

2 *The Evangelist's Role in the Body*

As evangelists, we need to understand our place and our role in the church. Ephesians 4:7-8, 11-14 says,

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, He says: "When He ascended on high, *He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men ...*"

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, *some evangelists*, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

As the son of a small-town minister, I grew up believing that to serve the Lord I had to be a minister or a

missionary. The idea of being an evangelist never entered my mind—until the Lord spoke plainly to me about my calling one Saturday morning when I was 20 years old.

My father, on the other hand, broke through in prayer much earlier, understanding that I was called to be an evangelist before I was even born. As the Lord spoke to Jeremiah in chapter 1, verses 5-8,

“Before I formed you in the womb I
knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Then said I: “Ah, Lord God!
Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a
youth.”

But the Lord said to me:
“Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’
For you shall go to all to whom I send
you,
And whatever I command you, you shall
speak.
Do not be afraid of their faces,
For I am with you to deliver you,” says
the Lord.

I would love to be able to say that I quickly responded “Yes!” to the Lord’s calling on my life. But

the fact remains that I immediately responded, “No, Lord! I can’t be an evangelist! I don’t know how to speak!” Two days later, however, a letter came in the mail from a missionary who spent about 45 years in Colombia, South America. The Lord had given Mrs. Hannah Lowe a vision and shown her two things: that God had called me to be an evangelist, but that I was going the wrong way, running away from that calling. Oh, how patient the Lord is with His stubborn, unbelieving children!



*George Whitefield Preaching at Cornwall During
the First Great Awakening¹*

The role of the evangelist is critical to the building up of the Body of Christ. And, regardless of what some may claim in our day, the need for evangelists will never end until Christ returns. Apostles, prophets,