

## YOU TELL THEM!

Acts 1:8

### A Quick Look Back: *It's a good thing He's gone!*

- ▶ From **with** us to **in** us!  
John 14:16-20/ Galatians 2:20/ John 16:7-13 & Acts 1:1-8
- ▶ The same **Spirit** & **power** Jesus had!  
Matthew 3:13 - 4:24 & Luke 3:21-23/ Matthew 12:24-37

### A Closer Look At The Holy Spirit:

- ▶ **An Obvious Question:** *Why Can't We Do Miracles Left and Right?*  
John 12:49-50 & 14:10, 31/ Acts 16:7, Philippians 2:13 & Ephesians 2:10
  - We're given power to carry out **God's assignment**, not **our wish list**.
- ▶ **The Inside-Out Factor:** *How Does the Holy Spirit Change Us?*  
John 14:26/ 1 Corinthians 2:10-16/ Philippians 2:13
  - ① Inner **Promptings**
  - ② Spiritual **Enlightenment**
  - ③ Changed **Desires**
  - ④ Spiritual **Power**

### Witnessing 101:

Matthew 28:18-20/ Acts 1:4-8 & John 16:7-13/ Matthew 4:23-5:1 & 2 Timothy 2:24-26

- ▶ If we won't, **no one else will!**
- ▶ Warning: Never **try this on your own!**
- ▶ Follow the Jesus Pattern:
  - ① Look for **open doors**.
  - ② Earn **the right to be heard**.
  - ③ Speak the truth in **love**, not **anger** – or don't **speak at all**.

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 30, 2006

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## QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what did you find most challenging, helpful or interesting? Did you find yourself taking notes about any of the points to help you remember?

## MY STORY

1. Pastor Larry took some time to help us understand how the Holy Spirit works to change us. Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit influence your desires, promptings, or understanding? If so, what did that look like in your life?

2. Take a minute and remember a few of the people who have made a difference in your life. How have they been used to influence your journey with God, your values and priorities or your behavior?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. The life and witness of the Apostle Paul help us understand what a contagious Christian can look like. He was committed to doing what it takes to reach others for Christ. What does 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 reveal about his motives and methods?

### Corinthians 9:19-23

Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. [20] To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. [21] To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. [23] I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. [NIV]

Paul used different methods to reach different people. Although the message doesn't change, there are many methods of "preaching." What are some ways we can communicate the good news with and without words?

2. Pastor Larry encouraged us to follow Jesus' example and "earn the right to be heard" with the people God has put in our path. How do each of the following passages help shape the way you see and influence those who have not made a decision to follow Him yet?

### **Luke 15:1-7**

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. [2] But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

[3] Then Jesus told them this parable: [4] "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? [5] And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders [6] and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' [7] I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. [NIV]

### **Romans 10:14-15**

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [15] And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" [NIV]

### **Matthew 5:13-16**

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

[14] "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. [NIV]

How can we safeguard our witness so we don't lose our "saltiness" or dim our "light"?

3. Philip was an effective leader in the early church and he pointed many people toward a relationship with Jesus. (Acts, chapters 6 & 8) Perhaps his most famous encounter was with an Ethiopian official riding in a chariot. Read Acts 8:26-40 and jot down any of the principles from this week's sermon that show up in this encounter and then answer the questions below.

### **Acts 8:26-40**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." [27] So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, [28] and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. [29] The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

[30] Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

[31] "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

[32] The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

[33] In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth."

[34] The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" [35] Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

[36] As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" [37] [38] And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. [39] When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. [40] Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. [NIV]

What "open doors" do you think Philip found by simply "staying near" the Ethiopian's chariot?

How would you describe the "good news about Jesus" to someone who asked? What Scriptures might you take them to?

### **TAKING IT HOME**

As a result of this week's teaching and study, do you feel God nudging you toward an open door, reminding you to speak the truth in love, or giving you the opportunity to earn the right to be heard? If so, what is one step you can take to follow His leading?

**Reading recommendation for the "What Difference Does it Make?" series:**

*The Calvary Road* by Roy Hession - Available at the North Coast Corner Bookstore in the North Coast Live lobby.