**Spreading the Gospel Flames**

**Subtitle: Carrying the Torch of Faith to Make Disciples**

Revelation 3:15–16 (NKJV)

15 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Illustration of Disobedience: - Going to my friends house in the apartments and my mom finding out and beating me with Oreo cookies. Now a days if someone found out about that Spanking someone would have called Child Protective Services. I knew what I was supposed to do but I figured, I would be fine, nothing would happen to me, my mom doesn’t really know what she’s talking about and I didn’t want to obey her. All excuses for reasons to disobey.

How many of you think that I was right to disobey my mom?

How many of you think I deserve the spanking?

How many of you would be upset if you told your kid to do something and they didn’t do it?

Guess what that’s why Jesus says, “He will spit us out” There is one mandate that Jesus gave the body of Christ and we are blatantly telling God, NO! I don’t want to, I don’t feel like it. It’s ok if I don’t do it. I’m going to let someone else take care of it not me.

I am so glad God doesn’t say “Go get me a switch” but I think it’s worse to think that he will absolutely SPIT Us Out and reject us because we do not obey. His word says that if you love me you will obey me.

Today is the conclusion of our Church on Fire Series. We have gone through the mission of Rohi each week by talking about Keep it 100 - Real, Change - Burning Bright together and the power of small groups, Now - Flames of Action and serving and finally we discuss the Go - Spreading the Gospel Flames.

The first thing we have to do if we are going to spread the Gospel Flames is that we have to…

1. **Get Obedient**

Spreading the Gospel flames is at the very core of our Christian calling. We have all been called to share the love of Jesus with others. Some of the last words of Jesus were to tell us to GO! Make Disciples,

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Before he ascended into heaven he told the disciples:

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and y**ou shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

He told us to Go, make disciples and be his witnesses. We cannot be Christians who are on Fire for God or a church On Fire if we are not telling other people about Jesus.

I mean even before he left he told Peter…

Mark 1:17 (NKJV): \*"Then Jesus said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.'"\*

I have to say this in light of this passage:

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?

We go because Jesus told us to go. We share because He commanded us to share. And as we step out in obedience, we not only impact the lives of others, but we also grow in our faith. It's a two-way blessing.

When we don’t share the gospel with others we are being disobedient.

1. **Get Passionate**

ILLUS - In the grocery store. Ordered a sandwich and right after I got my sandwich this random older gentleman, I never knew said, “Do you want to see a picture of the puppy I’m getting” and he proceeded for 10 minutes to tell me about the puppy, where he got it from, how old the puppy was in the picture, the date he was going to pick it up, how the trainer was making sure the puppy was potty trained, and the name of the puppy, (Dixie). I was annoyed, in a rush and frankly did not care but that day I heard the good news! This man was getting a puppy!

Later on I thought to myself, I should have told him about Jesus. Why is that we can share about everything else but can’t share about Jesus.

We should go because we are passionate about going. We should be motivated to go because of the goodness of God. But we are not passionate about going so we don’t say anything.

In fact we use these excuses: “I wish I were bolder.”, “I wish I knew how to answer questions better.”, “I wish I was more outgoing.” It’s pretty easy to come up with a list of things about ourselves that make us unqualified to share the Gospel.

Here is my favorite one - That’s not my gift! I don’t have the gift of evangelism.

Here’s another way of looking at it. Have you ever heard a Christian say, “I’m not gifted in prayer - I’ll leave it to those who are really spiritual.” or “I’m not gifted in reading the Bible - I’ll leave that to the intellectuals.”? You’ve probably never heard this because these statements would sound ridiculous coming from a true Christian. But here is a statement that I have heard many true Christians make: *“I’m not gifted in evangelism - I’ll just leave it to those who are more outgoing.”* That’s so off base….

Many Christians think they don’t have the “gift of evangelism” so they regularly opt out of it. Sadly, the mindset of “it’s-not-my-gift” has kept so many of us from entering the harvest field.

It’s interesting there is no where in the bible that says that evangelism is a spiritual gift and only those who have that gift can go and tell others about Jesus. You might say, I have seen it in the Bible. Pastor you are coo coo, I know that the Bible talks about the gift of evangelism. Let me show it to you…

Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

This is the only place you see where God have a special gift but this is to the office of evangelist. Not as a gift given to certain members of the body of Christ. Let me explain, what is the purpose of the office:

Ephesians 4:12–13 (NKJV)

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Now watch this…

Christians don’t need to be uniquely gifted to evangelize; rather, we need to be equipped! Evangelism is not a gift given to some,it’s a command given to all. One of our main callings as followers of Christ is to help others become followers of Christ. Many of us have misfiled evangelism in the spiritual gift drawer when it needs to be filed in the spiritual discipline drawer. It’s not reserved for those who are outgoing, any more than Bible study is reserved for those who are studious.

 From the very beginning, becoming a follower of Christ always included becoming a “fisher of men” ([Mark 1:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%201.17)). It was a job not just for the outgoing, not just for the socially gifted, but for everybody.

What should be our passion for going

The word Gospel means Good News. When something good happens to you, you immediately want to go out and share that with everyone.

I also realized that after leaving University of Oregon dropping my son off, Every single conversation I had in Oregon, I found a way to tell people that my son went to the University of Oregon and is a baseball player there. But I did not find a way to tell them about Jesus.

What was the difference. I was excited about telling people about my son going to University of Oregon. You might even say I was on fire to tell them. But we have lost our fire for the power of the gospel.

* We’ve lost our fire for seeing people experience the power of the salvation
* We’ve lost our fire and passion for seeing people come to Jesusj
* We have no fire for seeing people healed
* We have no fire for seeing people delivered
* Ultimately, we aren’t excited any more so we don’t tell anyone.

So first we need a passion for the lost… and we need to get passionate again. The next way to spread the gospel flames is that we have to….

1. **Get Out**

Not like the Jordan Peele movie. But we need to get out of our comfort zone. Get out of our normal thinking. Get out of our own Idea of what evangelism is and tell others about Jesus. Invite people to church. Invite people to small groups.

GO -

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For those of you who are saying well It’s not my spiritual gift. Evangelism is a gift. It’s that

Going and sharing your faith doesn't have to be a daunting task. In fact, it can happen organically, in your everyday life.

Consider Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. In Acts 8, Philip was simply going about his day, **led by the Spirit.**

I want to pause here because in order to get out you have got to be praying and asking the Holy Spirit for encounters each day and then following where he leads you because he will tell you want to say and empower you to be his witness. But you have to ask him and listen to him.

So Philip was led by the Spirit and he came out and encountered this Ethiopian Eunic by the side of the word reading Scripture and he started a conversation. Shared the Gospel, led the man to Jesus and baptized him.

We can follow this example by:

1. \*\*Listening and Responding:\*\* Pay attention to the people around you. Listen to their stories, their struggles, and their questions. Respond with love and empathy, and let the Holy Spirit guide your words.

2. \*\*Sharing Your Testimony:\*\* No one can argue with your personal experience of God's grace. Share your testimony of how Jesus has transformed your life. It can be a powerful witness.

3. \*\*Loving Acts of Kindness:\*\* Sometimes, the most profound way to share your faith is through simple acts of kindness. Help your neighbor, support the needy, and let your light shine through your actions.

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In our increasingly digital world, we have an incredible opportunity to spread the Gospel flames through digital means. Here are five ways to "Go" tell others about Jesus digitally:

\*\*1) Post on Social Media:\*\* Use your online presence to share uplifting Scriptures, testimonies, or inspirational messages. Let your social media platforms be a source of light and encouragement.

\*\*2) Online Event Posts:\*\* Create or share events related to your church's activities or online services. Invite your friends, family, and followers to join. Virtual church is still church!

\*\*3) Text:\*\* Send a message of hope and encouragement to someone you know is going through a tough time. A simple text can make a significant difference in someone's day.

\*\*4) Emails:\*\* Share devotionals, Bible studies, or your church's newsletter with your email contacts. It's a great way to keep people connected and informed.

\*\*5) Direct Messages (DMs):\*\* Engage in meaningful conversations with friends or acquaintances through DMs. Answer questions, share your faith, and pray for them.

\*\*Conclusion\*\*

# No One From Your Church Ever Told us

Some time ago an 18-year-old girl from Washington state attended a worship service. For the first time in her life she heard the gospel message ([Mark 16:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2016:15&version=ESV&src=tools)). The next week the church received a letter from her. It read: Dear Church members: Last Sunday I attended your church, and I heard your preacher. He said that all men have sinned against God. Because of their sin they all face eternal separation from God. But then he also said God loved men and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to redeem men from their sins and all those who believe in him would go to heaven and live with God eternally. My parents recently died. I know they did not believe in Jesus Christ. If what you believe is true, they are damned. You compel me to believe that you yourself either don’t believe this message, or that you don’t care. You see, we live only three blocks from your church, and no one ever told us

Dear church family, as we conclude today, remember that we are called to be torchbearers of faith. We have the privilege and responsibility to spread the Gospel flames to a world in need. Let us go and share our faith, both organically in our daily lives and digitally through the tools at our disposal.

But this is not just a call to action; it's a call to obedience. Jesus invites us to follow Him and become fishers of men. So, let's obey His command, knowing that as we share our faith, we not only bless others but also grow deeper in our own faith.

As you leave today, I challenge you to go and tell others about Jesus. Invite them to church or small groups. Be a radiant disciple, carrying the torch of faith, and watch how God multiplies His kingdom through your obedience.

May the flames of your faith continue to burn brightly, and may many hearts be ignited by the Gospel you carry. In Jesus' name, amen!