

EVANGELISM | WEEK 3

Read | It should be clear by now, through this ordinary challenge, that evangelism takes work. Even if one's heart is joyfully saturated in the gospel, evangelism still takes a certain level of intentionality. What the gospel does to our hearts is create a *desire* and a *willingness* to engage in this work because we know that there is joy and hope in our preaching the gospel. Mack Stiles recommends three questions as we reflect upon and seek to grow in our evangelism:

1) *Am I motivated?* 2) *Am I equipped?* and 3) *Am I available?* (J. Mack Stiles, *Evangelism*, 84). This week we'll look at the first question, and next week we will look at the second two.

Am I motivated?

As humans, motivation is part of every action that we take. As *fallen* humans, we can do good works with improper motives. For example, sharing the gospel to alleviate guilt or to earn favor indicates that we don't have a right motivation. Both of these motives are improper in that they take something right and twist it to focus on ourselves. It is right to feel conviction for not doing something we ought to do, and it is right to want to please God, but sin twists these motives so that they ultimately focus on *us*. If these are wrong motives, what are some proper motives for evangelism?

Correct motivation for sharing the gospel should look like us sharing the gospel out of our love for God. We should also share the gospel because of our love for other people. We should want to share the gospel because we love the lost and want to see them experience joy in Christ. In sharing the gospel, we also experience joy ourselves. While this motivation cannot be ultimate, it is good and right to share the gospel with our neighbors because we know that we will experience more joy in God *through* our sharing.

- Write |** 1. As you think about previous experiences where you have shared the gospel, what were your motives for sharing? Were they proper or improper motives?
2. What are some ways that you can align your desire to engage in evangelism with proper motives? How can fellow believers help you in this endeavor?

Pray | In your quiet times this week, pray for God to give you right motivations as you seek to grow in sharing the gospel. Ask Him to purify your heart's desires so that they reflect His heart.

Do | Commit to share the gospel with someone this week. This could be the same person with whom you have shared throughout the challenge or someone else. Share with your small group the name of the person to whom you are going to reach out and ask them to pray and follow up with you on how it went.