

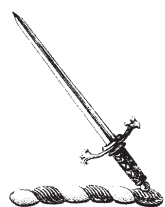
Q: I'm wondering and help me with this, that evangelizing without an emphasis on relationship will put people in a place where they don't know where to turn next. What do we do to combat this? I now know that the act of evangelism is an event and not a process, but where does our relationship with people add into their spiritual development?



Good questions. Ideally, and in a perfect world, it would be nice to stay in contact with everyone we share the gospel with. But this becomes impossible if we are regularly evangelising and God knows this, so He has made provision.

Your question, actually, reveals another device of the enemy to try and slow down evangelism. The devil tries to get us thinking like this: 'If I can convince them (i.e. Christians) they must stay in contact with everyone they give the gospel to, and form a relationship with them, to help them, they will soon be overwhelmed. And when they are overwhelmed they will say to themselves 'I have too many people to look after. I have to stop giving the gospel to new people so that I can look after the ones I have already given the gospel to.'" This, of course, is exactly what the devil wants. Remember, he *has* to stop the gospel in order to preserve his life (see Julian's book page xxvii).

So, what's the answer to your question? God calls us the trust in Him in the whole process of drawing non-Christians to Himself. Essentially, He takes over when we have shared the gospel. As the Bible says, 'His strength is made perfect in our weakness' (2 Corinthians 12:9). The people we have given the gospel to are safe in the hands of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It's like this - Jesus said in John 10:27 'My sheep know my voice and follow me.' When someone hears the gospel and is saved, or is in the process of being saved, they start to hear God's voice and follow Him. He leads them to a church, or to another Christian or to a study group, or to whatever they need next in their journey. God is the one who seeks (Luke 19:10). If He is looking for us even before the seed of the gospel has been planted, imagine how He 'steps it up' when the seed of the gospel has been planted! Please go to our web site www.esisite.com/resources and listen to the audio called FRANK JENNER'S AUDIO TESTIMONY. This is an excellent illustration of what I am talking about.

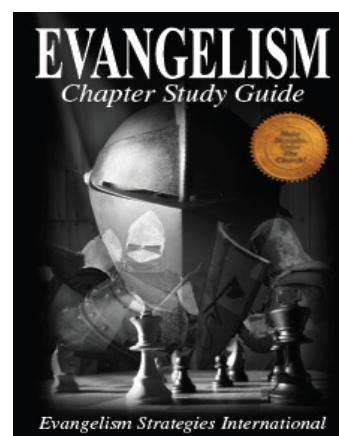


We must understand that Jesus is Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:35-38). 'Lord' in this verse means the person who determines, oversees, manages, watches over, empowers, organises, is sovereign over -the Harvest. I can't think of a better person to entrust someone to than God Himself!

This is essentially what study 12 on the DVD series is all about. When you view this DVD, you'll be blown away by Jesus' teaching on His sovereignty over the Harvest. Have you read my book? If not, you really need to, particularly Chapter 12 and device 19 on page 245 and device 26 on page 264.

We have a 'Chapter Study Guide' which goes with my book. This will help you get the most from it when you are reading it. With the Chapter Study Guide, I walk you through step by step, page by page so you don't miss anything important. When you purchase this study guide, I also give you access to a 'password only' part of our web site where you can view 60 plus videos related to evangelism on line.

So, in summary, forming relationship with people is critical, but it may not be you (i.e the person who plants the seed of the gospel) who is the one who forms the close relationship with the person who you have just evangelised. This is where the 'Six Steps to Drawing a non-Christian to Christ kicks in. The whole Body of Christ is involved in the process of drawing non-Christians to Jesus. I suggest you have another look at DVD 6.



Thank you for writing to me and asking an excellent question.