



Ashland Church of Christ 2006

# Pressing Toward the Upward Call of God



“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

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## May We *HELP* You? — Evangelism Practical Ways to Practice Evangelism

Text: Matthew 28:18-20

**Key Text:** *Matthew 28:18-20, And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”*

Introduction:

- 1) The general command to practice evangelism is both obvious and without dispute.
- 2) However, Christians seem to have a hard time making specific application of this command to their individual lives.

### I. Stir you desire to practice evangelism.

A. Jeremiah 20:9.

B. People often want to ignore the very real consequences of not practicing evangelism.

C. We have to think spiritually.

1. Romans 8:6.

2. Philippians 2:5.

- D. Consider the example of the first century church (Acts).
- II. **Study with the intention to teach someone else.**
- A. 2Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11; 2Timothy 2:2.
  - B. When do we learn the most on any given subject?
  - C. Moreover, this is the command of the Bible (Matthew 28:18-20).
  - D. It is amazing that our school system understands this point.
- III. **Step out of the comfort zone.**
- A. If you are going to walk on water, you have got to step out of the boat.
  - B. Jesus calls many out of their comfort zones:
    - 1. Peter, Andrew, James, and John (Matthew 4:18-22).
    - 2. The rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22).
    - 3. You and me (Mark 8:34).
  - C. It is easy and perhaps desirable for Christians to stay in their comfort zones.
  - D. Jesus promised it would be difficult (John 15:18-25).
- IV. **Seek out opportunities to practice evangelism.**
- A. If we are going to convert the lost, we have to interact with the lost.
  - B. This is one of the works of the church.
  - C. We must prepare ourselves to answer the questions (Colossians 4:6).
  - D. Also, we must talk about things that are uncomfortable to us.
- V. **Set goals for yourself.**
- A. We set goals for every other part of life.
  - B. Then we practice evangelism if it works out.
  - C. Remember, our responsibility is to plant the seed.
  - D. What if the elders set goals for the congregation?

**Conclusion:**

1. What will we do?
2. We must not fail the God Who sends us or the world that needs us.