

“Rooted and Built Up” Discipleship Program

Lesson Eleven- What is Witnessing?

Scripture- Acts 1:1-9

Memory verse- Matthew 4:19, *“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

INTRODUCTION- It takes a saved person to reach unsaved persons, a “changed” life to reach “unchanged” lives. This is the essence of witnessing. The giving of the Gospel to lost souls is a personal matter of the utmost importance. Christ has not commissioned His followers to be mere “depositories” of truth, but to be “dispensers” of truth. One preacher said of witnessing that “no translation is quite as effective as the flesh-and-blood edition.” Bibles bound in genuine leather is good, but the living Word bound in shoe leather is better. Christ informed His church saying “*ye shall be witnesses unto Me*”, and from that point on we read the repeated phrase “*we are His witnesses*” (Acts 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39-41, 13:31). No wonder those who rejected Christ in Jerusalem still “*took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus*” (Acts 4:13). Our witness for Christ is not only a personal, historical account of the fact that we have been transformed by Jesus (separation), but also it is a personal, verbal appeal to others of the change Jesus can make in them (soul-winning). In this lesson, we will focus on what is to be the lifestyle of every believer by answering the question—What is Witnessing?



I. A PROPER “ _____ ” OF WITNESSING

A. The “ _____ ” sense of a witness.

In this sense, a witness is one who gives testimony of all essential known facts regarding a specific matter. A witness is someone who possesses knowledge relevant to an event, and provides oral or written testimonial evidence whether lawfully compelled or voluntarily. At times, believers may be found in one or more of the following witness categories:

1. An “ _____ ”.

We might call this a personal testimony of salvation.

2. A “_____ witness”.
This witness includes the salvation experience of another person with the events surrounding it
3. An “_____ witness”.
This witness can provide a personal experience, the experiences of others, as well as insightful information which leads to a truthful conclusion (II Corinthians 13:1; I Timothy 5:19; Hebrews 10:28).

B. The “_____” sense of a witness.
In this sense, a witness is one who has viewed the lives of others as a spectator and can provide certain observations (II Corinthians 12:1-4; Hebrews 11; Hebrews 12:1; I Thessalonians 2:10; I Timothy 6:12; II Timothy 2:2; Revelation 1:1-2).

C. The “_____” sense of a witness.
In this sense, a witness is one who can provide a personal experience, and from that point, a moral change following the experience (Psalm 34:1-9; Colossians 3:10).

II. A PERSONAL “_____” OF WITNESSING

A. The command to “_____”.
(Acts 1:8; I John 5:9-12). A “witness” is one who **shows** the evidence of Christ’s salvation.

B. The command to “_____”.
(John 20:21; Mark 16:15; I Peter 3:15; Proverbs 11:30; Psalm 126:6; Ecclesiastes 11:1; John 15:8). A “soul-winner” is one who **tells** the Gospel plan of Christ’s salvation:

1. **The “_____” of soul-winners.**
The goal of a soul-winner should be to carefully and clearly explain salvation so a lost person can make a well-informed decision. The presentation of every soul-winner begins with a “prompting phrase”, such as:
 - * **“Do you know where you will spend eternity after death?”**
 - * **“What do you believe about God? Christ? Eternity?”**
 - * **“I lived a life of misery until I had a life-changing experience...”**
 - * **“If you died today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?”**

2. **The “_____” of salvation.**

God’s simple plan of salvation is found in the Bible and should begin with God’s love for all mankind. The plan must include the sinful state of all men from birth, as well as the penalty for sin, which is death. Death could be explained as the beginning of eternity in Heaven or in Hell for the soul of the body that dies. Then, salvation’s plan must involve Jesus Christ, the Saviour, Who died upon the cross, was buried in a tomb, but resurrected after three days and three nights. Christ’s death was the payment for our sins, while Christ’s resurrection is the promise of eternal life for whosoever will trust Him. The plan should always conclude with the opportunity for the lost person to receive or reject God’s simple plan of salvation (I John 5:13; John 3:16; Romans 3:10, 23, 5:12; Revelation 20:14-15; Romans 5:8; I John 5:11-12; Romans 10:9-10; II Corinthians 6:2; Romans 10:13).

III. CONCLUSION

The problem with most sinners who remain lost today is not that they have never “heard” the Gospel of Jesus, but it is the fact that they have never “seen” the Gospel of Jesus. The early church testified unto the lost of Jerusalem that “*we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*” (Acts 4:20). We might have scheduled times of soul-winning during every week, as well we should, but we must understand that as we are saved every day, we must live as Christ’s witnesses daily. The eyes of the lost are not only viewing us in our holy assemblies, alone, but in our social activities, as well. As we carry Christ within us everywhere, so we carry His testimony everywhere as His witnesses.

Student tip-The Gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to awaken an intense hunger for it or an immense hostility against it.