

FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How To Witness Effectively Lesson 4

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HOW TO WITNESS EFFECTIVELY

Many times the first reaction a person has when he receives Christ into his heart is the desire to tell someone else. When Andrew met Christ, he immediately ran and told Simon Peter. When the Samaritan woman realized she had met Christ at the well, she excitedly ran to town to tell others. According to the Bible, the urge to witness is quite natural. But as new converts we are fearful to witness to others, even though we may want to. In this lesson we will deal with the topic of witnessing, and how you can witness effectively.

I. WE MUST KNOW WHY TO WITNESS

A. The Commission of Christ

"...Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (*Mark 16:15*). The first and main reason we ought to witness is Christ has commanded us to do it. He promised us in *Matthew 28:19-20* that as we did go and witness, He would be with us. Jesus announced to the disciples in *Luke 24:47-48* that they were witnesses of His miracles and teachings to the whole world. This command of Christ alone should be all the Christian needs for a reason to be a witness to the lost around him.

B. The Conscience of a Christian

"When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood." (*Ezekiel 33:8*).

God warns us that we as Christians are responsible to warn the sinner of his sinful ways. Because we know what sinners ought to do, our conscience commands that we witness and try to lead them to Christ.

C. The Consequences of Sin

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." (*Romans 6:23*).

The Bible shows what we earn and deserve from a life of sin is eternal death, separation forever from God. Realizing that spiritual death comes to those who die without Christ is another motivation to be the witness Christ wants us to be.

D. The Coming of Jesus

1. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (*Matt. 25:13*).
2. "You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (*Luke 12:40*).
3. "...for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." (*I Thess. 5:2*).

And what will take place when Christ comes?

4. "All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (*Matthew 25:32*).

These verses and many others warn us that Christ's second coming could be at any moment and that we ought to be ready. Since Jesus could come at anytime, we ought to be witnessing and sharing the gospel with others so that they will be prepared to meet Christ when He appears.

E. The Changes in One's Life

1. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (*Romans 1:16*).
2. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (*II Corinthians 5:17*).

Since the Gospel has power to change lives, we ought to share it with those in need. If a doctor finds a healing medicine, duty demands that he shares the cure with those who are suffering. Knowing the changes Christ can bring to those in sin around you, duty demands that we witness.

F. The Cost of a Soul

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" (*Matthew 16:26*).

This verse shows us the value of a soul, worth more than the whole world. Thereby if a man dies without Christ, it is the greatest loss he can experience. For that reason we ought to witness.

G. The Certainty of Death

1. "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." (*Hebrews 9:27*).

2. "... What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (*James 4:14*).

Although we do not know when we will die, if Jesus tarries, we will all die. And after all die, all are judged.

Because of this, all men need to hear and respond to the Gospel. And the only way all men will hear the Gospel is for all Christians to be witnesses.

H. The Cheers in Heaven

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (*Luke 15:10*).

What causes heaven to rejoice? It is not our good life, or how much offering we give, or how much we have learned from God's word, or how long we pray, though God is interested in each one of these. The only thing that makes heaven rejoice is when men and women repent of their sin and start to live for God.

II. WE MUST KNOW TO WHOM TO WITNESS

Now that you have accepted Christ, God expects you to witness to those around you. To whom are we to witness?

A. Your Friends

"...Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." (*Mark 5:19*).

B. Your Family

"The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus." (*John 1:41-42*)

C. Your Neighbors

"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (*John 4:29*)

The Samaritan woman left the well and water pot when she met Christ and immediately began to tell the people of her discovery. As a result, many came to hear Christ and were saved.

D. Everyone

1. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." (*Matthew 28:19*).

2. "...Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." (*Mark 16:15*)

3. "...and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations." (*Luke 24:47*)

4. "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (friends), and in all Judea and Samaria (neighbors), and to the ends of the earth (everyone)." (*Acts 1:8*)

III. WE MUST KNOW HOW TO WITNESS: Our Best Pattern Is Jesus

A. How Jesus Witnessed to a Rich Tax Collector -*Luke 19:1-10*

1. Jesus realized that he had a heart that was burdened (Too many of us look at the outward man).
2. Jesus was not bound by tradition. He did not go to the temple to see him saved, but saved him where was and then went home with him.
3. Jesus gave the man assurance. "...I must stay at your house today." (*Luke 19:5*).

B. How Jesus Witnessed to the Samaritan Woman -*John 4:4-25*

1. He got the prospect alone.
2. He did not argue. - See *John 4:12, 20*
3. He was willing to go out of His way. - *John 4:4*
4. He was not class conscious. (She was a Samaritan - a half-breed to Jews).
5. He showed her what her sin was without embarrassing her in the presence of others.
6. He had a blameless life.

C. How Jesus Witnessed to Nicodemus - *John 3:1-21*

1. He was a gentleman to Nicodemus. He did not say, "You should have come in the day- time."
2. He got as quickly as -possible to spiritual things and to his real need. He had keen perception.
3. He explained to Nicodemus fully.

D. Some Practical Helps for Witnessing Are:

1. Witness by a good life.
2. Realize you will learn to witness as you continue to witness.
3. Begin like the demoniac of *Mark 5*. Go home to your *friends* and tell them what God has done for you.
4. Pray for opportunities to witness.
5. Be alert to opportunities.
6. Relax- it is God's job to convict of sin; your job is to present the Gospel.
7. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. -*Acts 8:26-40*
8. Learn a definite plan of salvation.

IV. A DEFINITE PLAN OF SALVATION

Three opening questions:

1. If you died today would you be 100% sure that you would go to heaven?
2. Would you like to know?
3. Can I take a few minutes to show you in the Bible how you can know you are going to heaven?

Three verses:

1. Jesus said we "must" be "born again" to go to heaven. *John 3:3, 7*
2. All have sinned. *Romans 3:23*
3. The wages for our sins is death. *Romans 6:23*

Four Points to share:

1. Repent – *Acts 17:30*
2. Believe - *John 3:36*
3. Confess - *1 John 1:9*
4. Receive - *John 1: 12*

FOLLOW UP NEW BELIEVER

Have them repeat the sinner's prayer after you mentioning the 4 points above.

Show them the assurance verse: "*He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" - *1 John 5:12*

ENCOURAGE NEW BELIEVER TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pray every day. - I *Thessalonians 5: 17*
2. Read the Bible every day. - II *Timothy 2:15*
3. Tell others. - *John 1:41*
4. Attend church every week. -*Hebrews 10:25*