

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Matthew 4:11-12

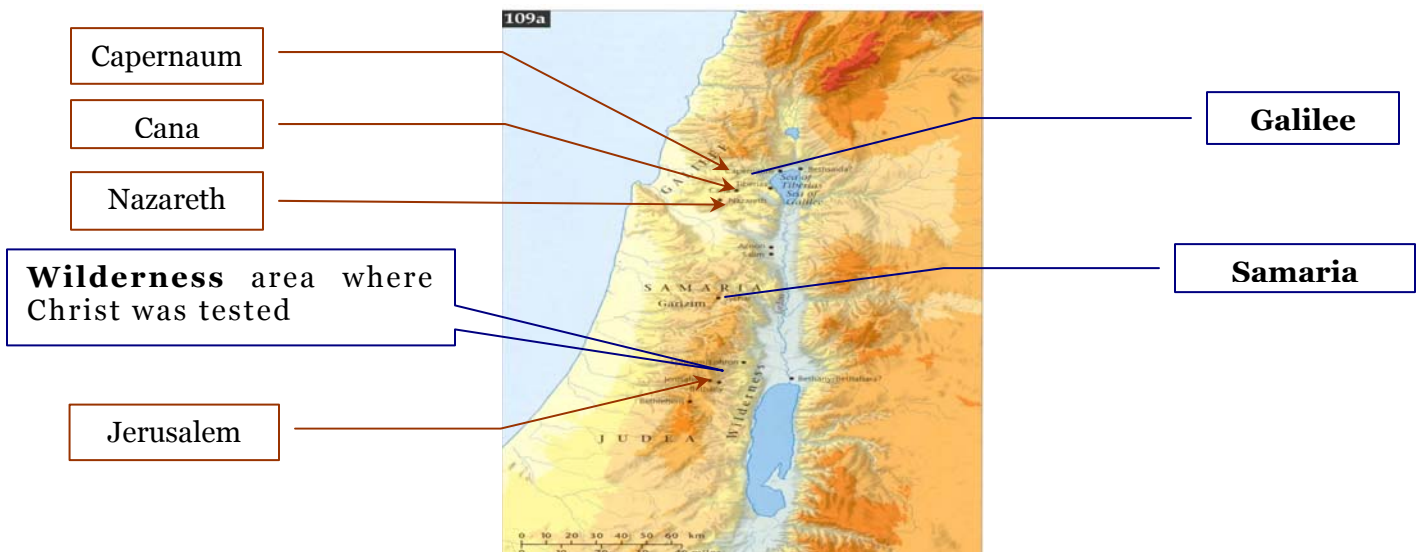
(11) Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.

- These angels began to nourish Him back to health.
- He was at the point of physical exhaustion, facing death, and the angels took care of Him.
- This immediately followed the testing by our adversary the devil, in the **wilderness**.

(12) Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;

Chronology of the time difference between Matt 4:11 and 12 (revised)

1. Jesus returns to the Jordan after the wilderness testing and John [the Herald] identifies Him as the promised Messiah (John 1:29-36).



2. Christ begins to call disciples and travels to Galilee (**John 1:37-49**).

- Andrew and John - - vv. 37-39
- Peter - - vv. 40-42
- Philip - - vs. 43
- Nathanael - - vv. 45-49

3. He arrives in His hometown (Nazareth), attends the wedding in Cana, which the disciples crash, and performs His first miracle (**John 2:1-11**).

- Water is turned into wine.
- **σημειον** – SEMEION
 - “something that points to or signifies something”
 - The miracle pointed to the fact that He was Messiah.
 - Demonstrated that He had Messianic authority
 - Confirmed that He was deployed from God’s throne room in eternity past.

4. Christ travels from the wedding feast to Capernaum with Mary, His half brothers, and the disciples (**John 2:12**).
 - Half brothers:
 1. James
 2. Joseph
 3. Judas
 4. Simon
 - Christ is the first-born; therefore, the head of the household and these brothers follow Him.
 - The purpose was to join the caravan departing for Jerusalem to attend the Passover Feast and the Feast of Unleavened Bread that follows.
5. Christ travels to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover and cleanses the temple (**John 2:13-21**).
 - Second cleansing of the temple noted in Matt 21:12 ff; Mark 11:15ff; Luke 19:45-48.
 - Temple cleansing was a sign of His Messianic authority to rule.
 - He remains in Jerusalem for an entire week.
6. During His week in Jerusalem, He meets Nicodemus and communicates the prerequisite for entering the Kingdom of God (**John 3:1-21**).
 - The prerequisite is to be born-again (or born from above) – a second birth.
 - The requirement is regeneration, which occurs at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone.

During this time, John is continuing his ministry along the Jordan River.

- He continues baptizing people to identify them with the King Who has come and the kingdom that the King has been prophesied to rule.
- His message is “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is on the brink of being instituted” or about to be instituted because the King had arrived.
- Repent – *change your mind*.
 - Instead of putting your trust in the righteousness that is derived from the Law, you must trust solely in Christ.

While John’s ministry continues, the Pharisees try to create a division between the ministry of John and that of the Lord.

This is the point at which Jesus diffuses the situation by traveling through Samaria.

POD (Review) - It’s best to leave people alone who are focused on the man [and his ministry] as opposed to the message.

7. The Pharisees attempted to create a division among believers between the ministries of John and of the Lord (**John 3:22-36**).
8. The Lord returns to Galilee through Samaria (**Matthew 4:1ff; 4:12**).

Note: The Lord did a lot of traveling. If you are surrendered to God, it may require some travel!
9. He meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well, the city is saved, and their positive volition pays off in two days of face-to-face Bible class (**John 4:5-45**).

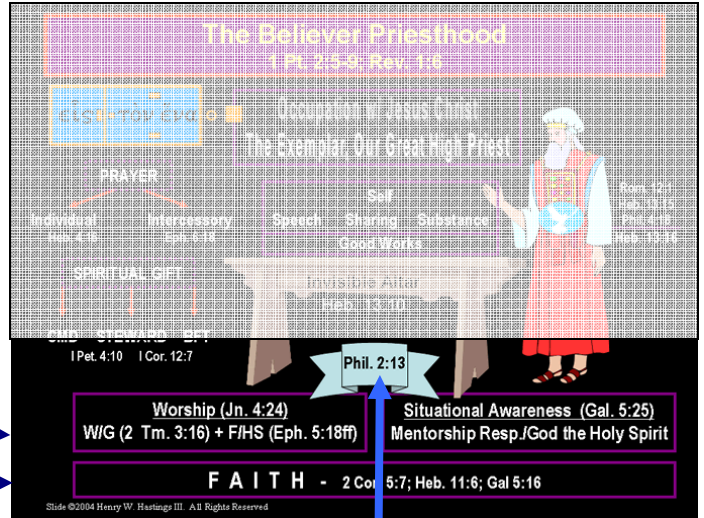
- They were so positive that they asked Him to stay. He honored their volition by teaching them for two days. An entire city of people became His congregation.

You may have heard the expression “God provides the hearers.”

How did God provide the hearers?

He provided them through the woman who introduced them to her Savior.

POD - God provides the hearers through believers who fulfill the dynamics of personal evangelism in fulfillment of their ambassadorship responsibilities as believer priests.



Note the foundational elements:
FAITH – moment by moment reliance on the Lord
TRUE WORSHIP – Word of God *plus* filling of Spirit
AWARENESS – to mentorship responsibilities of Spirit

At that point, **Phil. 2:13** is in effect, “for it is God who is at work in you, both to **will** and to work for His good pleasure.”

Will - In the sense of desire. The **will** to tell others about our Savior and what He did for us and what He is willing to do for them

*It is not YOU doing the work – it is God doing the work through you.
 That is how He provides the hearers!*



Five categories of sacrifice are then offered up on the invisible altar of the soul as a result of living the Unique Spiritual Life.

Self – you are not your own!
 You belong to God. The Lord Jesus Christ purchased you on the cross.
Speech
Sharing
Substance
Good Works – and why would these be acceptable to God?
Because He is the One doing the work!

And one of those **good works** has to do with representing Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.
 - - Introducing people to your Savior - -

POD (review) - God provides the hearers through believers who fulfill the dynamics of personal evangelism in fulfillment of their ambassadorship responsibilities as believer priests. (Things have not changed.)

Acts 2:47

(47) praising God and having favor with all the people. **And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.**

→ The number of believers that were assembling together.
 Everyday!

It is by the saving of souls that the Lord adds to their numbers day by day.

Note vs. 46 - -

(46) Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple. . .

- Being taught the Word of God

. . . and breaking bread from house to house. . .

- Communion service – proclaiming the Lord’s death and what that accomplished “until He returns”

. . . they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

- Fellowship with other like-minded believers
- Sitting around the table – discussing the things about your Savior

(47) praising God and having favor with all the people. . .

- Those actions are results of the execution of the Unique Spiritual Life and having the character of Christ manifested in you by God the Holy Spirit.

If I apply Bible Doctrine, am I automatically going to have the fruit of the Spirit manifested? NO!

If you are **in fellowship**, under the controlling influence of God the Holy Spirit, the character of Christ will be manifested in you BY the Spirit of God, as you walk in dependence upon Him.

- - Per the RennJ diagram - -

The Word of God is your food. If you do not eat, you will not grow spiritually.

The character of Christ can only be manifested in you if you allow it to, while in fellowship.

(47) . . . and the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

If you focus on what you should be doing - -

- Showing up to Bible class to be nourished and grow spiritually
- Partaking in the Communion service
- Allowing God the Holy Spirit to influence you and to lead and guide you in the paths of God's own choosing
- Attending to the responsibilities of your CABP – the three foundations upon which you stand (faith, true worship, and awareness)

-- you actualize **“God. . . working in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”**

POD - Seizing ambassadorship opportunities is a result of executing the unique spiritual life.

The humble believer is not one who has mastered the arguments of personal evangelism, but rather one who waits upon the Lord to draw the soul. Then, he seizes the occasion to be used by God once the Lord has opened the door.

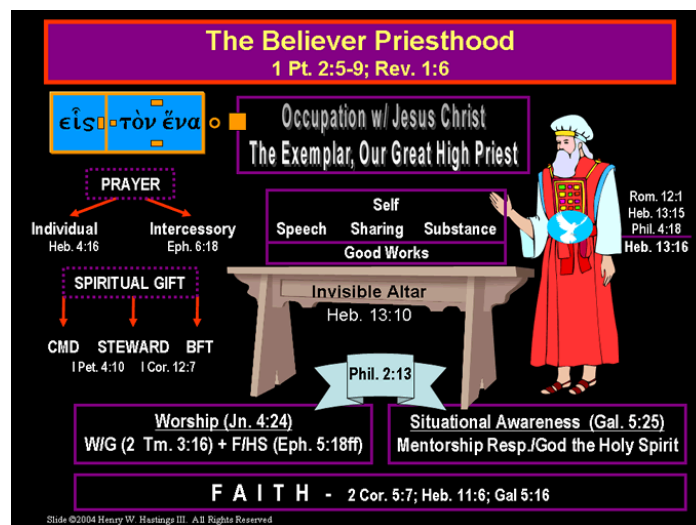
Just why is *ambassadorship* a result?

POD - The spiritual life is executed in its entirety through fulfilling the responsibilities of the CABP.



All the foundational elements lead to fulfilling all the responsibilities of the CABP.

Ambassadorship function becomes **natural!**



- Do good works precede the foundational key areas? NO!

What is the first thing that Christ did after the town of Sychar was saved? He taught them for two days!

- The teaching of the Word of God must precede all affective service for God.

This is how the Lord provides the hearers and how a church achieves momentum.

$P=mv$ (momentum = mass x velocity)

Mass is analogous to the number of believer priests.

- Note the Acts passage “the Lord was adding to their number day by day.”
- Was mass achieved when the woman at the well was saved? No, but what did she do?
 - She did the **natural** thing. She told others about what her Savior did for her.
 - She functioned as an ambassador by telling people about Jesus Christ.
 - That is how mass was achieved.

Velocity is a vector quantity composed of –

- **Direction** – accomplished through the teaching of the Word of God
 - Where we are to go and what we are to do
 - That is where things should begin with every new believer – *being taught*.
- **Speed** – mass (number of believers) fulfilling their believer priesthood by means of executing the unique spiritual life.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

(16) All Scripture is inspired by God (θεόπνευστος – “God-breathed”) and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

(17) so (**να** – HINA - “in order that”) that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

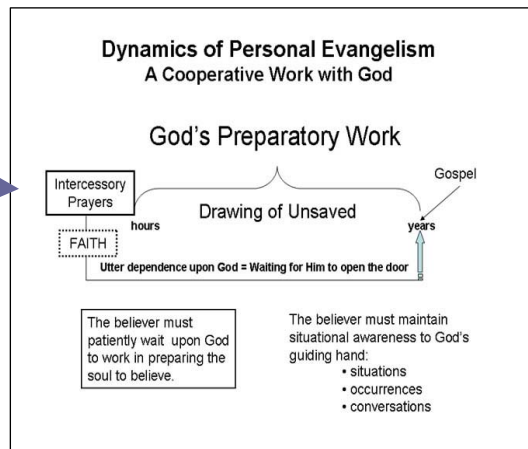
Movement is tantamount to believers fulfilling the responsibilities of the priesthood.

Once a person is saved, they need to receive their training from the Word of God. Then they know how to do what God wants them to do.

POD: The believer has three responsibilities as an ambassador in personal evangelism:

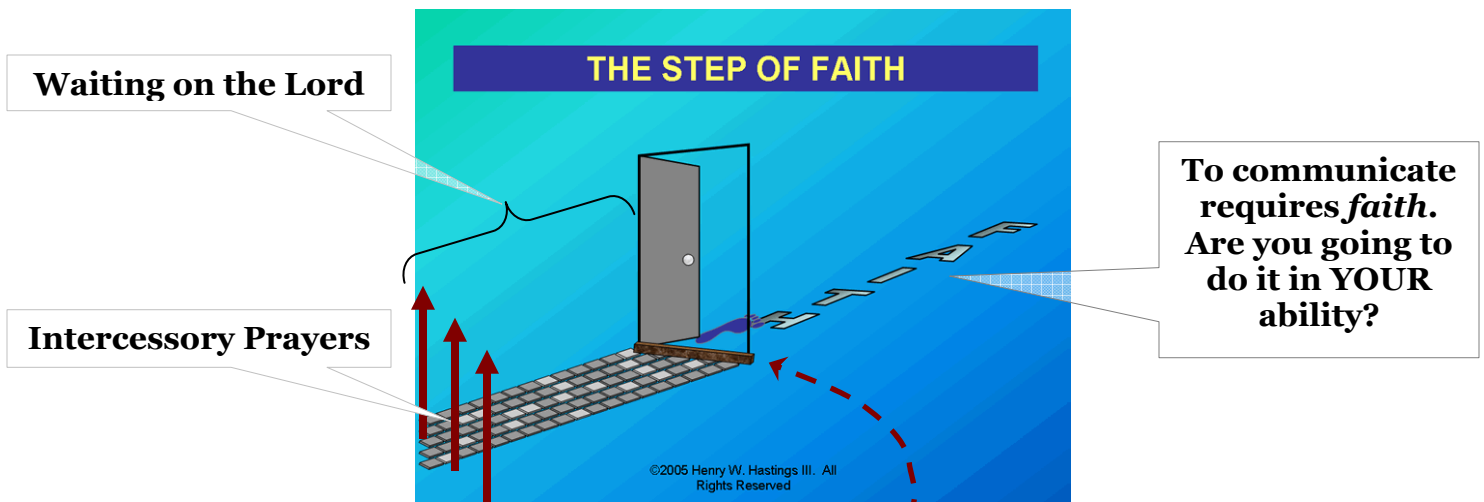
- Praying
- Waiting
- Communicating

PRAYING - Intercessory praying sets God in motion to begin His preparatory work in drawing the unbeliever to Him.



WAITING - Patiently waiting on the Lord to act in response to intercessory prayers.

- This requires situational awareness to the Mentorship of God the Holy Spirit *from within* as God directs the circumstances from without.
- The Holy Spirit will lead you from within to communicate about your Savior to someone.
- The waiting may be day, months, or years.



COMMUNICATING – In two categories.

Category 1: Sowing

- Telling people about what your Savior did for you

Category 2: Reaping

- Presenting the Gospel with an invitation to accept Christ

From - C. H. Mackintosh “*Words of Counsel*” Courtesy of www.stempublishing.com

You enter your room, and find the fire all but out, there seems scarcely a trace of vitality. The fire-irons are there, all polished and laid in order; but what could they do? Nothing! A thousand sets of the most splendid fire-irons could not produce a single spark. There must be a living *hand* to move them, or they will lie there motionless and powerless.

What is to be done? You seize the poker, rake out the ashes, and introduce a current of air; then you *stir up* the almost dead lumps of coal; and, in a few moments, you have a brilliant and beautiful fire. Who thinks of praising the poker? Who would say, "Dear, what a marvelous poker!" It is not the lifeless poker, but the living hand that does the work. True, the hand uses the poker; but the poker is useless without the hand.

Now, there is a fine moral lesson here for all who are, in any little way, used in the Lord's blessed work. We have ever to bear in mind that the works that are done upon the earth, God is the doer of them. If He deigns to use us, let us never forget that we are but mere instruments, just as helpless and powerless as the poker. No doubt, we have enjoyment in the work; but we are not now dealing with the question of enjoyment, but ability. If any real work is done, God is the doer of it. To Him be *all* the glory. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (1 Cor 3: 5-7.)

It is a very serious thing to attach undue importance or give an undue place to men, how much soever they may be used in the Lord's work. We have seen the work marred and workmen morally ruined by this very thing. It is a fatal mistake. Men are taken out of the place in which God has put them. They are lauded, lionized, and gazed at as a sort of phenomenon; their lives are written and published before their death. In this way, they are lifted into an entirely false position, like a person walking on stilts, and then some terrible fall comes, to bring them to their senses, and recall them to their true place.

The Lord's servants should carefully guard against this terrible evil. See how the blessed Master ever retired from human applause and human excitement. When men wondered at His teaching, He said, "My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent Me." When they would come and take Him by force and make Him a king, He retired into a mountain to pray. When they wanted Him to shew Himself to the world, He said, "My time is not yet come." We ever find Him hiding Himself, blessed for ever be His precious, peerless Name. Oh, to drink more into His spirit, and walk in His footsteps! To be well content to be a nothing and a nobody, so that Christ may be magnified! May God grant us this immense favour.

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9. He meets the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, the city is saved, and their positive volition pays off in two days of face-to-face Bible class (**John 4:5-45**).
 10. John is arrested while He is traveling through Samaria (**Matt 4:12**).
(12) [Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee;](#)

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.