

Evangelism Part 7

We as Church of God we honour the command of Jesus in *Mark 16:15* **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”** Therefore we commissioned all our trained workers to go forward with the message and the command of Jesus to go and make disciples by preaching to them the Gospel and teaching them the Word of God, **“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”** (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

Truly our aim is to reach the sheep of Jesus and to disciple them, and we also don't delight in argument or fight. *But we need to understand that the sheep of Jesus in certain occasions are taken captive by ring leaders who are misleading them into wrong ways of life. So to reach them we need to deal with such ring leaders, and to do that we might be called to go into a hard time with those leaders to set the captive sheep free.*

Let us read this event from the Scripture and will learn further how to evangelize.

“1 Then Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. 2 And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease. 3 But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? 4 Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed. 5 And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back? 6 And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. 7 And he said unto them, What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words? 8 And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite. 9 Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. 10 And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. 11 Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. 12 And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. 13 And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said

unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. 14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight. 15 And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king. 16 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. 17 So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. 18 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?” (2 Kings 1:1-18 KJV)

King Ahaziah was the son of Ahab. Ahab was the one who led the Israelites away from God toward Baal worship. The people at his time forsake the worship of God and were enticed to take other gods of other nations to make their life more pleasant and comfortable, but that is sin and in doing that they were sinning against God. Now a day the churches in general introducing many worldly things and days in their worship and celebrate these days, like Valentine, Halloween, Mother Day, Father Day, Christmas, New year celebrations, Birthdays, wedding anniversaries celebrations, and the rest of the feast to come, trusting that they will be feeling more happy and elated as they are celebrating these days. They are taken these days celebration as replacement to Christ and His Word. They trust these celebrations more than the Word of God. They are celebrating these events not out of reverence to God but out of fear of their friends, spouses, colleagues and acquaintances. They are Christianizing these events into God's church, forgetting that what they are doing is introducing idol worship in God's church and into their families that will ultimately cause havoc and destruction.

Due to the evil ways of Ahab and his family, the Lord allowed the Moabites to rebel against Israel. Their rebellion had affected Israel since Moab was supplying large number of sheep every year as tribute to Israel. Their rebellion had affected Israel much economically. Possibly King Ahaziah was troubled in his mind because of that event and the financial loss and pressure that accompanies that rebellion. Possibly due to lack of concentration he fell down from the lattice in his upper chamber. The meaning of Ahaziah is 'the Lord hold'. *The Lord hold us and support us if we put our trust fully on Him and start to serve Him.* Ahaziah Instead of repentance and returning back to God to solve his economic problem and in order for him to be healed, he decided to ask healing and support from other gods and not Jehovah. **“And Ahaziah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Samaria, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron whether I shall recover of this disease.”** (2 Kings 1:2 KJV) He was looking for a revelation and help from other gods. Ahaziah was the king, and there was large number of people under him. If Ahaziah the king that was his stand, then what will be the stand of others who are under him? Most likely their stand is departure from God.

At that juncture of event, God sent His angel and spoke to Elijah to go and give the following message to the messengers that the king sent: **“But the angel of the LORD said to**

Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?” (2 Kings 1:3 KJV)

Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? The meaning of Baalzebub is the ‘lord of fly’, the god that the Philistines worship at Ekron. The meaning of the word baal is ‘lord’. Anything you allow it to be lord over your life is idol worship. Is it because there is not a Word of God: Is it because there is not His promises: Is it because there is not His ordinances that Ahaziah went to seek help and comforts from idols and demons? Nothing will destroy God’s church more than idols and demons. Ahaziah might expected to feel better when he go to idols to seek help! *Put in your mind that demons might give some temporal relief but only to confuse and lead those who seek them astray. We have Jesus, His Word, and the voice of the Holy Spirit to heal us and comfort us and give us what we need in our lives.*

The meaning of Elijah is ‘Jehovah is God’. We need to keep God in our lives and not to go and prostitute ourselves with other gods in this world. As well as we shouldn’t think that such kind of seeking help from idols will bring joy, peace, relief, or healing. We need to seek God, repent of our worldliness and stubbornness, and have healing and relief from our troubles!

To evangelize properly we need to clean ourselves from such unclean things so we can reach the lost with a pure message. Check yourself now:

1. Do you still delight for greetings and celebrations in your Birthday?
2. Do you still waiting that someone will post on your wall and greeted you ‘Happy birthday?’
3. Are you still waiting for Christmas, New year, and other days and celebrations that we mentioned, to come to celebrate?

Elijah faithfully was living for God, and he delivered the message to Ahaziah faithfully as it should be and gave the judgment of God against Ahaziah, ***“Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed.” (2 Kings 1:4 KJV)*** The message was very clear and systematic. Elijah presented to Ahaziah his sin being trusting Baalzebub and not the Lord God, and as a result of that he will receive death because the wage of sin is death. The message was heavy, and the messengers turned back and returned to the king, ***“And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, Why are ye now turned back?” (2 Kings 1:5 KJV)*** When we evangelize we need to combat sin clearly and we need to use the very Word of God to condemn it. We need to use Scriptures from the Bible to make the message valid and effective.

Diligently the messengers informed the king the message of God to him, ***“And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?***

therefore thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.” (2 Kings 1:6 KJV) The king when he heard the message, he verified from where it came and he come to know that it was the message of God through Elijah the prophet, ***“7 And he said unto them, What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words? 8 And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite.” (2 Kings 1:7-8 JV)*** After Ahaziah came to know the authenticity of the message it supposes that he should repent, and renounce what wrong he did in asking help from idols. Ahaziah needed to show repentance and humility when he heard the message, but neither he nor the people with him showed any repentance. Instead of that he will humble down before God and Elijah the man of God and repent and consider his way, he sent fifty men to arrest him.

The message of God to Ahaziah was that he will not recover from his sickness, and truly he died, not because the message was the final judgment of God but because he was not willing to humble down. He did not show any fear toward God and reverence to heed the message that God sent to him through ELijah.

Ahaziah, remained arrogant, and no mind in him to repent. Even those whom he sent were behaving in an arrogant way as we read here: ***“Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.” (2 Kings 1:9 KJV)*** The captain with the fifty with him were the people of God but they were totally unaware of the death that coming to them from the devil that they trusted and worshipped.

Elijah was willing to be persecuted and targeted by the enemy, and he did not bend to them. He was still valiant and gave the message of God to them: ***“And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.” (2 Kings 1:10 KJV)*** *I am not telling here to curse the people or be aggressive with them when you evangelize, but you should be firm and stick to the message that was entrusted to you by God. Neither you go by your own understanding but deliver the message and do exactly what the Lord had requested you to do without fear and without compromising.*

I was reminded here of what the Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah whom the Lord sent to face the people and their sins. When the people rejected the message of Jeremiah and rejected him as a messenger from God, this what the Lord instructed Jeremiah, ***“Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.” (Jeremiah 15:19 KJV)***

“Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me.” (Jeremiah 15:19 KJV) Jeremiah here was backslidden because he did not face properly the people with their sins; God is telling him here, that if you want to come back to me and fight against sin with me, then you can stand again before me and serve me. *We will stand with God and serve Him, when we delight to stand with God and face the sin of the people without compromising.*

“And if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth.” (Jeremiah 15:19 KJV) God was telling him you need to honor the truth of God and consider it as a precious thing. Those who does not honor the truth of God and those who does not keep the truth, they are doing evil things. If you will honor the truth then you will be the mouth of God, and the Lord will give you His Word and He will use you to proclaim it to others.

“Let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.” (Jeremiah 15:19 KJV)
Don't bend down before them. Those who had done wrong and you had rebuked them correctly according to God's Word, don't go and apologize to them and say to them sorry. Don't do that, but let them repent, come back to God, and coming back to you and are willing to correct their wrong doings.

With the fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and the first fifty men, Ahaziah did not wake up from the clutches of devil. He continued in his arrogance, and he repeated his folly: ***“Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly.” (2 Kings 1:11 KJV)*** Elijah did not change his stand and the way he delivered the message, ***“And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.” (2 Kings 1:12 KJV)***

In evangelism there might be groups of people coming to us in sequence. We need to tell the message that is suitable to them and to those who are leading them astray. We might be having no fruit or harvest at the beginning or for a while as we found here. But we need to persevere and continue to serve God without fear and without compromises.

When we deliver the message and agree with God then the Lord will bless our effort and grant us success in the ministry that he entrust to us, as we can see here in the ministry of Elijah.

On the third round and after the death of the first two groups, the third officer came to the prophet Elijah with fear and trembling, ***“13 And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. 14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.” (2 Kings 1:13-14 KJV)*** That new officer was humbled and had the fear of God in his heart. He valued Elijah, and knew the truth of God's Word that he delivered to them. He was aware that the judgment of God will fall on him if they will refuse to repent. He was aware of what is death and what is life. Therefore He asked for mercy and asked for his life to be saved. *In the same way, after we deal properly with the ring leaders who promote idolatry, the Lord will lead us to His sheep who need Him and His salvation.*

That third group was receptive to God's message and they got saved from God's judgment. As people humble down before God, He will have mercy on them. Therefore,

as this man humbled down, Elijah was requested by the angel of God to go with them, ***“15 And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.” (2 Kings 1:15 KJV)*** Then Elijah obeyed and went and said to the king the same message of God because he did neither amend his way nor repented, ***“16 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.” (2 Kings 1:16 KJV)*** Elijah used the Word of God, and the message was repeated without failing. *Therefore in the same way, we need without failing to repeat the same message till God's Word will come to pass.*

And truly king Ahaziah died just as what the Word of God spoken by Elijah against him, ***“17 So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son. 18 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaziah which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?” (2 Kings 1:17-18 KJV)*** Ahaziah died because he refused to repent and amend his way before God and before His prophet.

Elijah warned two kings with God's judgment.

1. Ahaziah the king of Israel as we discussed.
2. King Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, who also did wicked things against God and His Word. Let us read how God dealt with him, ***“12 And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, which were better than thyself: 14 Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: 15 And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day. 16 Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians: 17 And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. 18 And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease. 19 And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers. (2 Chronicles 21:12-19 KJV)*** Jehoram was wicked in introducing Baal worship in Judah, leading the people into idol worship and in killing his brethren of his father's house. Elijah boldly rebuked him in His letter and announced God's judgment on him that finally come true in his life because he did not repent.

King David in his testimony of how he was trained to rescue the sheep from the mouth of the lion and the bear, he said the following: ***“34 And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the***

flock: 35 And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.” (1 Samuel 17:34-35 KJV) To evangelize and want people to be saved, we need to deal also with those who enslave them and leading them away from God.

We need to take them out of the lion and the bear mouth. The ring leaders who are enslaving the people leading the sheep astray, they are the lions and the bears, the instruments of Devil, that take the sheep away from God, therefore we need to deal with them and free the sheep as David did to free them, before we can disciple them.

In conclusion to this message:

1. To evangelize we need to consider to whom the sheep is bound with in our evangelism. And direct the message to the sheep who are captive and to the ring leaders who are leading them far away from God.
2. To evangelize and want people to be saved, we need to deal with the ring leaders who enslave them and leading them away from God.
3. We need to take the sheep out of the lion and the bear mouths as David was doing. The ring leaders who are enslaving the people leading the sheep astray, they are the lions and the bears, they are the instruments of devil, that take the sheep away from God, therefore we need to deal with them and free the sheep, before we can disciple them.
4. In evangelism there might be groups of people coming to us in sequence. We need to tell them the message that we received from God. We need to tell it to them and to those who are leading them astray.
5. We might be having no fruit or harvest at the beginning or for a while as we found with Elijah. But we need to persevere and continue to serve God without fear and without compromises.
6. After we are dealt properly with the ring leaders who promote idolatry, the Lord will lead us to His sheep who need Him and need His salvation.
7. When we deliver the message and agree with God then the Lord will bless our effort and grant us success in the ministry that he entrusted to us, as we saw here in the ministry of Elijah. We should not bend down before the people. Those who had done wrong and we had rebuked them correctly according to God's Word, we should not go and apologize to them and say to them sorry. We don't do that, but we need to wait for them to repent, to come back to God, and to come to us willingly, desiring to correct their mistakes and their wrong doings.

My Dear and Beloved: Elijah was alone in dealing with the wickedness of king Ahaziah, but he stood firm, he fought the good fight and overcome. He used the Word of God to deliver the message of the Lord. The message of the Lord was repeated without wavering until was fulfilled.

In the same way God wants us to do the very will of Him in persevering in delivering the exact message that He wants us to deliver. We should not be afraid or intimidated by people or ring leaders, knowing that if we abide with God's Word and will, He will rescue us and save us from all perils.

Paul experienced that and testified about it as he said, “**16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. 17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**” (2 Timothy 4:16-18 KJV) In the same we need to be honest in using the Word of God that we receive from the Lord. We need to be strong and courageous and stand firm in proclaiming His Word that will bring life to the lost. God will neither leave us nor forsake us. He will defend us and protect us till He achieve His purpose through our lives and through our ministry.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life.

Let us come to the Lord in repentance _____
Let us renounce all our sins _____
Let us commit ourselves to serve God.

Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord I am willing to go to wherever place or people you are going to send me. Lord I abide with your will and plan to deliver the message that you want me to deliver. Lord fills me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts that I need to serve you to evangelize and to make disciples. Lord protect me and provide for me, trusting you my future and my life.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and my Sisters who committed their lives to go and evangelize, Lord Baptize them with the Holy Ghost, and give them the spiritual gifts to go and spread your Word. Lord I pray that you will protect them and provide their needs and do marvelous miracles in their lives.

Lord bless your church, and enable us Lord to reach new people, new villages, and new areas with the gospel impacting new cities, countries and nations with the gospel of Jesus. Lord enables us to plant more Bible studies and more congregations in various places. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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