

Marks of A Healthy Church



IX 9Marks

“Local churches exist to display God’s glory to the nations. We do that by fixing our eyes on the gospel of Jesus Christ, trusting him for salvation, and then loving one another with God’s own holiness, unity, and love. We pray the book you are holding will help.”

Mark Dever and Jonathan Leeman

IX

9Marks

1. Expository Preaching
2. Gospel Doctrine
3. Conversion and Evangelism
4. Church Membership
5. Church Discipline

IX

9Marks

6. Discipleship

7. Church Leadership

8. Prayer

9. Missions

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“Conversion is the radical change of heart and life which God brings about in his people by his Spirit.”

Healthy Churches: A Beginner's Guide.

Total Depravity means man is destitute of any righteousness in himself or holy affection toward God, and the corruption of his moral nature which biases him to evil.

This does not mean that every man will commit every form of sin, or that he is devoid of all qualities pleasing to men or that he is as bitterly opposed to God as it is possible for him to be.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things,
and desperately sick;
who can understand it?

¹⁰ “I the Lord search the heart
and test the mind,

Isaiah 64:6,7

⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Isaiah 64:6,7

⁷ There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of
our iniquities.

Romans 7:16-18

¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

“Created with a nature to love God, we now have a nature that is bent on loving self. From birth, Paul says, we are dead in our sins, and walk in the passions of our flesh (Ephesians 2:1-3). We're like dead men walking. This is why nice doesn't work. We must be made new.”

Michael Lawrence

Conversion. Total change in one's direction in life or moral orientation. For Christians this means a change from an orientation that does not take God into account to one in which the person is submitted to Christ.

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

Conversion is radical but also simple, for it requires the simplicity of a child who commits his whole self, not the calculating self-protectiveness of the adult (Mt 18:3).

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible

I. Conversion

A. Regeneration



“Succinctly stated, *to regenerate* means “to impart life.” Regeneration is the act whereby God imparts life to the one who believes.”

Paul Enns,

The Moody Handbook of Theology

Titus 3:4-5

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

“Conversion refers to the response of the human being to God’s offer of salvation and approach to man. Regeneration is the other side of conversion. It is God’s doing. In regeneration the soul is passive; in conversion, it is active.”

Paul Enns

“Regeneration may be defined as the communication of divine life to the soul ... as the impartation of a new nature ... or heart ... and the production of a new creation.”

Paul Enns

I. Conversion

A. Regeneration

B. Repentance



Acts 20:20-21

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:17-20

17 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

Acts 3:17-20

¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

Acts 26:19–20

¹⁹ “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

Acts 26:19–20

²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

“But their turning was not merely moral or behavioral. It was a reorientation of worship. Their hearts had turned from worshiping Idols to worshiping God.”

Michael Lawrence

“An Idol is anything or anyone without which you can't be happy and fulfilled. We can make an idol out of almost anything: sex, money, other people's opinions of us, security, control, convenience.”

Michael Lawrence

“But our all time favorite Idol is self. I am my favorite Idol. You are your favorite idol. And we want others to worship our favorite Idol too. We were created to worship, and if we won't worship God, will worship something else.”

Michael Lawrence

“Calling people to repentance, then, means calling for a reorientation of worship. So who or what are we worshiping rather than God? What compels our time and energy, our spending and our leisure? What makes us angry? What gives us hope and comfort? What are our aspirations for our children?”

Michael Lawrence

“Repenting means exchanging our idols for God. Before it’s a change in behavior, it must be a change in worship. How different that is from how we often think of repentance.

Michael Lawrence

It can readily be seen that repentance involves not only a change of mind, but a change of direction, remorse for sin, and as a result, a change of life. “Repentance is, in its essence, a Spirit-generated change of mind.” William Mounce defines repentance (*metanoeo*) as “a radical, moral turn of the whole person from sin and to God.”

Paul Enns

Sin is:

- *going our own way*
- *transgressing the law of God*
- *"Missing the mark of the divine standard."* John Patten
- *anything contrary to the character of God*

God's standard is expressed in the letter of His holy law, and in the living character of the life of His holy Son. According to both of these standards, all have sinned—that is missed the mark (Romans 3:23)

John Patten

Psalm 53:1-3

¹The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, doing abominable iniquity;

there is none who does good.

Psalm 53:1-3

²God looks down from heaven
on the children of man
to see if there are any who understand,
who seek after God.

Psalm 53:1-3

³ They have all fallen away;
together they have become corrupt;
there is none who does good,
not even one.

I. Conversion

A. Regeneration

B. Repentance

C. Faith



Acts 20:21

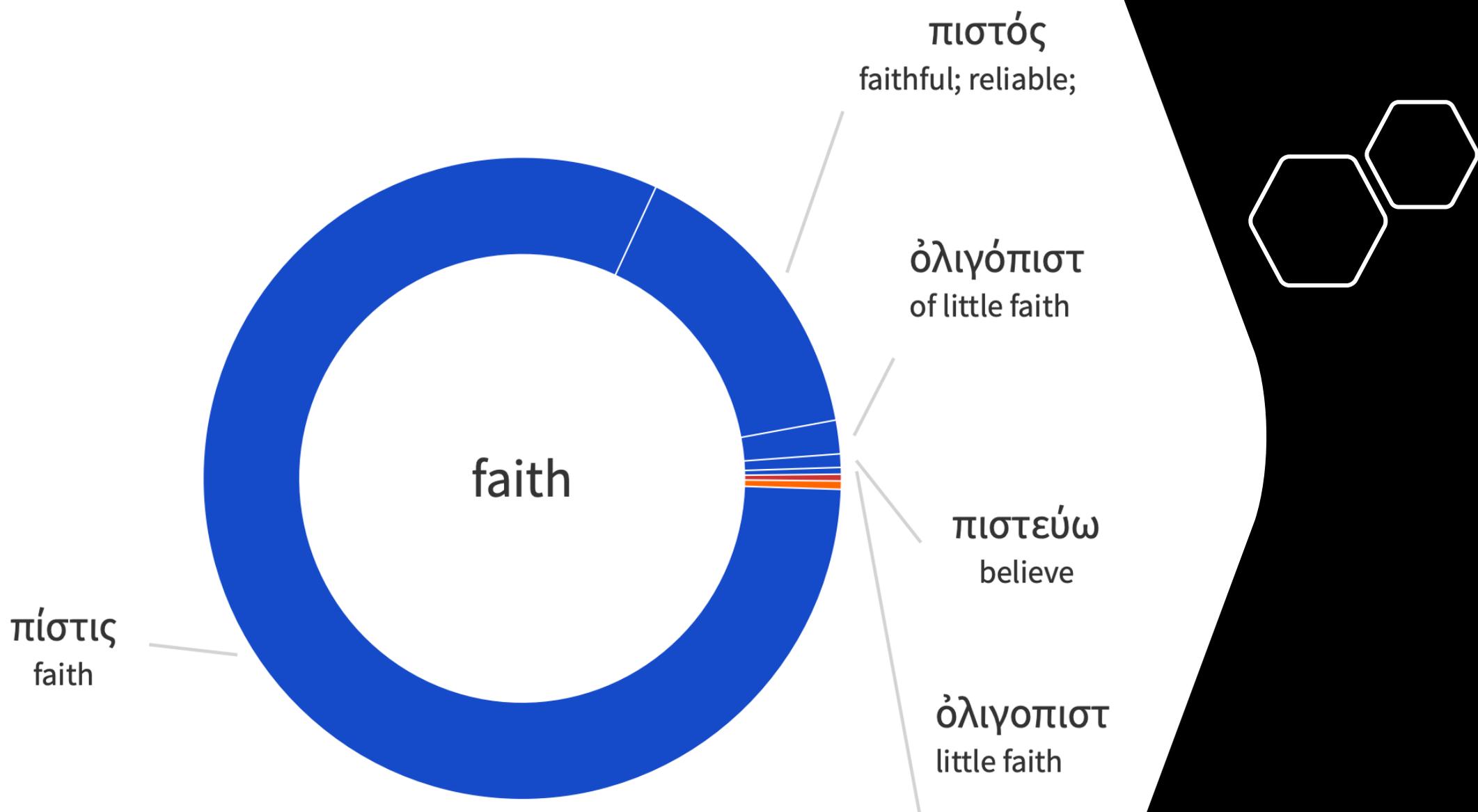
²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks
of repentance toward God and of faith in
our Lord Jesus Christ

John 8:23-24

²³ He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. ²⁴ I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”

Acts 16:30-31

³⁰ Then he brought them out and said,
“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹
And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved, you and your
household.”



“Faith or belief is more than mentally accepting a set of ideas. Yes, it includes mentally accepting the truth of the gospel. But James warns that the demons believe the truth about God and shudder James 2:19.”

Michael Lawrence

“Faith is not reciting a magical verbal formula. Yes, you must “confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,” as Paul puts it (Romans 10:9). But that's not a magical incantation.”

Michael Lawrence

“Christian faith is wholehearted trust that God will keep his promises in the gospel.

Saving Faith clings to Christ and doesn't let go. And like repentance, it leaves evidence throughout a believer's life.”

Michael Lawrence

I. Conversion

A. Regeneration

B. Repentance

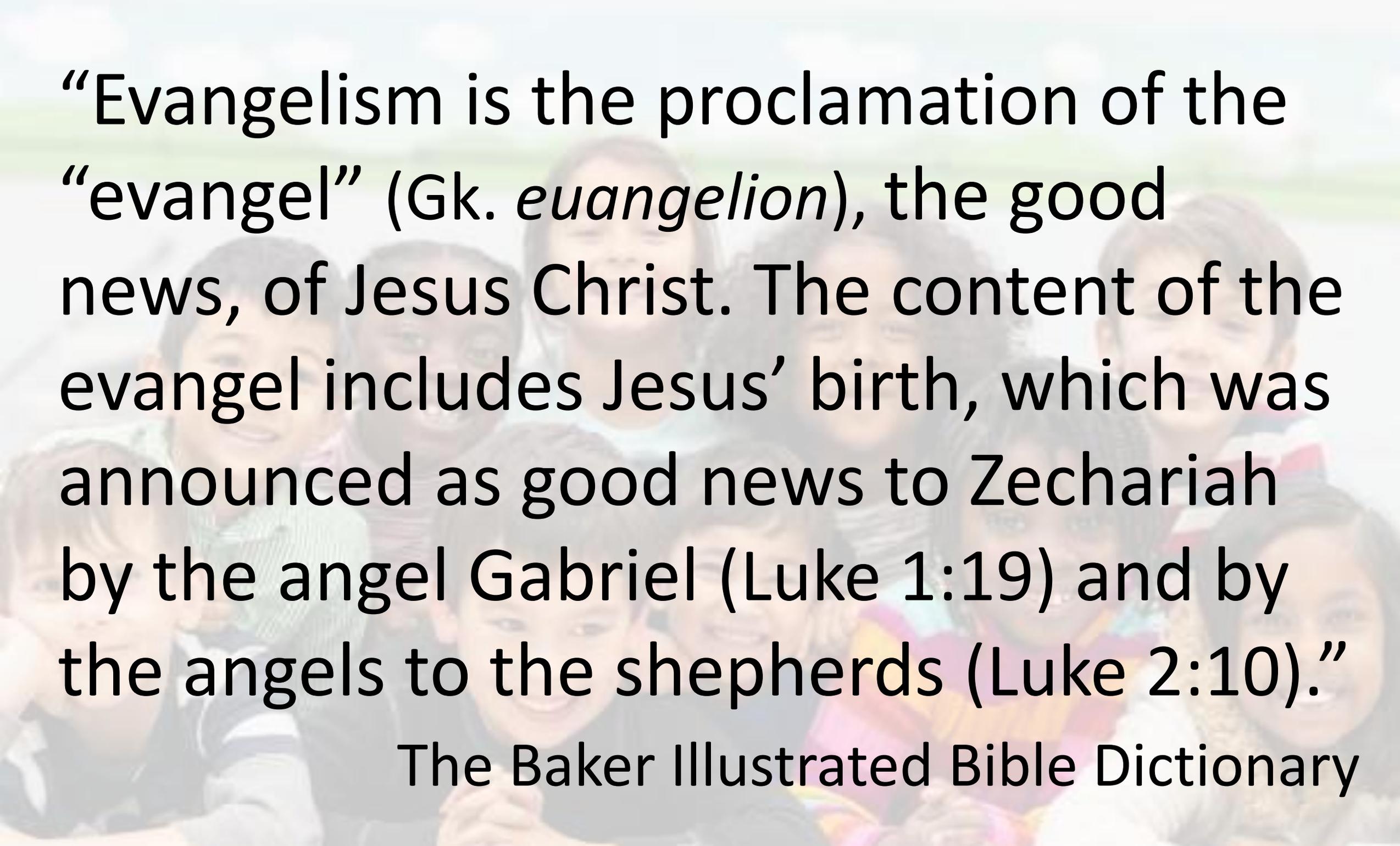
C. Faith

II. Evangelism



“Evangelism is one person telling others about how to be reconciled to God through faith in Christ. Evangelism is often the means by which God converts people.”

Healthy Churches: A Beginner's Guide.

A group of diverse children, including boys and girls of various ethnicities, are smiling and looking towards the camera. Some are holding colorful balloons. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white, suggesting an outdoor setting.

“Evangelism is the proclamation of the “evangel” (Gk. *euangelion*), the good news, of Jesus Christ. The content of the evangel includes Jesus’ birth, which was announced as good news to Zechariah by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:19) and by the angels to the shepherds (Luke 2:10).”

The Baker Illustrated Bible Dictionary

I. Conversion

II. Evangelism

A. God designed for us to tell others
about Him!

1. God gave Paul this task

1 Corinthians 9:16

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

II. Evangelism

A. God designed for us to tell others about Him!

1. God gave Paul this task

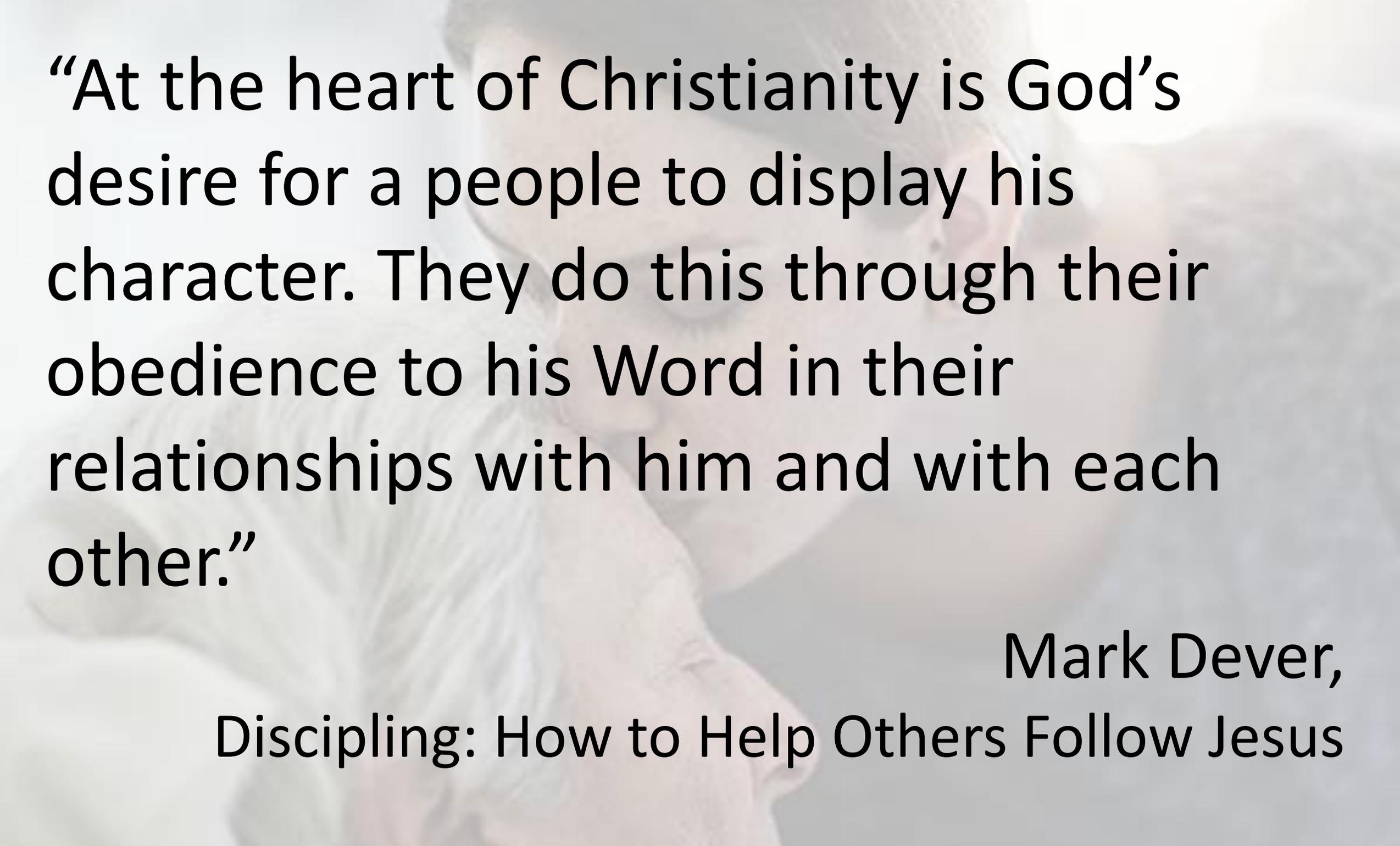
2. Jesus gave His disciples this task

Acts 1:6-8

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

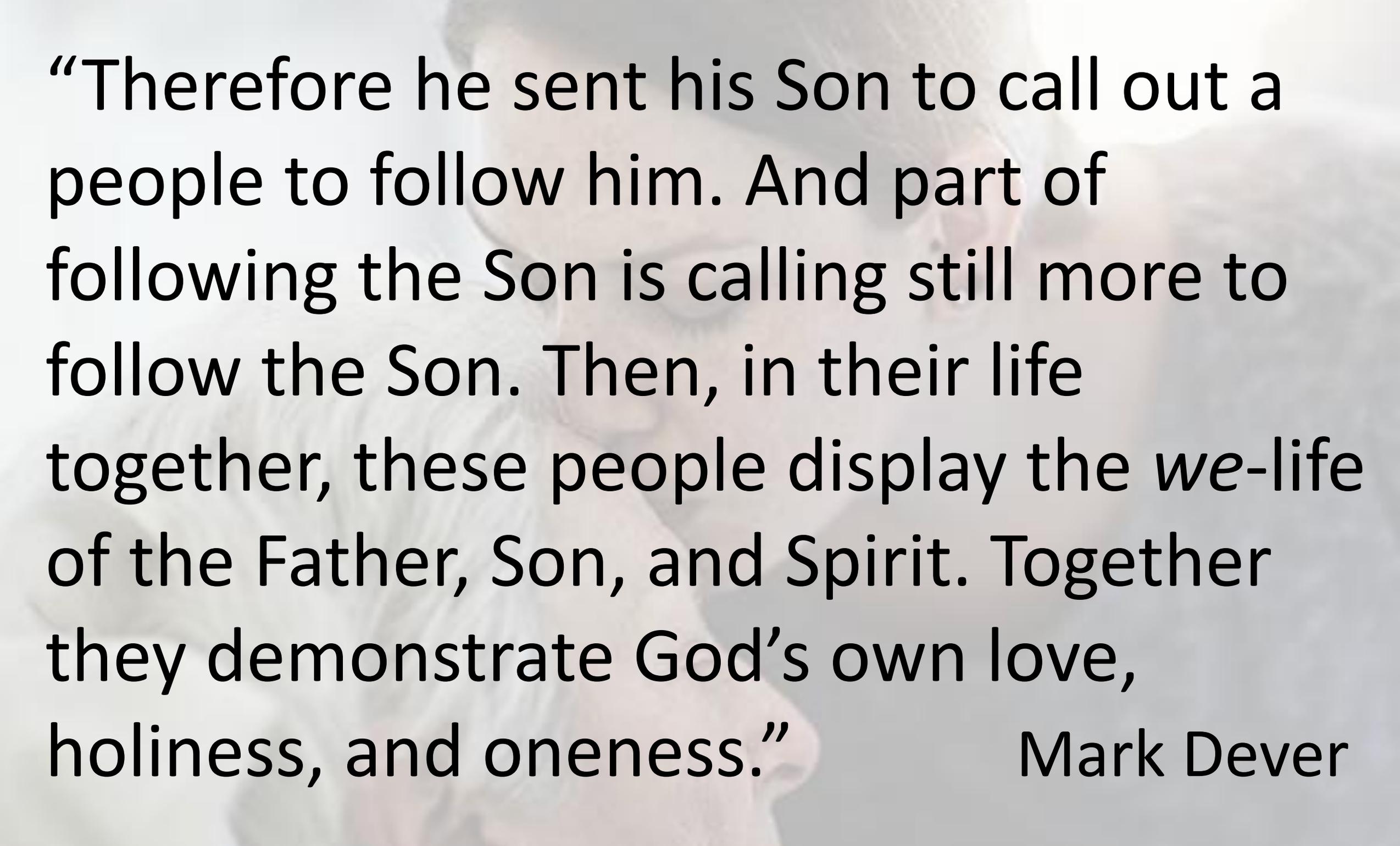
Acts 1:6-8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



“At the heart of Christianity is God’s desire for a people to display his character. They do this through their obedience to his Word in their relationships with him and with each other.”

Mark Dever,
Discipling: How to Help Others Follow Jesus



“Therefore he sent his Son to call out a people to follow him. And part of following the Son is calling still more to follow the Son. Then, in their life together, these people display the *we*-life of the Father, Son, and Spirit. Together they demonstrate God’s own love, holiness, and oneness.”

Mark Dever

II. Evangelism

A. God designed for us to tell others about Him!

1. God gave Paul this task

2. Jesus gave His disciples this task

3. God gave all believers this task

Mark 16:15

¹⁵ And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

¹You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

1 Corinthians 15:34

³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

II. Evangelism

A. God designed for us to tell others about Him!

1. God gave Paul this task

2. Jesus gave His disciples this task

3. God gave all believers this task

Acts 13:2-5

² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Acts 13:2-5

³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 13:2-5

⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

Acts 20:20-21

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Our work is to proclaim a message plainly, honestly, urgently, and confidently. God's work is to save and convert. Recognizing this changes how we measure success. Success for us does not depend on results or numbers. It depends on our faithfulness.”

Michael Lawrence

“You and I are not responsible for the results, and so we don't need to pressure or manipulate. We're not trying to close a deal, which - I must say again - creates false converts. Instead, we are free to love, to urge, even to implore with words of warning and words of peace.”

Michael Lawrence

“That's what evangelism is: God's
summon of love to sinners. We're the
ambassadors, spokespeople delivering
the message. The message is clear: “Be
reconciled to God. For our sake he made
him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in
him we might become the righteousness
of God” (2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

Michael Lawrence