

6 P's of Proclaiming the Gospel

1. Permission > Matthew 28:19-20

- a. As Christ followers we have been given permission to share the gospel and we do not need to wait to hear from God before we do so.
- b. Not only have we been given permission to share the gospel, we are commanded to do so.
 - i. Missionary, Hudson Taylor said, "The great commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed."
- c. Jesus' command to "Go" requires us to actively seek opportunities.

2. Power > Acts 1:4-8

- a. In verse 4, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit. He did not want them to do ministry until the power of the Holy Spirit had been given to them.
- b. The last thing Jesus said before He ascended into Heaven was "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."
- c. The "power" given was so we could be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth
- d. As Christians we all have the "power" of the Holy Spirit living inside of us (see John 14:17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Corinthians 12:11, Romans 8:15-17).
- e. As Christians, we all have our own "Jerusalem," which is our own sphere of influence, where we work, play, shop, eat, etc.
- f. If this command was only for the original disciples Christianity would have died hundreds of years ago.

3. Plant > Mark 4:26-29

- a. We are simply called to "cast the seeds upon the soil," and then to rest.
- b. We are not responsible for the sprouting and growth of the seed. "The soil produces the crop by itself." Our job is to plant the seeds, God does the rest (see also John 6:44).
- c. When we clearly present the gospel it does not need our help to persuade or coerce someone into following Jesus (see Romans 1:16).
- d. Since salvation is the work of God, we can rest that if He is drawing someone to Him, when we present the gospel to them, He will finish what He started (see Phil 1:6)
- e. Obedience is our responsibility, the results are God's responsibility.

4. Perspective > 1 John 5:12

- a. We must begin to look at others from God's perspective. He sees people in only one of two ways, either spiritually dead, or spiritually alive.
- b. People are either a follower of Jesus or not. We are not to judge, but to share the gospel.

5. Prayer > 1 Timothy 2:1

- a. Everyone needs prayer. Asking someone if you can pray for them tears down barriers that might exist to sharing the gospel with them.
- b. We should pray for the lost (see Romans 10:1).
- c. We should pray for opportunities to share the gospel (see Colossians 4:3).
- d. We should also pray for God to send others to help share the gospel (see Matthew 9:37-38).
- e. While it is Biblical to pray for healing, we as Christians, typically spend more time praying to keep sick Christians out of Heaven than we do the lost out of Hell.

6. Prepared > 1 Peter 3:15

- a. We must be prepared to share the gospel in any situation.
- b. Be prepared to share the whole gospel.
 - i. Everyone has broken God's commandments and is a sinner (see Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:8).
 - ii. What we all deserve for our sin is death in hell and the wrath of God (see Romans 6:23a, Colossians 3:5-6,)
 - iii. But Jesus came to die for sins, taking the consequences of our sins if we choose to follow Him. (see Romans 6:23b, Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - iv. Jesus is the only way to Heaven (see John 14:6).
 - v. To be a follower of Jesus, one must repent and believe (see Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 3:2, Romans 10:9-10).
 - vi. Good works will not save anyone from Hell. Salvation is a free gift (see Ephesians 2:8-9).
 - vii. Faith leads to obedience. In other words, good works are a result of a relationship with Jesus (see, John Hebrews 10:26-27, John 15:5).
 - viii. For simplicities sake, sin condemns everyone to Hell. But turning from sin, turning to Jesus, and trusting in Him, is the way to eternal life.
- c. Be prepared to tell how Jesus has changed you.
 - i. Ask, "How has Jesus changed you?" If someone has not been or is not being changed by Jesus, there is a very good chance they are not a follower of His (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- d. Jesus will not leave his followers where He found them.