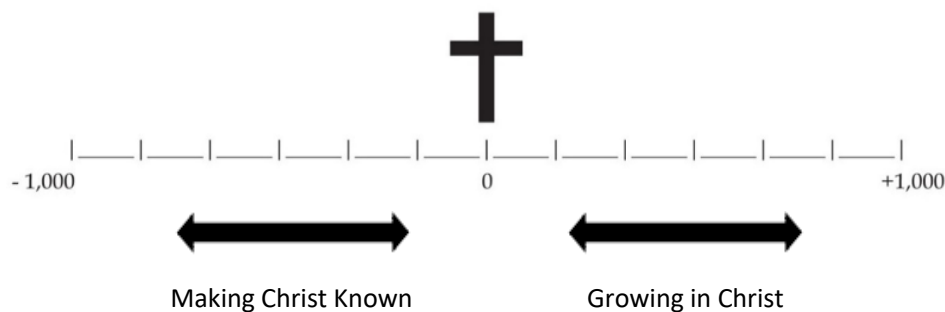


# Understanding Biblical Evangelism

Evangelism is a scary thing, conjuring up images of knocking on doors, sharing canned gospel presentations with strangers, and handing out tracts hoping someone will make a decision for Christ on-the-spot. As a result, many Christians are not actively engaged in sharing their faith with others. To start participating in biblical evangelism, we need to understand it more holistically:

## Spiritual Decision-Making Scale

Engel's Scale adapted from James Engel's book, *What's Wrong with the Harvest?*



Every person on the earth is somewhere on either side of the cross and is making spiritual decisions that move him/her closer to or away from Jesus Christ.

God wants to use our whole lives: our words, deeds, the Gospel message through us, and our spiritual gifts to affect people's *movement* on this scale.

Biblical evangelism isn't about taking a person from minus 1,000 all the way to zero (commitment to Christ) in one encounter. It's about living *intentionally* on mission every day, for the sake of the Gospel, allowing God to use us to move an unbeliever *one notch closer* to the cross. Living on mission can also move a believer *one notch closer* to maturity in Christ. So, biblical evangelism doesn't only happen if someone surrenders to Jesus. It's also every Gospel encounter that leads to surrender.

Living intentionally involves both the *proclamation* of the Gospel (what we speak and share) and a *presentation* of the Gospel (how we live). People must have exposure to *both* in order to understand what the Gospel is and its implications before making a decision to follow Jesus Christ. Some things that must be considered:

### Making Christ Known

- Initial awareness of the Gospel
- Knowledge of Gospel basics
- Understanding implications of the Gospel
- Positive attitude toward the Gospel
- Recognition of sin/the need for salvation
- Conviction to act
- Repentance and faith in Christ

### Growing in Christ

- Incorporation into the Body of Christ/Church
- Continued growth in the knowledge of God
- Increasing understanding of the Kingdom of God
- Continued life change
- Spiritual contribution and reproduction

Every day, you encounter people who are in different places on this scale. Ask God to work through you. Share your faith with those around you. Help people know and understand the Gospel. Pray for people. Live a life that testifies to the Gospel. Let God use you in the salvation story of others!

