

Evangelism Fuel- *Motivation to Evangelize*

By Thomas W. Bear



Excerpt

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Evangelism Fuel- Motivation to Evangelize: It is spontaneous praise and testimony of the wonder of Jesus that forms the basis of our witness of Jesus Christ in this world. This type of witness requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to be unleashed in us. It is not something that we can produce in our own strength. The Holy Spirit must be freely moving in us to produce a life that experiences the power and person of Jesus Christ. As we come in contact with His glory in this way, we will have much reason and motivation to testify to the wonder of Jesus. This book is written in a devotional style with short, heart-felt meditations that can be read in just a few minutes each day. These meditations are intended to help believers understand the supernatural work God calls them to do and motivate them to seek and experience God's glory in it. (72 pages in paperback format)

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Introduction

This book was written to encourage believers in the glorious work that Jesus commissioned us to do before He ascended into heaven. It is my hope that as believers read this book, the light of Jesus will be rekindled in them producing an increased desire to talk about Jesus with the people they meet.

The Bible contains many examples of people who spoke spontaneously about Jesus after coming in contact with Him. These people were not coerced to testify. They were like shining lights lit by the Holy Spirit. In general, we tend to talk about the things that have caught our attention. For example, when a young man is infatuated with a young woman, he can't seem to get her off his mind and he speaks of her often to his friends and family. To the extent that something or someone has made an impact on us, we also will spontaneously want to share our experience with others. This principle applies directly to our effectiveness as witnesses unto Jesus. The greater the impression Jesus has made and is making on our hearts, the more we can't help but testify of His wonder. It is spontaneous praise and testimony of the wonder of Jesus that forms the basis of our witness unto Him in this world. This type of witness requires the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to be unleashed in us. It is not something that we can produce in our own strength. To attempt to do so is like trying to laugh when there is nothing funny to laugh about. If we are going to be witnesses that show forth the living Christ to the world, then the life of Jesus must be coursing through our veins. The Holy Spirit must be freely moving in us to produce a life that experiences the power and person of God. As we come in contact with His glory in this way, we will have much reason and motivation to testify to the wonder of Jesus.

Presently, the light of the witness of Christ in North America is burning so low that the world barely notices. It is as if we are stones that remain silent. It is the prayer of this author that God causes that light to flame up by the power of the Holy Spirit so that these stones cry out, "*Hosanna.*" As more believers engage in this glorious work, the world around them will be confronted with the living Christ. They will hear believers testify that Jesus is alive in them and that He is altogether wonderful. People will inquire and learn from believers about the person and work of Christ. Some will be offended. Some will be curious. Some will block out what they hear. Some will turn to Christ and be saved and become laborers in the harvest all around the world.

Father, make the light of Jesus shine through us so that He is exalted and His name praised to the ends of the earth!

God's glory must shine forth!

*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.
There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4).*

The Bible says that the whole earth is full of God's glory. Yet, its inhabitants generally live their lives as if God does not exist. It is as if God's glory is hidden from the eyes of the world at large. The problem is that natural man has suppressed the knowledge of God and has become blind to God's glory (*Romans 1:18*). But while the world refuses to recognize God and give Him the glory due His name, it is clear that God has arranged a day in the future when His glory will be revealed to all flesh.

"Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (Isaiah 40:4-5).

"And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory" (Isaiah 66:18).

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left" (Matthew 25:31-33).

As we watch the world blatantly suppress the knowledge of God and blaspheme His name, we can picture His glory welling up like a huge balloon ready to explode. Ringing in our hearts are His words, *"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another...How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another" (Isaiah 48:2 & 48:11)*. Yet, we see the world glorifying man and taking God lightly. Something has to yield and we know it won't be God. So we cry out, *"Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth" (Psalm 57:5)*. The Holy Spirit makes us jealous for God about the severe injustice we observe. There is something within us that makes us want to take up our spear and pierce the enemy of our soul through (*Numbers 25:6-8*) because he is blinding the eyes of the unbelieving so they *"cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (II Corinthians 4:4)*. The Spirit who resides in us causes us to desire God's glory to shine and we cannot be satisfied until it shines fully at the return of Jesus. The Holy Spirit within us speaks these words into our hearts. *"Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth". (Psalm 96:3-9).*

Besides this inward prompting of the Holy Spirit, God spells out His desire for us to be witnesses so that the world understands that He is God and that there is no other. *" 'You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me. I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses,' declares the LORD, 'that I am God'" (Isaiah 43:10-11)*. We know in our hearts that the glory of God must shine forth. We are convinced that some day it will shine forth in blinding brightness and we long for that day for things to be set right. We are jealous for the glory of God!

The Son is the radiance of God's glory

Ask yourself, "What is the most precious thing to God?" Of all things that exist, what does He value most highly? That which is most precious to God is infinitely valuable to Him. Of greatest value to God is His only begotten Son. After all, what could be more valuable than the one who created it all (Colossians 1:16)? But while He is infinitely valuable just because of who He is, we must not miss the fact that He is infinitely valuable in the eyes of His Father. Everything within God screams that Jesus, the Son, is everything to Him. "*As you come to Him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him*" (1 Peter 2:4). Because the Heavenly Father values His Son more than anything else, He takes notice of how people speak and think about Him.

Luke records an event that contrasts the love two different people each had for Jesus. "*Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them...Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet"* (Luke 7:36-38, 44-46). From this story, we clearly see that the woman felt deep adoration for Jesus while the other person did not. If we do not possess for every moment of our lives the degree of adoration this woman had for Jesus, then Jesus is not receiving the honor due Him.

We see from the book of Revelation the type of worship and attention that He will spontaneously receive forever from all His creatures in glory. "*Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."* And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "*To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.*" And the four living creatures kept saying, "*Amen.*" And the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5:11-14). This heavenly picture demonstrates the type of worship and attention that God has in mind for Jesus and He is going to bring it about. Jesus said that the Father has "*given all judgment to the Son, so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him*" (John 5:22-23). The Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth takes notice of how His precious Son is treated. This is why the writer of Hebrews rightly warns, "*How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' and again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*" (Hebrews 10:29-31). To offend the Son is to offend the Father.

Consider the heated passion of God expressed in the second Psalm:

*"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'" **Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him**" (Psalm 2:7-12).*

An attempt has been made here to convey something of the worth that the Father places on Jesus though His worth cannot be conveyed with all the words in the world. The passages immediately above serve chiefly as warnings to those outside of Christ but they speak volumes about the honor that Jesus deserves from all people, especially those of us who know Him. He deserves all honor because of who He is, the

infinitely valuable Son of the Most High God. Consider again the myriads of people pictured in the fifth chapter of Revelation and the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair. Neither these people nor the woman were worshiping Jesus out of a sense of duty. This was spontaneous affection and the deepest adoration overflowing from within their hearts. Now, can you imagine this woman not speaking about Him with all her friends, relatives and everyone she met? If you tried to keep the woman from testifying about Jesus, there is no doubt that she would burst. Or, can you imagine any of the myriads of people pictured in the Revelation passage not speaking continuously about Jesus?

We see from these things that it is only fitting for those who know Him to continuously proclaim the Excellencies of Jesus as loudly as possible. Because of who He is, the Wonderful Son of the Most High God, such proclamation should spring forth spontaneously from hearts full of praise for Him. We also see that this loud proclamation of Jesus' worth does indeed take place whenever Jesus possesses all of our hearts. To the degree that we adore Him, we spontaneously testify of His great worth to all. And the more we treasure Jesus as the Father treasures Him, the more zealous we will be for His exaltation in all the earth. Like the Father, we will be jealous for His glory to be revealed because He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being (Hebrews 1:3). Truly, to the extent that our hearts are enthralled with Him, we will be witnesses of Jesus to the uttermost parts of the world.

Father, give us eye salve so we will see This Radiance of Your glory so that we will love Him more than life!

There is No Such Thing as the Gift of Evangelism!

As part of my ministry, I always try to encourage Christians to engage in the work of evangelism. I am amazed at how many times I have heard Christians say, “I am not like you. I don’t have the gift of evangelism.” So, to set the record straight, there is no such thing as a spiritual gift of evangelism. In passages that list the various types of spiritual gifts bestowed on individuals, there is no mention of a spiritual gift of evangelism (See I Corinthians 12 and Romans 12.) But there is a gift bestowed on the Church called “the evangelist.”

*“He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and **some as evangelists**, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12 NASB).*

To reiterate, there is no such thing as a spiritual gift of evangelism. But God has given some men to the Church in order to **equip the members of Christ’s Church to do the work** of service in order that the Body of Christ is built up.

Like the woman at the well in John 4, when a man is regenerated by God, he spontaneously desires for others to hear the about. He probably cannot articulate the gospel immediately, but he still desires that it be proclaimed. He might only be able to say something like, “*All I know is that once I was blind but now I see*” (John 9:25 NASB). Or they might say, “*Come see a man who told me all the things I have done*” (John 4:29 NASB). It is possible that a person cannot say anything because he is physically unable to speak. But when God regenerates even a person like that, he still has a desire that others be told about Jesus. When a new Christian reads or hears Matthew 28:19-20, he naturally wants to play some type of role in the fulfillment of the Great Mission that Jesus gave to the Church. He might not know what all to do or how to do it, but he wants to be involved because his Good Master wants His desire to be carried out. Proof of this is evident by the response of the Christians of Thessalonica:

*“Our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. **For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything” (I Thessalonians 1:5-8 NASB).*

The Apostle Paul commended these Christians for their obedience to the Master’s marching orders. Notice that he attributes this response to the reception of the gospel. It was not just head knowledge to them. Rather, the power of God was evident in that the gospel effectually changed their lives. They became imitators of Paul and of the Lord so that they became an example to all the believers around them. Paul said that the evidence of their faith in the gospel was seen in the sounding forth of the Word of the Lord. Paul addressed these words to the entire Church, not a few select men.

If you have excused yourself from the work of evangelism because you don’t think God gave you the “gift of evangelism,” you need to adjust your thinking to come in line with God’s Word. There is no such gift. On the contrary, the Bible teaches that every Christian should spontaneously desire that the gospel be proclaimed and that every Christian is called to be involved in the Great Mission in some capacity or another.

The proclamation of the gospel is always a component of the disciple making process.

The gospel is not communicated simply by our good living. In other words, we cannot fulfill our role in the Great Mission by living exemplary lives. Our lives must reflect the life of Christ but to evangelize, we must somehow communicate the gospel. Since regeneration produces a spontaneous desire to carry out Jesus’ desires (John 14:15), and since making disciples is impossible apart from the proclamation of the gospel (Romans 10:14), those who are led by God’s Spirit (the regenerate) naturally desire to be involved in the proclamation of the gospel. If they are unable to speak because of a physical impairment, they will

still find a way for the gospel to be proclaimed. They want people to know about Jesus. Perhaps they give gospel literature to people. If they cannot purchase any, they might write a letter explaining the gospel as best they can. If a professing Christian does not have the desire to be involved in the proclamation of the gospel in whatever capacity God will enable him, he is spiritually dysfunctional. He is either unregenerate or in need of spiritual revival.

According to the Bible, what can every Christian do?

Every Christian can desire to be used by God in a MIGHTY WAY to communicate the gospel. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this desire. Evangelism begins with a desire.

Since this is a good and godly desire, every Christian can ASK GOD TO USE HIM MIGHTILY in the communication of the gospel in order that the Great Mission is carried out. There is absolutely nothing wrong with such a prayer. It is in keeping with Jesus' instruction and promise.

"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it" (John 13:14-14 NASB).

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:7-8 NASB).

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8 NASB).

"This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 John 5:15-15 NASB).

Since we know that it is Jesus' will that the Great Mission be carried out, and since it cannot be carried out without the proclamation of the gospel, we have every reason to pray the following prayer or one like it:

(Try to imagine the song "I surrender all" being gently sung in the background as you read the prayer.)

"Father, I pray that you do whatever is necessary to make the gospel sound forth through me, your servant. Teach me how to articulate it clearly. Give me boldness to proclaim it continually and in spite of persecution. Cause millions of people to hear and understand the gospel through me, your servant. Give me ever increasing knowledge of the gospel so that I eventually am able to articulate it as effectively as the Apostle Paul articulated it. Since effective gospel proclamation is necessary for the Great Mission to be carried out, and since it is your will that the Great Mission be carried out, and since you have promised to hear and answer anything asked according to your will, do this great work in and through me!"

If you are a Christian, there is no reason NOT to pray such a prayer. If you are a Christian, there is no reason NOT to desire God to do this for you. Would you like Him to do this for you? If not, in my opinion, you are in need of either spiritual revival or regeneration.

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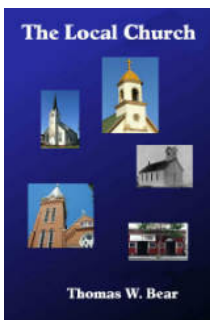
How to Evangelize- Bringing Back the Gospel: In the 21st century, many evangelism techniques are being used that have no biblical foundation. *Bringing Back the Gospel*, examines the Bible to determine what Christians should and should not do in order to fulfill the Great Commission. Christians all over the world consider this book an excellent instructional resource that is firmly grounded in the Bible. (154 pages in paperback edition)



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The Way to Heaven- The Difference Between Islam and Christianity: Like many people, you may be under the impression that the Bible and the Koran generally teach that to get to heaven, a person must achieve a certain level of “goodness” by doing more good things than bad things. In reality, each teaches an opposing view about the way to heaven. This book is written to explain the difference between these two messages while attempting to explain how most Muslims think about this matter. Tom Bear has been an evangelical Christian since 1975. During the past several years, he has spoken with thousands of Muslims face to face, one on one, at great length about their understanding of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. This book is based upon this experience and his understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (60 Pages in paperback edition)



The Local Church: Most pastors wish that the members of their churches would grow and flourish more. The church members often sense that God has purposes for them but they don't know what He wants them to do. They often end up playing the role of an unfulfilled spectator. *The Local Church* examines the early New Testament Church and its teachings for answers to this universal problem. It demonstrates how certain unbiblical attitudes and traditions exist which cultivate this unhealthy spectator mindset. *The Local Church* challenges leaders and “laypeople” to identify and discard these unbiblical attitudes and practices that stifle spiritual health. This book asserts that if the pattern of the early New Testament Church is followed today, Christians will mature at a greater pace and experience fulfillment as active participants in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. (160 pages in paperback edition)



Church Discipline presents a candid framework for the process of restoring Christians that stray. Most of the books that deal with this subject approach it from the standpoint of solving conflicts between Christians. *Church Discipline* is founded on Jesus' teaching to put the interests of the straying Christian ahead of our own desire for immediate relief of pain caused by the one caught in sin. Personal observations along with much attention to biblical instruction produce a very useful and thorough resource for church leaders and lay people who desire to restore Christians trapped by sin. This book warns against dependence on man-made approaches to solving relational problems. Whether it involves private sin or public scandal, or even cases that involve the governing authorities, biblical principles are taught as foundational to the process of restoration. (130 pages in paperback edition)



Birth Control: A Spiritual Shackle- Did you know that before the twentieth century, the Protestant Church boldly spoke out against the practice of birth control? They were opposed to any act of man that interfered with the natural order of procreation. Men such as John Calvin, Martin Luther, John Wesley, Arthur Pink and Augustine were vehemently opposed to birth control. Today, Birth control is not just tolerated, it is embraced by the Protestant Church. Why has the Protestant Church changed its position? Is it possible that Christians living before the twentieth century were all mistaken? Why did they take a stand against birth control? Is it possible that the church of the nineteenth century was better equipped to discern right from wrong? Using six biblical arguments, this book demonstrates that birth control is a worldly practice that opposes God's will for His people, violates the marriage covenant and is an attack on the very character of God. (64 pages in paperback edition)



Christian Marriage: This book provides biblical principles that if applied, will result in harmony in the marriage and glory to God. Some will undoubtedly say that many problems in marriage

are far too complex for such a short book to address. It is the premise of this book, however, that the source of all problems in Christian marriages are the result of failure to live as God has taught us to live in His Word. If a Christian couple lives in accordance with God's principles described in *Christian Marriage*, true harmony is guaranteed. (50 pages in paperback edition)

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Author Bio

Tom Bear is the founder of [Stones Cry Out Ministries](#) in Dearborn, Michigan. His work includes evangelizing the Muslim population of Dearborn, [church planting](#), and evangelism training to Christians globally. His books include *How to Evangelize*, *The Local Church*, *Church Discipline*, *Birth Control: A Spiritual Shackle*, *Christian Marriage*, *The Way to Heaven – The Difference Between Islam and Christianity* and *Evangelism Fuel-Motivation to Evangelize*.