaven.

John 3:16 and Rom 5:8 Why did Jesus die for us? Because God loved us so much and He didn't want us to be eternally separated from Him. So He made a plan. He sacrificed His Son Jesus on our behalf and paid the price for our sin to put us back in fellowship with Him and to give us a new life to live by.

John 1:12 All God asks is for us to believe in Jesus and then He will birth the life of His Son in us and we will become one of His children living by His life and power.

John 10:10 and Rom 5:17 Jesus came to give us abundant life, the God kind of life.

John 11:25-26, Acts 4:12 and Acts 16:31 Whoever believes in the name of Jesus will be saved.

What does it mean to be “saved”? By Jesus shed blood your sins are forgiven. By His death and resurrection your old sin nature is put to death and is exchanged for His divine nature. He has forgiven your sins, he has dealt with the source of sin and He has given you His life to live by. Wow!

After explaining the way of salvation we should ask the person if they would like to pray and receive Christ. Then pray with them leading them in a simple prayer. Get them to pray after you.

“Lord I acknowledge that I am a sinner. But I thank you that you sent Jesus to die on the cross for my sin. I thank you that he rose from the grave and gave me eternal life. I confess that I believe in Jesus and accept Him as my Saviour and Lord. I thank you for forgiving my sin and thank you for the abundant life I can now enjoy in Christ. Amen.”

Baptism:

If we look at the scriptures we will see that immediately after accepting Christ as Saviour believers were baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit. We should lead them to follow through with these acts as soon as possible.

Water baptism is for the purpose of an outward expression of one’s new found faith in Christ, but is also, very importantly, an act by which the lordship of Satan is cut off. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of having a guide, teacher, comforter to teach us Christ and to bring us to full stature in Christ. The sooner both of these take place the better. Take a look at:

Exodus 13 and 14 The angel of death had passed over the Israelite houses where the blood had been placed on the door posts and lintel of the door. This is a type of salvation. We are saved from eternal death by the blood of Jesus. The Israelites then fled from Egypt and passed through the red sea. God had parted the sea so they could pass through safely to the other side. Pharaoh’s army came in pursuit of them but the whole army was swallowed up and drowned in the sea when it closed in on them. The children of Israel were no longer under the lordship of Pharaoh, who is a type of Satan. This passing through the waters was a type of water baptism by which the lordship of Satan is cut off. If the Israelites had remained in Egypt they would have been spared the death of their firstborn because of the blood of the lamb, but they would have still been under the dominion of Pharaoh. A person who is born again needs to go through the waters of baptism to break the stronghold Satan has over them. This is a time where the new believer can be encouraged to let go of bad habits and an opportunity to see the power of God deliver them and set them free from all bondages!

Then note that there was the pillar of fire by night and cloud by day that guided the children of Israel in the journey through the wilderness. As long as they remained under the cloud or followed the pillar of

fire they were safe and God blessed them. If not, they were in trouble. The cloud and fire are types of the Holy Spirit. We need to be immersed/baptized in the Holy Spirit and thereafter need to submit to Him as He leads us and teaches us Christ and brings us to maturity in Christ.

Pray for the new convert to be filled with the Holy Spirit and encourage them to be baptized in water. You can do that in a bath tub if there is no pool, river or ocean nearby! Do it straight away.

Difficult Questions:

No doubt you will run into someone who will be a cynic or an intellectual and they will throw many 'difficult' questions and objections at you. Such as:

- Isn't the Bible a myth and hasn't science disproved Christianity?
- How can you say there is only one way to God? What about other religions?
- What gives you the right to tell me how to live my life?
- Why are there so many rules?
- Why does God allow suffering and why is there so much evil in the world?
- Why is the Church responsible for so much injustice and why are Christians such hypocrites?
- How can God be so full of love and wrath at the same time?
- How can God send good people to hell?
- I was hurt by a Christian.
- I've been so bad God cannot forgive possibly me.
- How do I know I have enough faith?
- I don't believe in God or the resurrection.
- I'm a good person, I'm not a sinner.
- I'm not ready.
- How will I know that I am saved?
- I've tried it and it didn't work.
- The church only wants my money.
- The Bible is full of errors and contradictions.
- How do you know the Gospel you preach is true?

You need to go prepared and if you don't know the answers to these you can get help from good books like:

- Share Jesus without Fear by William Fay
- The Reason for God by Timothy Keller
- Evidence that demands a verdict by Josh McDowell
- Evolution impossible by John F Ashton

May our Father bless and encourage you as you go out into the harvest as His ambassador.