Generous Faith – Kyle Nichols

This sermon on "Generous Faith" explores how evangelism and discipleship are central to the church's mission, which is to lead people in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Pastor Kyle emphasizes that community events and service projects, while valuable, are means to an end, they create opportunities to build relationships and help people take steps closer to Jesus, regardless of where they are in their spiritual journey. Using a discipleship scale that ranges from -12 (avoids truth) to positive numbers (mature discipleship), he illustrates that every person is at a different stage and meeting them where they are is part of genuine ministry.

Drawing from 2 Peter 1:3-11, Christians are called to grow in qualities like faith, goodness, self-control, perseverance, and love, not to arrive at perfection instantly. This growth makes our knowledge of Jesus "productive" rather than merely academic. Pastor Kyle challenges the common fear that we must be perfect before sharing our faith, explaining instead that honest vulnerability about our own journey invites others into a transformational relationship with Christ. Evangelism isn't about sharing Bible facts but about introducing people to Jesus himself, someone who knows us, loves us in our weakness, and has the power to change us.

The sermon concludes, illustrating through communion, that Christ's self-giving love on the cross and his resurrection power are what enable believers to live generously and share their faith authentically. Rather than boasting in personal strength, Christians point to Christ's work in their lives, inviting others to experience the same transforming relationship that turns knowledge about God into a life-changing knowledge of God.

Questions for Reflection

1. **Where might you be on the discipleship scale (-12 to beyond 0), and how does seeing faith as a journey rather than a destination change how you view your own spiritual growth?**
2. **What qualities from 2 Peter 1 (goodness, self-control, perseverance, love) have you noticed growing in your life, and how might those changes naturally open conversations about faith with others?**
3. **How does the idea that "God's power is made perfect in weakness" challenge or comfort you when you think about sharing your faith with others?**
4. **In what ways might you be treating your relationship with God as "unproductive knowledge"—knowing about Him rather than truly knowing Him—and what would it look like to make that shift?**
5. **Who in your life might God be inviting you to "meet where they are" on their spiritual journey, and what would a generous, non-pushy next step in that relationship look like?**

The Engel Scale

Modified with Permission of Dr. James Engel

	PATIENT'S MICRO-DECISIONS OF FAITH			HEALTHCARE WORKER ROLE
DISCIPLE	Choose to live by faith	+5	MULTIPLYING	**Speaks to:** The Whole Person **Addresses:** Social Barriers **Overcomes:** Isolation **By: Participation in Body** **Goal:** Growth **Answers:** Will I live for Christ? *Example: Jerusalem Church (Acts 2:41-47) & Samaritan Awakening (Acts 8:4-8)*
BELIEVER	Chooses to share faith with others	+4		
	Makes Christ-like choices	+3		
	Joins in community life	+2		
	Assimilates God's Word	+1		
SEEKER	Trusts in Christ	0	HARVESTING	**Speaks to:** The Will **Addresses:** Volitional Barriers **Overcomes:** Indecision, Unwillingness to Change **By: Prayer & Persuasion** **Goal:** Trust Christ **Answers:** Will I trust Christ? *Example: Paul before Agrippa (Acts 26:1-29)*
	Turns from self-trust	-1		
	Sees Christ as the answer	-2		
	Recognizes own need	-3		
SPECTATOR	Considers the truth of the Gospel	-4	SOWING	**Speaks to:** The Mind **Addresses:** Intellectual Barriers **Overcomes:** Ignorance, Misconceptions & Error **By: Presentation** **Goal:** Understanding **Answers:** Who is Jesus? What does He want from me? *Example: Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8)*
	Understand the implications	-5		
	Aware of the Gospel	-6		
	Recognizes relevance of the Bible	-7		
SKEPTIC	Looks positively at the Bible	-8	CULTIVATING	**Speaks to:** The Emotions **Addresses:** Emotional Barriers **Overcomes:** Indifference, Fear & Antagonism **By: Presence** **Goal:** Attractions, Trust You **Answers:** What's in it for me? *Example: Nicodemus (John 3)*
	Recognizes differences in the messenger	-9		
	Aware of the messenger	-10		
	Going own way	-11		
CYNIC	Avoids the truth	-12		