



# The Biblical Office of the Evangelist: Restoring God's Harvesters for the Last Days: Foundational Issues Part 5 | KIB 539

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Kingdom Intelligence Briefing

## CHARACTER STUDY OF THE OFFICE OF THE EVANGELIST

Ephesians 4:11–16

### Definition

The Greek word translated "evangelist" is εὐαγγελιστής (euangelistēs).

### Meaning:

- Messenger of Good News – GELNT <sup>1</sup>
- Proclaimer of the Gospel – BDAG <sup>2</sup>
- Herald of Salvation – BTLNT <sup>3</sup>
- One who announces glad tidings – LSJ <sup>4</sup>

The word is derived from:

- εὖ (eu) – good
- ἀγγέλλω (angellō) – to announce or proclaim

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<sup>1</sup> S. T. Bloomfield, *A Greek and English Lexicon to the New Testament* (London: Longman, Orme, Brown, Green, & Longmans, 1840), 159.

<sup>2</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 403.

<sup>3</sup> Hermann Cremer, *Biblico-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek*, trans. William Urwick (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1895), 34.

<sup>4</sup> Henry George Liddell et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), 705.

**Literal Meaning:**

"One who proclaims the Good News."

Unlike the pastor, whose primary responsibility is shepherding believers, the evangelist is uniquely gifted to proclaim the Gospel to the lost and to equip believers to do the same.

**PRIMARY BIBLICAL TEXT****Ephesians 4:11–13 (ESV)**

**11** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Notice four important truths:

- Christ Himself appoints evangelists.
- Evangelists are gifts to the Church.
- Their purpose is to equip believers for ministry.
- Their ministry contributes to the maturity and unity of the Body of Christ.

The evangelist is not merely a soul winner; he equips others to become effective witnesses.

# 1. OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOWS OF THE EVANGELIST

## a. Noah

### **Primary Scriptures:**

Genesis 6–9

2 Peter 2:5

Peter describes Noah as "a herald of righteousness."

### **Characteristics:**

- Warned of the coming judgment.
- Called people to repentance.
- Offered God's way of salvation.
- Remained faithful despite widespread rejection.

**Lessons:** The evangelist faithfully proclaims God's message regardless of the public's response.

## b. Jonah

### **Primary Scriptures:**

Jonah 1–4

### **Characteristics:**

- Preached repentance to Nineveh.
- Declared impending judgment.
- Witnessed one of Scripture's greatest revivals.

**Lessons:** God's mercy is extended even to the most wicked when they genuinely repent.

### **c. Isaiah**

Primary Scriptures:

Isaiah 40

Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 61

Isaiah consistently proclaimed:

- The coming Messiah.
- God's redemption.
- Hope for the future.

Isaiah 52:7 later becomes foundational to New Testament evangelism.

#### **Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)**

**7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

## 2. NEW TESTAMENT MODELS

### a. John the Baptist

#### **Primary Scriptures:**

Matthew 3

Mark 1

Luke 3

John 1

Jesus declared:

#### **Matthew 11:11 (ESV)**

**11** Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

#### **Characteristics:**

- Preached repentance.
- Prepared hearts for Christ.
- Fearlessly confronted sin.
- Pointed everyone toward Jesus.
- Demonstrated genuine humility.

His central message was:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## **b. Jesus Christ**

Primary Scriptures:

Luke 4

Luke 19:10

John 3

Although Jesus perfectly fulfilled every ministry office, He demonstrated the heart of the evangelist.

### **Luke 19:10 (ESV)**

**10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Characteristics:

- Sought sinners.
- Demonstrated compassion.
- Called people to repentance.
- Preached the Kingdom.
- Confirmed His message through miracles.

## **c. PHILIP — THE MODEL EVANGELIST**

Primary Scriptures:

Acts 6

Acts 8

Acts 21:8

**Philip is the only individual specifically identified in Scripture as "Philip the evangelist."**

His life provides the clearest biblical pattern for this ministry.

## **Character Qualities**

### **(1). Spirit-filled**

Acts 6:3–5

Philip first proved himself faithful in serving practical needs before entering public ministry.

**Lesson:** Faithfulness precedes promotion.

### **(2). Full of Wisdom**

Acts 6:3

Evangelists require discernment to minister effectively.

### **(3). Good Reputation**

Acts 6:3

Character is more important than gifting.

### **(4). Sensitive to the Holy Spirit**

Acts 8:26–29

Philip immediately obeyed God's direction.

### **(5). Flexible**

Acts 8:26–40

Philip willingly left a citywide revival to minister to one Ethiopian official.

**Lesson:** A true evangelist values one soul as much as a multitude.

## **(6). Loves All People**

Philip ministered to:

- Jews
- Samaritans
- Gentiles

The Gospel knows no ethnic or social barriers.

## **(7). Bold**

Acts 8

Philip openly proclaimed Christ despite opposition.

## **(8). Scripture-Centered**

Acts 8:35

### **Acts 8:35 (ESV)**

**35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

His message centered on Christ rather than personal experiences.

## **(9). Miracle Ministry**

Acts 8:6–8

God confirmed Philip's preaching through:

- Healings
- Deliverance
- Miraculous signs

Mark 16:20 states:

### **Mark 16:20 (ESV)**

**20** And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.

## **(10). Produces Joy**

Acts 8:8

### **Acts 8:8 (ESV)**

**8** So there was much joy in that city.

Where biblical evangelism flourishes, joy accompanies salvation.

## **d. TIMOTHY**

Primary Scripture:

2 Timothy 4:5

Paul instructed Timothy:

**2 Timothy 4:5 (ESV)**

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

Although Timothy primarily functioned as a pastor, Paul reminded him that every pastor must still engage in evangelistic ministry.

This illustrates an important distinction:

Every believer should evangelize. Not every believer holds the office of evangelist.

### **3. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EVANGELIST**

- Proclaim Jesus Christ.
- Call sinners to repentance.
- Announce the Kingdom of God.
- Equip believers for personal evangelism.
- Identify spiritual harvest fields.
- Pray for healing and deliverance when directed by the Holy Spirit.
- Baptize new believers.
- Connect converts to healthy local churches for discipleship.

## **4. SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS**

A biblical evangelist demonstrates:

- Compassion (Matthew 9:36)
- Boldness (Acts 4:31)
- Great faith
- Joy
- Spiritual urgency
- Dependence upon the Holy Spirit
- Love for people
- Humility
- A passion for Scripture

## **5. COMMON STRENGTHS**

Healthy evangelists often:

- Inspire faith.
- Mobilize churches.
- Reach unbelievers.
- Clearly explain the Gospel.
- Encourage outreach.
- Recognize divine appointments.
- Often minister with supernatural confirmation.

## **6. POTENTIAL WEAKNESSES**

Without maturity, evangelists may:

- Focus more on decisions than discipleship.
- Become impatient with slower ministries.
- Neglect long-term follow-up.
- Depend too heavily upon emotional responses.

- Undervalue pastoral care and biblical teaching.

Healthy evangelists remain connected with apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers.

## 7. THE EVANGELIST WITHIN THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

| Ministry Office | Primary Emphasis                                               |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apostle         | Expands the Kingdom through pioneering and establishing works. |
| Prophet         | Calls God's people to covenant faithfulness.                   |
| Evangelist      | Brings people into the Kingdom through the Gospel.             |
| Pastor          | Shepherds and cares for believers.                             |
| Teacher         | Grounds believers in sound doctrine.                           |

The evangelist serves as the bridge between the world and the Church.

## 8. EVERY BELIEVER VERSUS THE OFFICE OF EVANGELIST

Every believer is commanded to share the Gospel.

Examples include:

Matthew 28:19–20

Mark 16:15

Acts 1:8

1 Peter 3:15

However, the office of evangelist is a specific ministry gift.

Every Christian witnesses.

The evangelist equips others to witness effectively.

## **9. MARKS OF A GENUINE EVANGELIST**

A true evangelist:

- Loves Jesus above ministry.
- Loves lost people.
- Preaches repentance.
- Exalts Christ rather than self.
- Depends upon the Holy Spirit.
- Teaches Scripture faithfully.
- Demonstrates compassion.
- Walks in humility.
- Produces disciples rather than merely decisions.
- Works alongside the other ministry gifts.

## **10. FALSE EVANGELISTS**

Scripture also warns of counterfeit ministers.

**Characteristics include:**

- Preaching another gospel (Galatians 1:6–9)
- Using manipulation instead of truth (2 Corinthians 4:2)
- Seeking personal gain (2 Peter 2:1–3)

- Pursuing signs while neglecting biblical doctrine (Matthew 7:21–23)
- Flattering people rather than calling them to repentance (1 Thessalonians 2:3–6)

A genuine evangelist measures success by transformed lives rather than crowd size.

## 11. PRACTICAL LESSONS FOR TODAY

1. Evangelists awaken the Church's burden for the lost.
2. Biblical evangelism always centers upon Jesus Christ.
3. Genuine evangelism includes repentance, faith, and discipleship.
4. The Holy Spirit empowers and confirms the Gospel.
5. New believers should immediately become part of healthy local churches.
6. Evangelists function best in cooperation with apostles, prophets, pastors, and teachers.

## 12. SUMMARY PROFILE

**Ministry Gift:** A gift given by Christ to equip His Church (Ephesians 4:11–13).

**Primary Mission:** To proclaim the Gospel while equipping believers for evangelism.

**Biblical Model:** Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8; Acts 21:8).

**Old Testament Foreshadows:** Noah, Jonah, and Isaiah.

**Essential Character Traits:** Compassion, boldness, humility, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, faithfulness to Scripture, and love for the lost.

**Primary Message:** The Kingdom of God, repentance, reconciliation through Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins, and a covenant relationship with God.

**Primary Fruit:** Salvation, transformed lives, joy, Church growth, and believers equipped for evangelism.

**Primary Danger:** Emphasizing conversions without ensuring discipleship and spiritual maturity.

## **KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE**

The office of the evangelist is that of a covenant herald. Like the royal messengers of the ancient world, the evangelist announces the King's decree that the Kingdom of God has come near through Jesus the Messiah. His calling extends beyond securing professions of faith; it is to summon men and women into covenant loyalty to the reigning King.

Consequently, biblical evangelism always includes repentance, faith, baptism, discipleship, and incorporation into the covenant community. The evangelist's work is complete not when a person makes a decision for Christ, but when that believer is established as a faithful disciple who is equipped to make disciples of others (Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:37–47; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20).