**Week 5 – Power Evangelism**

**Purpose:**   
In the first four weeks we’ve learned (1) to fully understand the kingdom and its authority, (2) to be secure and confident in our identity in Christ, (3) to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in our everyday life and in ministry reaching others, (4) to have a good scriptural understanding on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These lessons lead us to discovering several different kinds of ministries that the Holy Spirit works. In particular, we categorize two of which are ***prophetic*** and ***healing*** ministry. Because the purpose of this course is to serve as a primer of our values, we will not be going in depth of the two types of the ministries. We strongly encourage all of you to connect to the wealth of resources regarding these two ministries available at Vineyard Columbus. We will provide pathways to those resources during this course (i.e., Doing Healing).

We now are ready to hit the road. All the topics covered & touched mentioned above comes to its most important outworking in ***power evangelism***. This is the part where we can channel our knowledge outward in missional impact toward others, with partnership with the Holy Spirit. This would be a very visible way for us to *Demonstrate the Kingdom of God!*

**Objectives:**

* Understand the definition of power evangelism and discuss the importance of evangelism in general for the Christian faith.
* Discover the Engel Scale and the missional impact that we might encounter when ministering to others.
* Consider divine appointments, which are appointments that God sets up for us so that we can minister to others.

**Overview:**

As John Wimber expressed,

*“By* ***power evangelism*** *I mean a presentation of the gospel that is* ***rational******but also transcends the rational****. The explanation of the gospel comes with a demonstration of God’s power thorough* ***signs and wonders****. Power evangelism is a spontaneous, Spirit-inspired, empowered presentation of the gospel. Power evangelism is that evangelism which is preceded and undergirded by* ***supernatural demonstrations of God’s presence****.*

*Through these supernatural encounters people experience the presence and power of God. Usually this occurs in words of knowledge, healing, prophecy, and deliverance from evil spirits. In power evangelism, resistance to the gospel is overcome by the demonstration of God’s power in supernatural events, and receptivity to Christ’s claims is usually very high.”*

We need every valid form of evangelism. Advocating power evangelism does not mean that we disrespect more traditional forms of evangelism. However, it is important to understand how different it is, and why it has some key advantages.

**The Engel Scale:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scale of faith** | **Stage** |
| -8 | Awareness of Supreme Being |
| -7 | Some knowledge of the gospel |
| -6 | Knowledge of fundamentals of the gospel |
| -5 | Grasp of personal implications of the gospel |
| -4 | Positive attitude towards act of becoming a Christian |
| -3 | Problem recognition and intention to act |
| -2 | Decision to act |
| -1 | Repentance and faith in Christ |
|  | NEW CREATURE |
| +1 | Post decision evaluation |
| +2 | Incorporation into church |
| +3 | Conceptual and behavioral growth |

So why is ***power evangelism***, using power encounters, important? It moves people along the Engel scale, quickly. It therefore has significant missional impact!

It is different from three other more conventional methods of evangelism, which though important and helpful, do not have this advantage.

1. ***Presence evangelism***, involving good works, compassion for the poor, and justice.
2. ***Proclamation evangelism***, aimed at a decision for response based on sound information.
3. ***Persuasion evangelism***, often including an element of apologetics and aiming towards making converts into committed followers of Jesus.

**Divine Appointments:**

Those seeking to be used in power evangelism should do so by continually looking for divine appointments.

Divine appointments are occasions in which God chooses to do his works through our obedience, faith, hope, and love. They are his works, acts to which we add nothing.

There are several clear biblical examples of divine appointments.

1. Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus *(Luke 19:1-10).*
2. Jesus calling Nathanael *(John 1:43-50).*
3. Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well *(John 4:1-26).*
4. The story of Jairus’s daughter *(Mark 5:21-24, 35,43).*
5. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch *(Acts 8:26-40).*
6. Peter’s ministry to the villages of Lydda and Sharon *(Acts 9:32-42).*
7. The Philippian jailor and his household *(Acts 16:25-34).*

In power evangelism the evangelist adopts a different posture to programmatic evangelism. Here are some contrasts with programmatic evangelism.

1. In programmatic evangelism, Christians go out and attempt to witness to everyone they meet. In power evangelism each experience is initiated by the Holy Spirit for a specific place, time, person, or group.
2. In programmatic evangelism, Christians say, “In obedience I go. Holy Spirit bless me.” In power evangelism the Christian says, “As the Holy Spirit tells me to go, I go.”
3. In programmatic evangelism, Christians might rely on a prepackaged message. In power evangelism, the Christian is more vulnerable and dependent on the Spirit because they cannot depend on the prepackaged message.
4. “In programmatic evangelism there is an attitude that we do something and then God works. In power evangelism, God speaks and then we act.”

**Discussion:**

* Can you tell any stories about *power evangelism* in your life, someone else you know, or what you have read? Have you ever seen something whether in person or online in a video? What were your thoughts and/or reactions? How did your understanding of God or God’s Kingdom play a part in helping you process that? How would you understand it now in light of our lessons together?
* Do you think you could engage in power evangelism? If not, what would serve as your biggest obstacle?
* What gifts of the Spirit would you want to seek, and learn to operate in – so that you can engage in power evangelism?
* How have you approached evangelism before? What were your biggest wins/struggles when engaging in evangelism? What attitude would you need to adopt in order to be open for divine appointments?
* What excites you most at this point? What fears do you have? Take some time to pray for one another based on the responses.