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# THE MISSION OF GOD

## Talk 4: God's Mission God's Way

*"If everything is mission, nothing is mission."*  
Stephen Neill

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1. THREE ALTERNATIVES TO CHURCH

1. Ecumenism

2. Parachurch

3. Individualism

#### 2. HOW JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH

*Acts 14*

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### **3. SPIRIT + WORDS + PAIN = EVANGELISM**

#### **Spirit**

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...

John 3:34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth.... I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:25-26 “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26-27 “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:12-13 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

John 12:12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

#### **Words**

Romans 10:14-17 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, said to them [the Sanhedrin when arrested]

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit* and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, looked straight at Elymas and said,

Acts 7:1 Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?" 2 To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me..."

## **Pain**

## **4. THREE ALTERNATIVES TO EVANGELISM**

### **1. "Spirit-filled" experience**

1 Peter 1:22-23 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

### **2. Apologetics**

#### **Don't start with apologetics**

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Romans 1:18-20 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Luke 16:31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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Ecclesiastes 3:12 He has...set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

1 Corinthians 1:20-21 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

### **Do start with evangelism**

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Acts 17:30 ...now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

2 Corinthians 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 3:15....Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

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### **3. Social action**

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Acts 14:27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

## 5. A LIFE GOAL

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

## RESPONSE

Something I've been reminded of:

Something new I've learned:

Something I need to do or change as a result: