

# Crossing Barriers for Evangelism

## Acts 1:8

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

**Understanding our:      Meaning of each of these areas for us today**

<b>Jerusalem</b>	Jerusalem was the city where Christ spoke these words. Our Jerusalem is our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others that we know or have met.
<b>Judea</b>	Judea was the area surrounding Jerusalem and could be compared to our county or metropolitan area. Our Judea is the people of our culture in our county or metropolitan area that we do not know.
<b>Samaria</b>	Samaria was a nearby area and the people were from a different ethnic group, a different culture and had a different religion. Our Samaria is the people in our surrounding area who are of a different ethnic group, culture or religion.
<b>end of the earth</b>	The end of the earth involves all people who are not in one of the groups previously mentioned.

**Barriers which we cross to reach out to the people in each of these areas**

<b>Jerusalem</b>	<b>the barrier of our own fear</b>
<b>Judea</b>	<b>the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers</b>
<b>Samaria</b>	<b>the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion</b>
<b>end of the earth</b>	<b>the barrier of learning another language or going to another part of the world</b>

## Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

Recognize that we have no power to witness on our own  
Luke 24:46-49

The disciples were reminded of the Promise of the Father

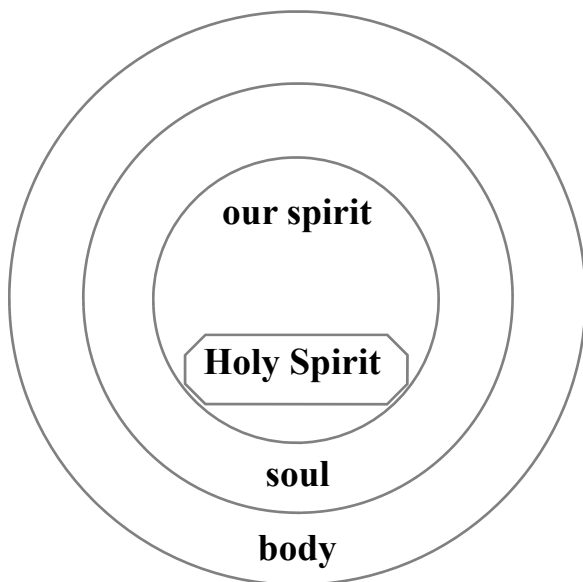
The disciples were to wait until they received that Promise

The disciples were promised that they would be clothed with:

**Power from on high**

Understand the source of our power is the Holy Spirit  
Acts 1:8

1. We were given the Holy Spirit as a gift at the moment of salvation -  
Acts 2:38; Romans 8:14-16
2. We will accomplish nothing if we try to witness in our own strength -  
John 15:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Ephesians 4:30-32
3. We will witness with boldness if we witness in the power of the Holy Spirit  
2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:31



**When we depend on our own strength,  
we quench and grieve the Holy Spirit**



**When we are filled with the Spirit,  
we speak the Word of God boldly**

## Learning to cross the barrier of getting acquainted with strangers

**We must be motivated to get acquainted with strangers by the love of Christ**  
**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*



**We will get acquainted with strangers as we are moved with compassion**  
**Matthew 9:36-38**

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

**Do we see people as Christ saw people?**

**We will get acquainted with strangers as we let the Holy Spirit lead us**  
**Acts 8:4**

*Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.*  
**Acts 11:19**

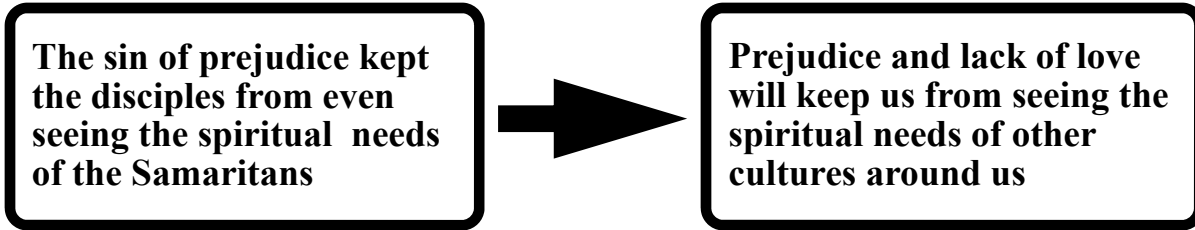
*Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.*

**Acts 16:6-9**

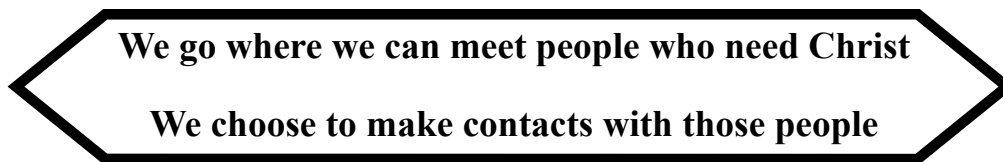
*Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

**Learning to cross the barrier of understanding a different ethnic group, culture or religion**

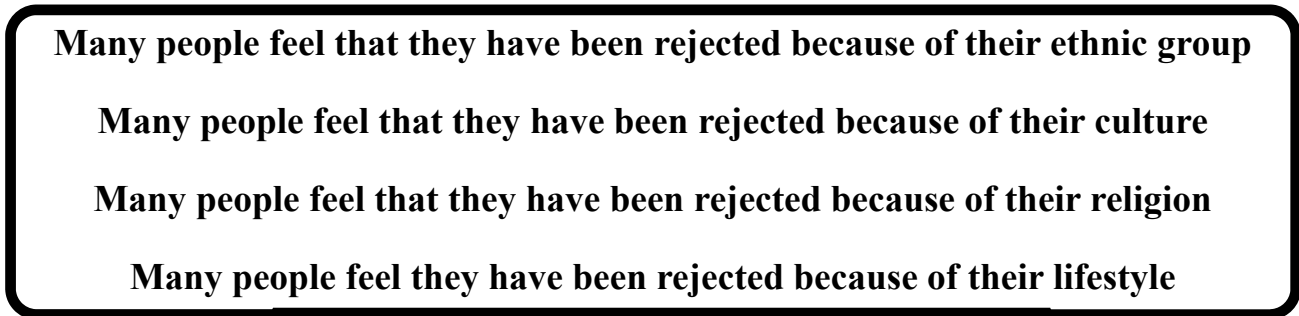
**We must lift up our eyes and see these other groups  
John 4:35**



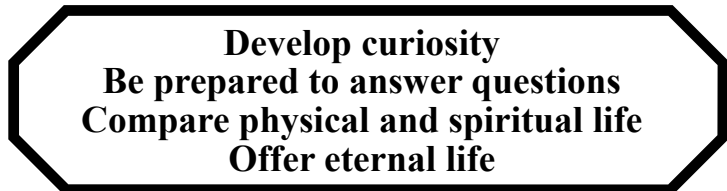
**We must take the initiative to make the first contact  
John 4:5-7**



**We must accept their hostility without feeling personally rejected  
John 4:9**



**We must be prepared to share the gift of God  
John 4:10-14**



**We must be prepared for defensiveness about sin  
John 4:15-18**

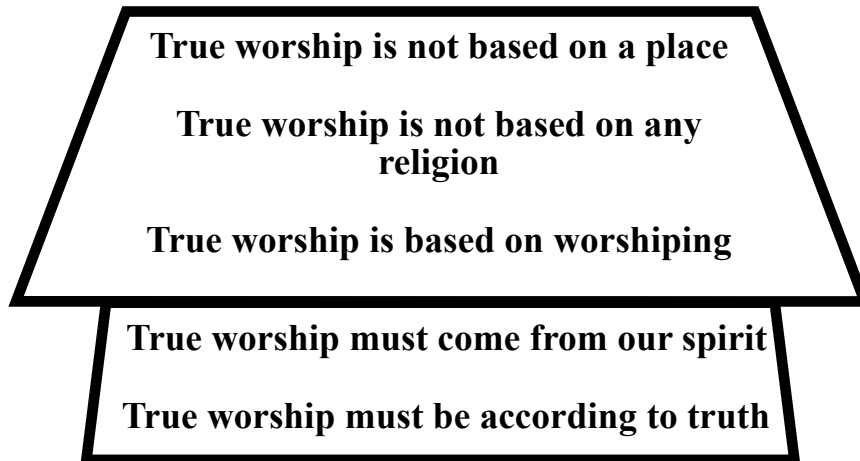
**Focus on reaching the family, especially the husband, in evangelism**

**Be prepared to accept the fact that the person may have a sinful past**

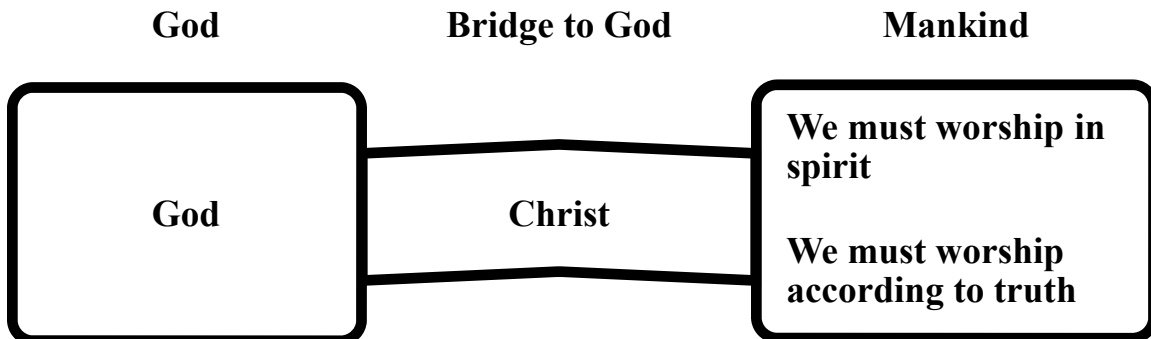
**Compliment the person for telling the truth**

**We must distinguish between where we worship and who we worship  
John 4:19-24**

**Many people will question what religion is right  
We must carefully show that:**

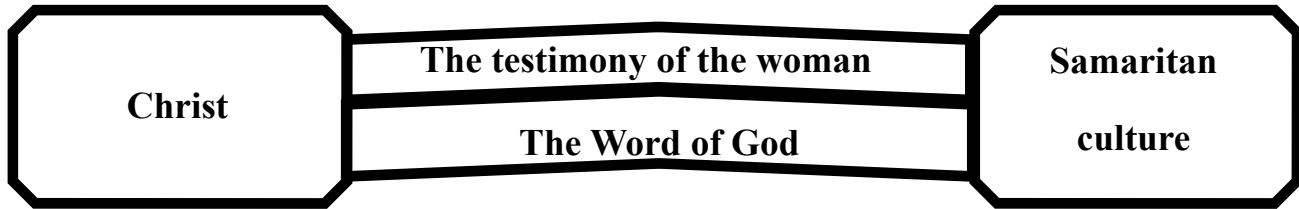


**We must remember that our purpose is to introduce people to Christ  
John 4:24-26**



**We must allow time for the person of another culture to discuss Christ with their family, friends and community**  
**John 4:28-30, 39-42**

**The bridges to bring Christ to another culture**

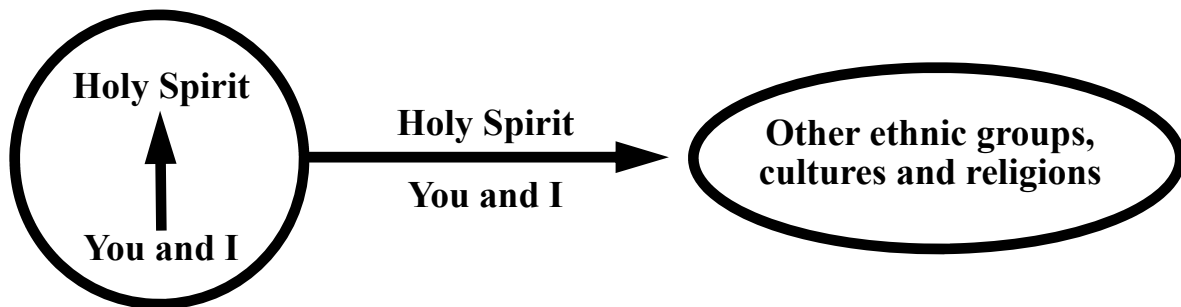


**We must depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to a different ethnic group, culture or religion**

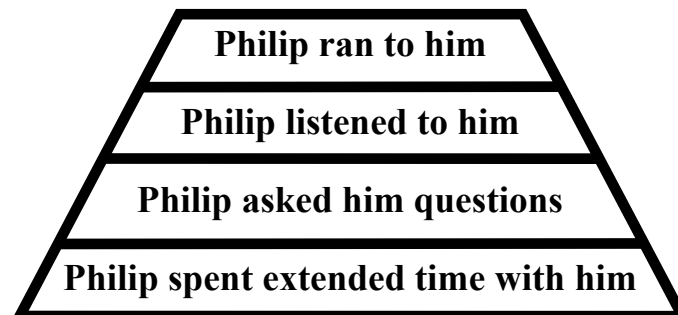
**Philip was led by the Spirit as he went to the Samaritans and the Ethiopian**  
**Acts 8:4-5, 8:29**

**We yield to the Holy Spirit**

**The Holy Spirit leads us to people of other ethnic groups, cultures and religions**



**We let the Holy Spirit guide our contacts and lead in building bridges**  
**Acts 8:30-34**



**Learning to cross the barrier of another language or going to another part of the world**

**We must remember that we are sent and given power by the Holy Spirit  
Acts 1:8, 13:1-3**

<b>We are given power by the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>We are sent to the end of the earth by the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>We will be directed by the Holy Spirit as we seek His leading</b>

**We may meet three different groups of people in another part of the world  
Acts 17:16-17**

<b>The three groups</b>	<b>Their beliefs</b>	<b>Where we meet them</b>
<b>Jews</b>	<b>Believe in the Old Testament</b>	<b>In the synagogue</b>
<b>Gentile worshipers</b>	<b>Believe in the true God</b>	<b>In a place of worship</b>
<b>Everyone else who happens to be there</b>	<b>Believe in their own gods and philosophies</b>	<b>In the marketplace, their homes or any other place</b>

**We need to understand the backgrounds of the people in the marketplace  
Acts 17:18**

**The various people**

**The various ideas of these people**

<b>The Epicureans</b>	This group had given up on finding truth and were just living for pleasure
<b>The Stoics</b>	This group said that they could be self-sufficient and lived a very disciplined life
<b>Those who called Paul a babbling</b>	The group that called Paul a babbler were those who mocked and made fun
<b>Those who called Paul a proclaimer of foreign gods</b>	This group was those who had a fear of evil spirits or were involved in various forms of idol worship ("foreign gods" is "demons" in all other uses)