

QUALIFICATIONS FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM — ACTS 5:12-42

- ▶ • Evangelism is based on (1) individuals communicating and on (2) collective unity as a testimony to the world (Jn.17:23).
- ▶ • There are five progressive features that are the key to effective evangelism. These are early Church patterns for evangelism.

1 QUALIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM: PURITY

5:12-14

Pr.3:11-12; Mt.10:32-39; 18:15-18; Lk.9:57-62; 17:3; 1Co.5:1-6; 11:29-31; Ep.5:11; 1Tm.1:20; 5:20,22; 2Tm.5:22; Ti.1:13; He.12:6; 1Pe.4:17

- Acts 5:1-11 shows us that the Church to make an impression on the world, it had to be pure. God moved right in and just cut the cancer right out.
- Today, the discipline of the Church is committed to the Church (Mt.18:18).
- The Church that is to reach the world must be pure. If the Church strives to be pure, the Lord does the adding. A pure church grows.

2 QUALIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM: POWER

5:12,15-16

Ac.5:12a,15-16

- A pure church is going to have power. The second half of verse 12 through verse 14 is a parenthesis focusing on purity.
- There's no way that you're ever going to stop power from flowing through a pure Church. Part of the power was seen in their boldness.

3 QUALIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM: PERSECUTION

5:17-28

Mt.5:10-12; Ro.8:17; 2Tm.3:12-13; 1Pe.2:20; 3:17; 4:14

- The world at this time in history, in the economy of God, is controlled by Satan. The system run by Satan is antagonist toward God.
- When a pure Church comes along with great power and starts ripping off people from Satan, then Satan gets irritated. He's trying to salvage his authority and hang onto his rebellion at some level.
- People keep getting saved and Satan begins to get irritated so there will be persecution. Satan does not know what he is doing. Everything he tries, God undoes and turns to God's glory. Unholy people do not like holy company.
- When the church is pure and powerful, and it moves out among the world, there's going to be a reaction. Praise God for that reaction, because that sets it up for God to do wonderful things.

4 QUALIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM: PERSISTENCE

5:29-32

Du.21:23; Mt.10:19; Jn.14:26

- Peter sets the Sanhedrin against God. You see boldness and fearlessness. Peter is saying, "we are not in the business of obeying you folks. We are in the business of obeying God."
- Peter got right back in that Sanhedrin and said, "You slew Him. You hanged Him on a tree." The one that God raised up as your Messiah you had crucified. The indictment belongs against the leaders of Israel, not against the general population. This is persistence!

5 QUALIFICATION FOR EFFECTIVE EVANGELISM: PRODUCTIVITY

5:33-42

Mt.34-37; 23:37; Jn.16:7-8; Ac.2:41,47; 3:11; 4:4; 5:11; 6:1; 9:22-23; Ga.6:17; Cl.1:24; He.4:12

- We've been studying about a church that influenced the world. Notice that this produced conviction (v.33, 'cut to the heart').
- Conviction is the Spirit of God using the facts of the Word of God to bring about a change in a man's mind.
- They are in a frenzy at this time because of the persistence of these Christians, and they cannot shut them up. They keep blaming them for crucifying Jesus and announcing that He's the Messiah. Imagine the conviction in their hearts that keeps pounding because they crucified their own Messiah. The result of purity, power, persecution, and persistence is conviction.



A Violent Hostility (v.33) B Tolerant Indecision (v.34-39) C Saving Acceptance (v.40-42)