

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

Jerusalem	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.
Judea	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.
Samaria	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.
end of the earth	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

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

Learning to cross the barrier of our own fear

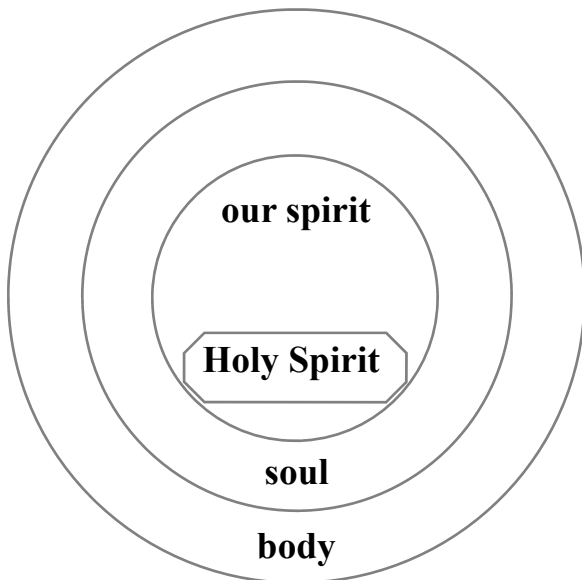
**Recognize that we have no power to witness on our own
Luke 24:46-49**

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

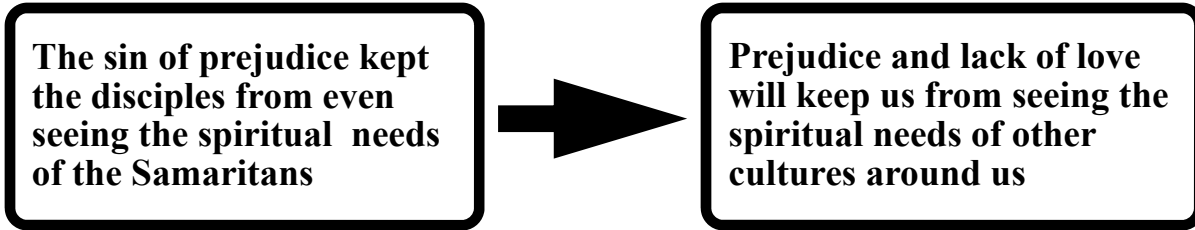
Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.

Acts 16:6-9

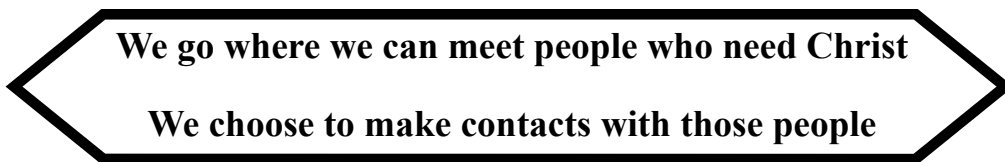
Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to 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

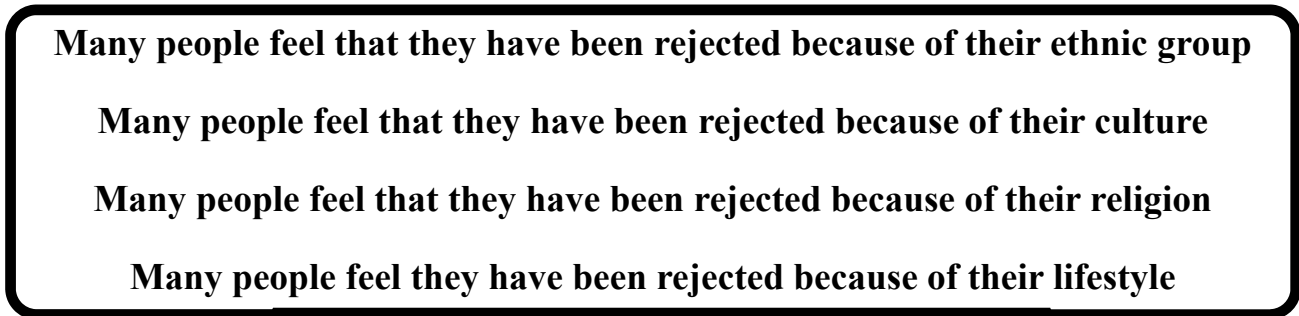
**We must lift up our eyes and see these other groups
John 4:35**



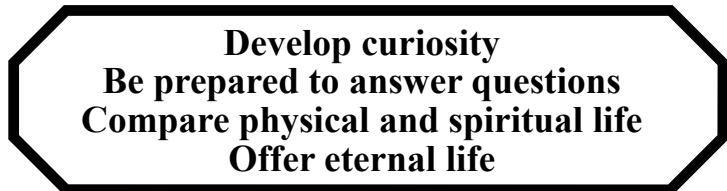
**We must take the initiative to make the first contact
John 4:5-7**



**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**

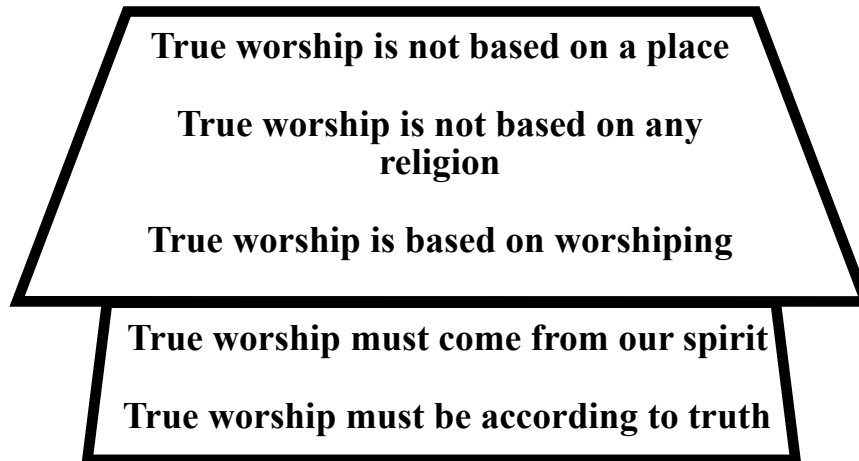
Focus on reaching the family, especially the husband, in evangelism

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

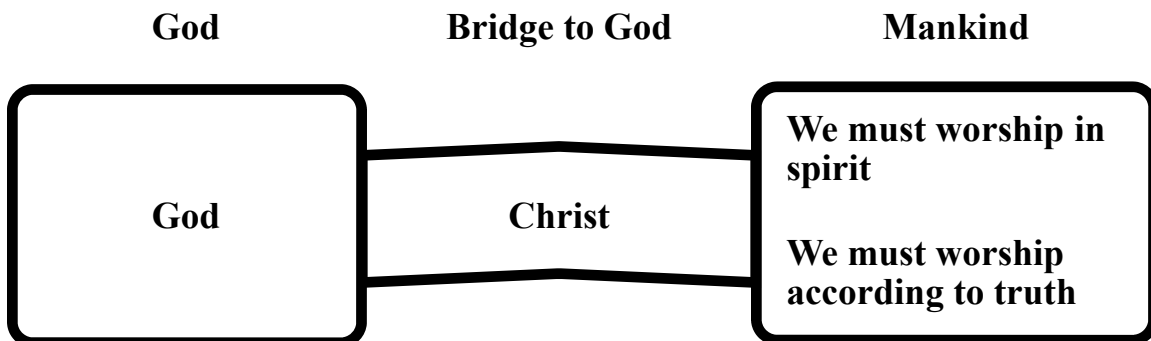
Compliment the person for telling the truth

**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:**

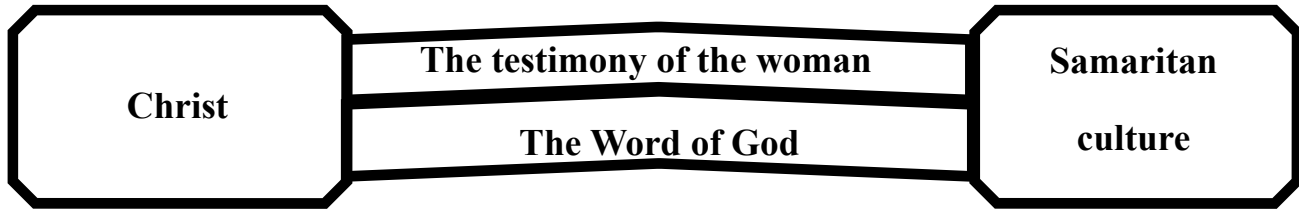


**We must remember that our purpose is to introduce people to Christ
John 4:24-26**



**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

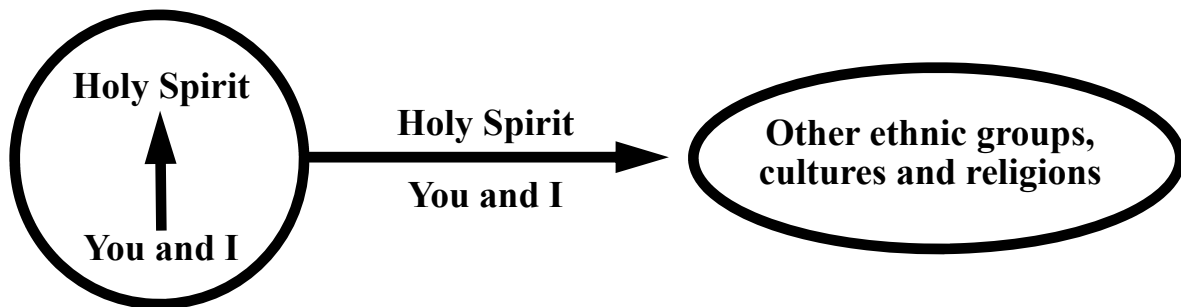


**We must depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively
to a different ethnic group, culture or religion**

**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**

