

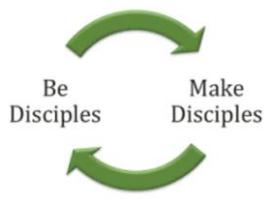
# THE EVANGELISTIC ENERGIZER

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## Evangelism (Part 1)

**What exactly is evangelism?** What involvement must we as individual Christians have, if any, with regards to evangelism? It is the purpose of this brief lecture to define what evangelism is and how it applies to our individual Christian lives. Also we will examine God's plan, purpose and power for evangelism and the personal response toward evangelism.



**LET'S GET  
ENERGIZED  
ABOUT  
EVANGELISM!**

**Evangelism Defined** The English word “evangelism” is simply a transliteration of the Koine Greek word euangelo. It is the conjunction of the prefix eu (yoo) which means: “to be well off, fare well, prosper”; or in some instances; “acting well” and the word angelo means to deliver a message. (Vine’s Expository Dictionary) Therefore, euangelo (i.e. evangelism) is related to the delivery of a good message.

To what good message is evangelism related? The gospel. The word “gospel” comes from the Greek word euangelion which literally means “good news” or “glad tidings.” In its spiritual sense, evangelism is closely related to and intimately connected with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact evangelism is the preaching or spreading of the gospel. This would include things such as mission work, preaching, gospel meeting work, door knocking campaigns and internet evangelistic efforts. In reality, anything we do to further the spread of the gospel falls under evangelism.

There are two Greek words that are predominantly used with regards to the preaching of the gospel, kerusso and euangelizo. The word kerusso defined simply, means “to proclaim.” It is defined by Thayer in this manner: “to be a herald, to officiate as a herald. to proclaim after the manner of a herald. to publish, proclaim openly: something which has been done. used of the public proclamation of the gospel and matters pertaining to it, made by John the Baptist, by Jesus, by the apostles and other Christian teachers.”

The word euangelizo literally means, “I preach the gospel.” Thayer’s defines it as, “to bring good news, to announce glad tidings. “Euangelizo” is found fifty-five times in the New Testament, in one form or another. It is first used by Jesus to describe the results of His work to the followers of John the Baptizer. “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.” (Matthew 11:5) We find it used to describe the work of the apostles in Acts 5:42 “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” And in Acts 8:4 “euangelizo” is used to describe the work of the Christians who were scattered out of Jerusalem, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.” In these three examples we see: Jesus preaching the gospel; the apostles preaching the gospel; and ordinary Christians preaching the gospel.

One form or another of “kerusso” is found sixty-one times in the New Testament. It is used in connection with the Great Commission in Mark 16:16 and Luke 24:47. For all practical purposes the two words are interchangeable in their meaning as they pertain to the gospel.

The English word “preacher”, as used in the Bible originates from either Greek word. Specifically though, an evangelist is one who preaches or spreads the gospel. This comes from the Greek word euangelistes or “bringer of good tidings.” Philip, one of the seven chosen in Acts chapter 6, is called “Philip, the evangelist...” (Acts 21:8) and Paul exhorted Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist...” (2 Timothy 4:5). Simply put, an evangelist is one who does the work of spreading the gospel. Any Christian, male or female, young or old, who is involved in evangelism can be called an evangelist. *Jack McNeil*

- To Be Continued

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