

## Proclaiming Christ (Part 2)

### VII. There is a shift in your love for the Word.

#### **Acts 17:11-12** - Bereans

<sup>11</sup> Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. <sup>12</sup> As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

#### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

#### **Heb 4:2**

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

For every message you hear you can do the following:

**Head** – What does it mean?

**Heart** – What is God saying to me now?

**Hands** – What can I start doing differently in response?

### VIII. There is a shift in perseverance.

#### **Acts 17:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup> So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there.

- In Athens Paul is distressed by the idols he sees. What distresses you? Does your distress move you to act?
- He is reasoning with those who happen to be there.
- When you are in God's will there will be those who happen to be there but are really sent by God.

#### **Acts 17:24-31**

<sup>24</sup> "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. <sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup> God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

<sup>28</sup> *‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’<sup>[a]</sup> As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’<sup>29</sup> “Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill.<sup>30</sup> In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.<sup>31</sup> For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”*

- Paul knew how big God was.

#### **Acts 18:9**

*One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.*

- Do not be silent!

### Daniel

#### **IX. Shift in motivation and character**

##### **Daniel 5:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> *The wise men and enchanters were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means, but they could not explain it.* <sup>16</sup> *Now I have heard that you are able to give interpretations and to solve difficult problems. If you can read this writing and tell me what it means, you will be clothed in purple and have a gold chain placed around your neck, and you will be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.”*

<sup>17</sup> *Then Daniel answered the king, “You may keep your gifts for yourself and give your rewards to someone else. Nevertheless, I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means.*

- He had no selfish ambition.
- He could not be corrupted.

##### **Daniel 5:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> *“Your Majesty, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar sovereignty and greatness and glory and splendour.* <sup>19</sup> *Because of the high position he gave him, all the nations and peoples of every language dreaded and feared him. Those the king wanted to put to death, he put to death; those he wanted to spare, he spared; those he wanted to promote, he promoted; and those he wanted to humble, he humbled.* <sup>20</sup> *But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.* <sup>21</sup> *He was driven away from people and given the mind of an animal; he lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like the ox; and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he acknowledged that the Most High God is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and sets over them anyone he wishes.*

- He knew who was really in charge

### **Daniel 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> “But you, Belshazzar, his son,<sup>[a]</sup> have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this. <sup>23</sup> Instead, you have set yourself up against the Lord of heaven. You had the goblets from his temple brought to you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them. You praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or understand. But you did not honour the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.

God holds all.

Integrity is moral uprightness, honesty, wholeness, soundness, principle, incorruptibility, trustworthiness.

The root word, integer, means “whole, entire, complete in itself.”

The antonym of integrity is guile.

This word means “with intent to deceive, treachery, cunning, sly, dishonest, under-handed, misleading, counterfeit, insincere, scheming and double-dealing.”

In John 1:47 the scripture reads that when Jesus saw Nathaniel approaching, he said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is no guile” (nothing false).

Andy Stanley, in *The Next Generation Leader* puts it well by stating that our character is the sum total of our:

1. **Self-discipline** – the ability to do what’s right even if you don’t feel like it.
2. **Core Values** – Principles you live by that enable you to take a moral stand.
3. **Sense of Identity** – a realistic self-image based on who you are in Christ.
4. **Emotional security** – the capacity to be emotionally stable and consistent.

### **X. There is a shift in anointing.**

#### **Daniel 2:19-23; 27-28**

<sup>19</sup> During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven <sup>20</sup> and said:

*“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his.*

<sup>21</sup> *He changes times and seasons;  
he deposes kings and raises up others.*

*He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the discerning.*

<sup>22</sup> *He reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what lies in darkness,  
and light dwells with him.*

<sup>23</sup> *I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:  
You have given me wisdom and power,  
you have made known to me what we asked of you,  
you have made known to us the dream of the king. ”*

<sup>27</sup> Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

- Pray for revelation for God knows all things.

#### **Daniel 1:17**

*To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.*

- You can be both prophetic and intellectual
- There is an anointing to transform society.
- Daniel was anointed to understand the language and literature of Babylon.  
E.g. recently I was asked by a Christian in a workshop, "How do you marry Christianity with work? Work is practical." I explained to her that you cannot separate the sacred from the secular.
- God applies to all of life and God is very practical.

### **XI. There is a shift in favour**

#### **Daniel 1:9**

*Now God had caused the official to show favour and compassion to Daniel*

- God can cause people in authority to show you favour.
- You will get business from people who in the natural would not ordinarily like you.
- I have favour with atheists who don't like religion or Christianity.

### **XII. There is a shift in competence**

#### **Daniel 1:20**

*In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.*

- You will be ten times better as you transform society.
- If God could do this with Daniel who was not born again, what can He do with you?