

# Me...An Evangelist?

## Part 2

The process of evangelism in biblical counseling requires the counselor's attention to the leading and prompting of the Holy Spirit as He reveals the true condition of the client's heart. If the client is a confessed believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, there should be evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in his/her life. The evidence will be seen in a changed life. John wrote:

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1).*

In counseling we often fail to "test the spirits" and accept the verbal report of conversion without question. Yet many in our churches today have been led astray by "false prophets" and now claim a salvation that is grounded in partial truth. Remember, partial truth is a total lie! If we do not test and search the heart of our client, then we might lose this opportunity to deliver the life-changing truth they, and their families, need. John provides the remaining equation of discernment:

*We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error (1 John 4:6).*

Hence, as we speak of God, Jesus, and the principles of a biblical life, the Holy Spirit will reveal either a spirit of kinship as adopted children, or one of disharmony and unfamiliarity. In other words, we recognize our own family when they draw near. This begins to determine our role and call with a particular client. This helps the counselor know whether the issue is to help with restoration or with the matter of salvation.

The Word of God further defines our assessment. Our client's response to, and understanding of Scripture, will reveal much about their heart's condition. Paul wrote:

*But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14).*

Hebrews 4 tells us that the Word of God is "a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart..." (v. 12). Jesus said: "...the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48b).

As the counselor speaks biblical truth; defines biblical limits; and seeks biblical submission, the client will reveal his spirit, his thoughts, his intents, and his decision. Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

Upon these defining factors we develop our "spiritual assessment." This assessment is critical in shaping the course and outcome of the counseling so that both the client's current crisis and eternal security are addressed in a way that answers God's use of this moment in time.

Clients and counselors are often too concerned with the immediate, while God is concerned with the eternal. We search for solutions while God, through His Son, has already provided the Answer. If we ground ourselves in the goals and the workings of the Kingdom as revealed in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, then we will be the "godly counsel" (Psalm 1:1) God intends us to be.