

Brian Kennedy's

Evangelism Kickstart FAQ

Why Should I Be Excited For Outreach?

1. Outreach is not mere human effort.

In the Kingdom of God, outreach is not mere human effort—it's a divine partnership. Jesus modeled this beautifully during His earthly ministry. He didn't just teach; He demonstrated the power of the Kingdom. In Acts 10:38 (ESV), we read: *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."*

Outreach and showing the power of Jesus is essential because it mirrors Jesus' approach. Signs, wonders, and miracles validate the Gospel message. When we pray for the sick, cast out demons, and see breakthroughs, people encounter the tangible reality of God's love. It's not about showmanship; it's about revealing the Kingdom's authority.

2. The Role of Love in Evangelism

Love is the heartbeat of God's Kingdom. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (ESV), Paul emphasizes that even if we speak with angelic eloquence or perform mighty deeds, without love, it's empty noise. Love compels us to reach out, not as religious duty, but as an overflow of God's heart.

When we combine power and love, we become conduits of grace. Love opens doors, softens hearts, and dismantles barriers. People don't just need healing; they need to encounter the Healer—the One who loves them unconditionally.

3. The Scriptural Foundation

Let's anchor our understanding in Scripture:

- 1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV):
"For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power."
- 1 John 4:18 (ESV):
"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."
- John 13:35 (ESV):
"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

4. Practical Application

As we step into outreach, let's remember:

- **Pray Boldly:** Ask for the Holy Spirit's power. Expect miracles.
- **Love Intentionally:** Listen, empathize, and genuinely care.
- **Risk with Compassion:** Step out in faith, knowing love conquers fear.

Remember, outreach isn't about impressing people; it's about introducing them to the King. Let's be vessels of His love, releasing His power wherever we go.

What To Do When You Are Yelled At Or Shut Down in Conversation?

In sharing the Gospel, believers are not only to expect occasional opposition but to also consider it a privilege. Christ declares, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10 ESV). This beatitude reframes persecution from a curse to blessing, assuring believers that suffering for the Gospel aligns them with the prophets and the righteous who came before them.

If we are not intentional, we might only celebrate and share testimonies of healing, words of knowledge, and salvation. We could be hesitant to share or become discouraged when we are rejected, cursed at, or rudely dismissed. This is **not Kingdom Culture!** Kingdom culture gives thanks for persecution! Persecution for the Gospel is not an indicator of failure but of faithfulness. As Christians we must continually renew our minds from seeing persecution (including rejection, meanness, and cursing) from that of a burdensome trial to a source of divine encouragement. A heart of gratitude for these challenges nourishes a profound joy grounded in the promise of Jesus, that those who suffer for His name are truly blessed and will inherit the kingdom of heaven. **Persecution is a cause for celebration, not distress.** So, when hostility meets you, respond with thankfulness. See these moments as **divine appointments** to plant seed, shape your character, and fortify your testimony.

How Do You Know if You Have the Gift of Healing or Miracles?

Some believers have been persuaded that they "Do Not Have the Gift of Healing or Miracles." 1 Corinthians 12:9, refers to gifts of healing as one of the spiritual gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit.

The Bible indicates that gifts of healing are given to some believers as a manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). However, these specific gifts are not prerequisites for God to work through individuals in healing capacities.

Scripture records instances where Jesus commissioned not just the apostles, but all believers to carry out acts of healing:

- Mark 16:17-18: Jesus mentions that believers will lay hands on the sick, and they will get well, suggesting that healing is a sign that will accompany those who believe.
- Matthew 10:8: Jesus sends out His disciples with the command to "heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give," which illustrates the broader commission to act in the power God provides.
- Luke 10:9: The seventy-two were told to heal the sick when entering a town and proclaim the Kingdom of God is near, showing that healing was not just for the twelve apostles.

This perspective supports the idea that while you may not have explicitly discovered a gift of healing, it doesn't exclude you from being used by God in this way. Stepping out in faith, praying for the sick, and

exercising authority as a believer are consistent with Jesus' commands. It's through this act of obedience and practice you may discover an affinity or gifting for healing.

Here are some laughable assumptions behind the belief "God will not work miracles and healing through me" from the book: Let's Just Laugh at That by Steve Backlund

- My past experience defines what gifts I have, not the Bible.
- If a healing or miracle has never been done through me, it means that I do not have the gift of healing or miracles.
- God, in His sovereignty, has selected only a few people to perform miracles, and I am not one of them.
- All who operate in healing have healed everyone 100% of the time.
- Unless I receive an impartation from a well-known revivalist, I cannot operate in healing or miracles.

The Truth: We all have a healing and miracle ministry.

1. Every believer has a supernatural ministry waiting to manifest. "And these signs will follow those who believe ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:17-18).
2. Even the deacons (those assigned to wait on tables) in Acts had a supernatural ministry (Acts 6:1-8; 8:4-8).
3. 1 Corinthians 14:1 tells us to "desire spiritual gifts" (which includes miracles and healing). God would not ask us to desire something unless it is available to us.
4. In John 20:21, Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." Here is what the Father sent Jesus to do, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38). This is our assignment, and there is grace to do it.

Strategies for Overcoming This Lie:

1. Believe spiritual gifts are for everyone (including you)

- Can you imagine someone saying, "I wish God had given me the gift of salvation; but He did not, so I won't be going to heaven." That would be ridiculous. Yet, many Christians use the same reasoning for spiritual gifts. Just as we receive our salvation by faith, we receive spiritual gifts by faith.

2. Start walking in healing and miracles

- Just as a toddler learns to walk, we grow into activating our gifts by being trained, taking risks and not giving up when there seems to be failure.

Does God Want to Move Right Here, Right Now in Forney?

Some believers have been persuaded “It May Work Somewhere Else, But It Won’t Work Here.” Here are some laughable assumptions behind this lie from the book: Let’s Just Laugh at That by Steve Backlund

- There is something uniquely wrong with this area.
- My city is under a spiritually closed heaven because of its unworthiness.
- God is too busy to visit my city. It only works in places where I am not present.
- My city is not a hotspot for revival and never could be.
- God is not doing anything to set up my city for transformation.
- God is picky as to where He shows up and does extraordinary things.

The Truth: God is no respecter of person or area.

Scriptural examples are bountiful:

- 1) Nineveh was in a state of moral decay and wickedness, but it quickly turned from sin to God (Jonah 1-3).
- 2) A prison had a sudden revival when Paul and Silas worshipped, and everyone bound was supernaturally set free (Acts 16).
- 3) Paul performed unusual miracles in Ephesus, a city widely known for its idolatry. The people burned their magic books (worth about 50,000 days of wages) and demons fled (Acts 19).
- 4) The people dwelling in Decapolis begged Jesus to leave after the man with the Legion was restored, but because of that man’s testimony, a crowd welcomed Jesus when He returned (Mark 5:7).
- 5) In a place as unlikely as a stable, God Himself took on flesh to restore relationship with His sons and daughters (Luke 2).

Strategies for Overcoming This Lie:

1. Understand personal transformation creates city transformation – Whatever His good pleasure is for your area, it’s God at work in you that gives you the power to see it accomplished (Philippians 2:13). Once we encounter Him, we become an encounter for others (Mark 16:17-18). We “leak” the very knowledge of God to those around us (2 Corinthians 2:14).
2. Use your spiritual authority – We don’t have to beg God to do something that He’s already given us authority to do. He made us His home and told us to heal the sick, cast out devils, cleanse the lepers, and do even greater things than Jesus did (Matthew 10:8, John 14:12). We are region igniters.
3. Pursue excellent stewardship – The spiritual keys to cities are gained through faithful stewardship of the opportunities that God has given us now (Luke 19:11-27). Revival is attracted to the areas where God’s people are doing small things in a great way.

Declarations to Renew Your Mind:

- 1) It is impossible for this city to remain the same because God, at work in me, is being released through me.
- 2) I am consistently leaking the life-giving knowledge of God.
- 3) The presence of God richly and thickly covers my city/workplace/home.