

## Prayer and Evangelism

### Power and Proclamation Working Together

#### Big Idea

Evangelism is not just speaking to people about God — it is speaking to God about people.

Prayer fuels, shapes, and empowers evangelism.

---

#### I. Biblical Foundations

##### 1) Jesus Commands Prayer for the Mission

Gospel of Matthew 9:35–38 Jesus... went, taught, saw, compassion, PRAY , to “send out”

“The harvest is plentiful... ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers...”

#### Key Truths:

- God is the Lord of the harvest.
- The mission belongs to Him.
- Evangelism begins with dependence. But it also calls for action.

#### Reflection:

What happens when we attempt evangelism without prayer?

---

##### 2) The Early Church Prayed Before They Preached

#### Acts of the Apostles 4:29–31

They prayed for:

- Boldness
- God’s power
- God to act

#### Result:

“They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

**Pattern:**

Prayer → Filling → Bold proclamation

---

**3) Paul Asked for Prayer for Evangelism**

**Epistle to the Colossians 4:3–4**

Paul asked for:

- Open doors
- Clear proclamation

Even the apostle Paul relied on prayer for effective evangelism.

---

**4) God Gives the Growth**

**First Epistle to the Corinthians 3:6–7**

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.”

**Our role:** Plant and water.

**God’s role:** Give growth.

Prayer acknowledges that salvation is God’s work.

---

**2. Why Prayer and Evangelism Must Be Linked**

**1) Prayer Aligns Our Hearts**

Without prayer, evangelism can become:

- Mechanical
- Prideful
- Program-driven

Prayer produces:

- Compassion
- Dependence
- Spiritual sensitivity

---

## 2) Prayer Prepares Hearts

Only God can:

- Open blind eyes
- Soften hard hearts
- Convict of sin

We speak to people.

God works in people.

---

## 3) Prayer Gives Boldness

Fear is one of the greatest barriers to evangelism.

The early church did not pray for safety —  
they prayed for boldness.

---

## 4) Prayer Sustains Long-Term Witness

Prayer keeps us:

- Patient
- Hopeful
- Faithful

Especially when there is no immediate response.

---

## 3. A Simple Framework: Three Directions of Evangelistic Prayer

### 1) Upward Prayer – Dependence on God

“Lord, You are the one who saves.”

---

### 2) Inward Prayer – Preparation of the Messenger

“Give me love, courage, clarity.”

---

### 3) Outward Prayer – Intercession for the Lost

“Open their heart. Create opportunity.”

---

### 4. Personal Application

Write 3 Names of People You Are Praying For:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Pray Specifically For:

- Open doors (opportunities)
- Receptive hearts
- Gospel clarity
- Courage and compassion

### Summary

- God saves.
- God sends.
- God empowers.
- We depend.

Prayer is not preparation for the real work of evangelism — prayer is part of the work of evangelism.

## Overcoming Walls to Witnessing The Five Walls (Completed Worksheet)

### Wall #1: The Wall of Fear

Many believers struggle with fear of:

- Rejection
- Embarrassment
- Failure

We worry about what people will think or how they will respond.

#### Biblical Truth:

We are called to be faithful, not successful.

2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control.

### Wall #2: The Wall of Inadequacy

Some Christians feel:

- “I don’t know enough about the Bible.”
- “What if I can’t answer their questions?”

It is okay to say:

“I don’t know, but I will find out.”

The power is not in our ability, but in the gospel itself (Romans 1:16).

### Wall #3: The Wall of Misunderstanding

Sometimes we misunderstand what evangelism really is.

It is NOT:

- Winning arguments
- Being pushy
- Forcing a decision

Evangelism IS:

Sharing the good news about Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Wall #4: The Wall of Apathy

At times, the problem is not fear — it is:

- Being too busy
- Being distracted by worldly concerns
- Failing to make witnessing a priority

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) is a command for every believer.

## Wall #5: The Wall of Relationship Concerns

Some believers hesitate because they fear damaging:

- Friendships
- Family relationships

We may think, “What if this makes things awkward?”

True love cares about a person’s eternal destiny more than temporary **comfort**.

### Key Reminder

God calls us to be faithful.

God is responsible for the results.

## Sharing Your Personal Testimony

### Answer Key with Acts 22 References

In Acts 22, the Apostle Paul gives his personal testimony before a hostile crowd. His testimony clearly follows three parts:

---

#### Part 1: Life Before Christ

(Acts 22:1–5)

Paul describes:

- His religious background
- His zeal for Judaism
- His persecution of Christians

Key elements in Acts 22:1–5:

- His heritage and training (v. 3)
- His zeal for God (v. 3)
- His persecution of believers (vv. 4–5)

This section shows:

- His former belief system
- His misplaced zeal
- His spiritual condition

#### Principle:

Begin with what your life was like before Christ — your mindset, priorities, or spiritual state.

---

#### Part 2: How He Came to Christ

(Acts 22:6–16)

Paul explains:

- The encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus (vv. 6–11)

- His recognition of Jesus as Lord (v. 8)
- Ananias explaining God's plan (vv. 12–15)
- His response in obedience and baptism (v. 16)

Key Gospel elements included:

- Recognition of Jesus
- Awareness of sin and need
- A call to repent and respond

Acts 22:16 emphasizes response:

“Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

### **Principle:**

This is the most important part. Clearly explain:

- How you understood the gospel
- What you realized about your sin
- How you personally responded in repentance and faith

### **Part 3: Life After Trusting Christ**

**(Acts 22:17–21)**

Paul describes:

- His obedience to Christ
- His calling to preach to the Gentiles
- His new mission and purpose

Key elements:

- A changed direction
- A new calling
- A life of obedience

## Principle:

Explain how Christ changed your life:

- New peace
- New purpose
- New direction
- Ongoing obedience

## Summary of the Acts 22 Model

### Part of Testimony Acts 22 Passage Focus

Before Christ	Acts 22:1–5	Former life and <u>spiritual condition</u>
Conversion	Acts 22:6–16	Encounter with <u>Christ</u> & response
After Christ	Acts 22:17–21	New <u>direction</u> and obedience

---

## Key Reminder

Paul's testimony was:

- Personal
- Christ-centered
- Clear
- Focused on God's work

Your testimony should follow the same pattern.