

Spiritual Gifts: *Evangelism*

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Storming the Gates

Song: *Battle Hymn of the Republic*

I was really looking forward to hearing Paul James presentation on the spiritual gift of evangelism, but his throat is still not up to speaking. So, instead, here is something I had intended to give in January when we are in our new church home. Today, I would like to emphasize just a couple of points as we prepare for a new year and as Christ New Life Community Fellowship prepared to begin worshiping our God on the traditional Christian day of worship – Sunday.

The apostle Paul explains to us that the spiritual gifts are given for the purpose of ministering to the body of Christ. While all of the other spiritual gifts are directed towards serving the body of Christ, the gift of evangelism is unique in that it specially and specifically *reaches out into the community* of non-believers and *draws them into* the body of Christ.

Evangelism *spearheads* the church into the realm of darkness. It is at the *forefront* of the Christian war against the strongholds of Satan. Evangelism *invades* the territory of the devil and *storms* the gates of hell.

Evangelism *enters* the world, takes people who were *of* the world, and brings them *into* the light of Jesus. Evangelism offers the cup of Christ to the unchurched and makes available the living water of the Word to those who are otherwise without hope and life.

In the process, evangelism brings new members into Christ's work and *rejuvenates* the body of Christ. Evangelism *ignites* the church of God with the fresh fire of that first love. *This* is how evangelism serves the body of Christ – by reviving and re-igniting it with new disciples – and *this* is done by sharing the love and power of the risen Jesus with those who do not know Him.

May our Lord and Savior anoint this fellowship with a spirit of evangelism and may Christ New Life Community Fellowship bear bountiful fruit for His glory.

The song we just sang was marvelous. We live in a world which is lost without God and which is desperate for God. This Christmas season is a wonderful time to bring people the hope of our risen Savior. Through evangelism we can bring hope to a lost and desperate world.