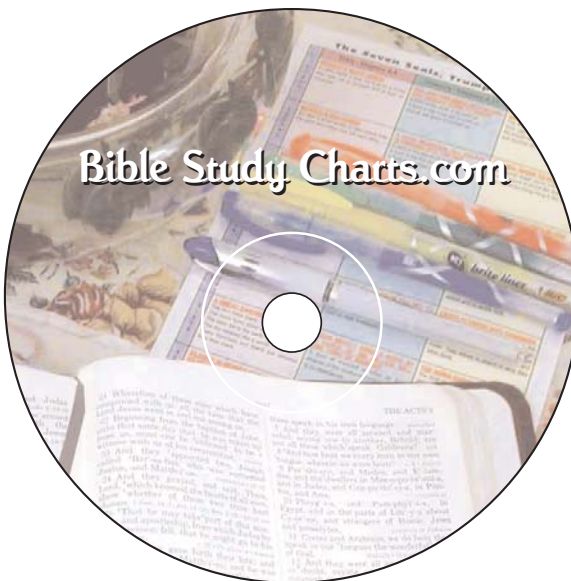


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How To Be An Effective Witness

I. I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN

One day as Jesus walked by the sea of galilee He saw two men, Simon, called Peter and Andrew his brother, they were fisherman. "And He said unto them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Soul winners are made not born. Therefore to be an effective witness, you must be taught, trained and motivated by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus took three years to teach and train His disciples in the art of soul winning. After His resurrection He instructed them to stay in Jerusalem and, "wait for the promise of the father (Acts 1:4-8).

Therefore, when you witness remember that "your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

You may be up-to-date in all modern techniques of soul Winning, and able to quote the necessary scriptures without a flaw, but if you do not evangelize in the power of the Holy Spirit, your soul winning efforts will be ineffective.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF WITNESSING

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?... Romans 10:13-17

There are three questions asked.

First question: "How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed?"
The answer is, the lost cannot call on the Lord to be saved until they believe:

1. "That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures:
2. And that He was buried,
3. And that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (Cor. 15:1-4).

Second question: "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?"
The answer is, the lost cannot believe in Him until they hear the good news of salvation.

1. The eunuch had to hear to believe (Acts 8:26-39).
2. Paul had to hear to believe (Acts 9:1-18).
3. Cornelius had to hear to believe (Acts 10:1-48).
4. The Philippian jailer had to hear to believe (Acts 16:25-40).

Third question, "How shall they hear without a preacher (witness)."
The answer is, they cannot hear the good news of salvation without a witness.

1. Three thousand were saved at Pentecost because 120 witnessed.
2. The eunuch was saved because Philip witnessed (Acts 8:26-39).
3. Paul was saved because Steven witnessed (Acts 7:54-60), and Jesus witnessed, and Annanias witnessed (Acts 9:1-18).
4. Cornelius and his house were saved because Peter witnessed (Acts 10:1-48).
5. The Philippian jailer and his house were saved because Paul and Silas witnessed.
6. You were saved because someone witnessed to you.

According to the word of God the lost cannot be saved without a witness. They must have a witness to hear, they must hear to believe, they must believe to call, and they must call to be saved. But they cannot call until they believe, and they cannot believe until they hear and they cannot hear without a witness. "So then faith (saving faith) cometh by Hearing" (Romans 10:17). We are not born with saving faith, it comes only when we hear the gospel. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that every born again child of God obey the great commission to evangelize, to GO WITH THE GOSPEL.

III. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A WITNESS

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7

A qualified witness is one who is:

1. Established in the faith. To be established in the faith is to be rooted and grounded in God's word, Peter said be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).
2. Saved and know it. I know that I am saved because God tells me so in His word and God cannot lie. We have the:
 - a. Witness of the Spirit (Rom. 8:16).
 - b. The witness of the world (1 John 5:13).
 - c. The witness of saving faith "He that BELIEVETH on the Son of God hath the witness in himself (1 John 5:9-10).
3. Separated. Paul said that he was "separated unto the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1-16). This is positive separation and Paul analyzed it as:
 - a. A holy desire to share spiritual gifts (Verse 11).
 - b. A holy purpose to bear fruit (verse 13).
 - c. A holy obligation to pay a spiritual debt (verse 14).
 - d. A holy eagerness to share the gospel (verse 15).
 - e. A holy boldness to exalt the cross (verse 16).
4. Filled with the Holy Spirit. "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Evidence of the Spirit filled life as seen in the early Christians:
 - a. They spoke the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).
 - b. They witnessed with great power (Acts 4:33).
 - c. They witnessed with great grace (Acts 4:33).
 - d. They shared their wealth (Acts 4:34-37).
 - e. They worshiped in unity (Acts 2:42-47).
 - f. They suffered persecution (Acts 8:1-4).
 - g. They gloried in tribulation (Rom. 5:3).
 - h. They sang in prison (Acts 16:25).
 - i. They loved and prayed for their executioners (Acts 7:54-60).
 - j. They rejoiced to suffer shame for His name (Acts 5:41).

The hundred and twenty Spirit filled Christians witnessed on the day of Pentecost and the people were:

1. Confounded, that is, they were mentally arrested (Acts 2:6).
2. Amazed, that is, they were mentally frustrated (Acts 2:7).
3. Marveling, that is, they stood in mental awe (Acts 2:7).
4. Mocking, that is, some mentally reacted (Acts 2:13).
5. Inquiring, that is, some mentally acted (Acts 2:37).

When you witness trust the Holy Spirit to do three things:

1. Illuminate the mind of the unbeliever. All lost souls are in spiritual darkness (2 Cor. 4:3-4).
2. Stir the heart of the unbeliever. As Peter preached Christ the listeners, "Were pricked in their hearts" (Acts 2:37).
3. Move the will of the unbeliever. The prodigal returned home when he came to himself and said, "I will arise and go to my father" (Luke 15:18).

The gospel proclaimed in the power of the Holy Spirit will motivate the hearer to act or react. On the day of Pentecost three thousand acted as evidenced by repentance and baptism, while others reacted mocking. Not one, but no one, ignored the witness of those Spirit filled believers.