

SUBJECT:
THE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE SAINTS
WHO ARE WILLING TO OPEN THEIR HOMES
Message Three
The Object of the Gospel

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:8; 2:46-47; Rom. 1:14, 16; Acts 6:10; 9:22; 8:1, 4; 1 Thes. 2:1;
Rev. 22:2

- I. “From house to house...announcing the gospel of Jesus as the Christ” means that the gospel can be preached in every home and that the gospel should be preached in every home—Acts 2:46-47; 5:42:**
- A. The increase and spread of the church is carried out through the preaching of the gospel; without the preaching of the gospel, it is difficult for the church to increase and spread—8:4; 13:1-3.
 - B. The church was able to spread because there were many groups of disciples who were witnesses of the Lord; they preached the gospel in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth; the book of Acts is a record of the saints’ preaching of the gospel—1:8; 28:31.
 - C. In the book of Acts the economical Spirit is for the carrying out of God’s economy; when we participate in the Lord’s gospel move, the economical Spirit of the Lord will be upon us—2:4; 4:8; 13:9.
- II. New faces are the life pulse of a small group; as long as there are new ones, there will be burden, feeling, and utterance—Philem. 12:**
- A. Whenever there are gospel friends in a small group gathering, the gathering is full of freshness; without gospel friends, the gathering gradually goes downhill.
 - B. Every new face, regardless of whether it is weak or even opposing, fills the brothers and sisters with a fresh burden.
- III. A burden is crucial in order to preach the gospel—Rom. 1:14:**
- A. Paul was a person who preached the gospel; in Romans 1:14 he said, “I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to foolish.”—v. 14.
 - B. Even though a gospel spirit initially comes from a burden, there is still the need of prayer; we should pray about the gospel debts that we owe—v. 9.
 - C. The power of the gospel issues from the spirit of the gospel—Acts 6:10; 9:22:
 - 1. Individually, or as the church of God, we must be filled with the spirit of the gospel; if both the individuals and the church are filled with this gospel spirit, sinners will be saved continually—cf. v. 25.
 - 2. When Brother Witness Lee was saved, he did not have any peace until he preached the gospel to others. Every holiday he would write some gospel tracts and go to the villages to preach the gospel from house to house. At other times, he would preach the gospel to whomever he met.
 - D. The characteristic of those who have a gospel spirit—Rom. 1:16; Acts 9:20-22:
 - 1. If we have a gospel spirit, the first thing we will have is "thick skin." This means that we are not ashamed—Rom. 1:16.

2. Those with a strong gospel spirit do not care too much about their own position or status; they can walk away from their own "thrones."—Acts 9:20-22.

IV. Acts 1:8 tells us that our witnessing should be “in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Today our “Jerusalem” is our relatives, friends, and neighbors:

- A. First, develop a plan based on the number of your family members, friends, neighbors, and other acquaintances; then you can plan to lead how many people to salvation this year.
- B. Second, you should make a list of those whom you plan to lead to salvation; then you can seek the Lord’s leading as to whom you should labor on first, and you can begin to pray over each name—Rom. 1:9; Phil. 1:4.
- C. Third, you should regularly contact the people on your list by phone calls, letters, and invitations; give them Bibles, spiritual books, and gospel tracts.
- D. Fourth, in any case, an appropriate amount of time should be set aside specifically to contact people to preach the gospel—2 Tim. 4:2.
- E. Fifth, according to the allocation of time, you must faithfully carry out your schedule, week after week, month after month, expecting a harvest every season.
- F. Whenever there is a gospel meeting of the church or any gospel activity in your small group, invite them to attend; if everyone does this for the long term, there will be fruit in its season; this is a law—1 Thes. 2:1; Rev. 22:2.

V. Today we should consider those who are around us; we should pray for them, bring them before the Lord, and faithfully testify to them concerning the Lord Jesus; within a short period of time, the gospel will spread out like ripples from a stone thrown into water. Acts 1:8; 8:1,4.