



# ZION

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# KINGDOMLIFE

## WORD/WALK/**WITNESS**

### SHARE YOUR FAITH! 4<sup>th</sup> Ed

**“...But seek ye first the Kingdom of God...” Matthew 6:31-34**

- **SHARING THE GOSPEL IS VITAL**
- **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD SHARE THEIR FAITH**
- **THE EFFECTS OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL)**
- **POSSIBLE HINDRANCES TO WITNESSING**
- **EIGHT QUALITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE WITNESSING FOR CHRIST**
- **BEGINNING STEPS & WISE WINNING**
- **THERE'S POWER IN YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY!**



## **SCRIPTURES**

### **Matthew 28:19-20**

#### **King James Version**

<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

### **Romans 1:16-17**

#### **King James Version**

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

<sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

### **Proverbs 11:30**

#### **King James Version**

<sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

### **Romans 10**

#### **King James Version**

**10** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

<sup>2</sup> For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

<sup>4</sup> For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

<sup>5</sup> For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

<sup>6</sup> But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

<sup>7</sup> Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

<sup>8</sup> But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

<sup>9</sup> That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

<sup>11</sup> For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

<sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

<sup>13</sup> For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

<sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on 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?

<sup>15</sup> And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

<sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

<sup>17</sup> So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

<sup>19</sup> But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.

<sup>20</sup> But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me.

<sup>21</sup> But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people.

### **Mark 16:16-18 King James Version**

<sup>16</sup> He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

<sup>17</sup> And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup> They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

### **SHARING THE GOSPEL IS VITAL**

The need for people to hear the Good News of God's love and forgiveness is a matter of life and death. The writer of Ecclesiastes observes:

Death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

Man's self-will is characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference. Because of sin, he is by nature degenerate and corrupt, destitute of God's love, undeserving of His forgiveness, and so destined to death - eternal separation from God. But Christ does not want anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

He placed such a high value on the human soul that He personally gladly exchanged the perfection of heaven for a life of poverty, suffering, shame, and death to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10).

From His earliest youth and throughout His life, Jesus clearly understood His mission and purpose. His concern for the lost was so deep that at times the flood of compassionate tears rolled down His face. Jesus, the manliest of men, wept. Similarly, Paul pleaded night and day with everyone who would listen to be reconciled to God.

Our Lord has commissioned each of us to share the Good News and "seek the lost." He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations"; and "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). It is our greatest calling, then, to share the love and forgiveness He has given us with those who have never received Him as their Savior and Lord.

### **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD SHARE THEIR FAITH**

From my personal experiences and studies of God's Word, five key concepts have been made clear to me - concepts that impact the lives of every Christian.

- 1. Christ has given a clear command to every Christian.**

Jesus Christ's last command to the Christian community was to make disciples. This command, which the church calls the Great Commission, was not intended merely for the eleven remaining disciples, or just for the apostles, or for those in present times who may have the gift of evangelism. This command is the responsibility of every man and woman who professes faith in Christ as Lord.

**2. Men and women are lost without Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me" (John 14:6). God's Word also reminds us, "There is salvation in no one else! Under all heaven there is no other name for men to call upon to save them" (Acts 4:12, TLB). Men and women are truly lost without Jesus Christ. He is the only way to bridge the gap between man and God. Without Him, people cannot know God and have no hope of eternal life.

**3. Rather than being "not interested," the people of the world are truly hungry for the gospel.**

One of the greatest misconceptions held by Christians today is that men and women do not want to know God. But wherever I go around the world, I find ample proof that just the opposite is true. The Holy Spirit has created a hunger for God in the hearts of millions. I have discovered that at least 25 to 50 percent of nonbelievers are ready to receive Christ in most parts of the world if properly approached, one on one, by a trained Spirit-empowered witness. And I believe that among that number may be some of your own family members, a neighbor or a co-worker, or a person you do not yet know to whom God may lead you. They are ready to hear a clear and simple presentation of the Good News of God's love and forgiveness. Jesus said, "The fields are ripe unto harvest." Can we afford to be selfish with the gospel when such

overwhelming evidence shows that so many people are hungry for God? By sharing our faith in Christ with others, we can help change our world for our Lord.

**4. We Christians have in our possession the greatest gift available to mankind: God's gift of eternal life, which we received with Jesus Christ at our spiritual birth (John 3:16).**

Christ is risen! We serve a living Savior! He not only lives within us in all His resurrection power, but He also has assured us of eternal life. He died on the cross in our place for our sin, then rose from the dead. We have direct fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. And this fellowship, this peace, this gift of eternal life, is available to all who receive Him.

**5. The love of Jesus Christ for us, and our love for Him, compels us to share Him with others.**

Jesus said, "The one who obeys me is the one who loves me..." (John 14:21, TLB). In other words, He measures our love for Him by the extent and genuineness of our obedience to Him. As we obey, He promises He will reveal Himself to us.

## **THE EFFECTS OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL)**

Because he loves me, my Father will love him; and I will too, and I will reveal myself to him (John 14:21, TLB). What are we to obey? When it comes to witnessing, we have the specific commandment from Jesus Christ to go into all the world with the Good News.

Helping to fulfill the Great Commission is both a duty and a privilege. We witness because we love Christ. We witness because He loves us. We witness because we want to honor and obey Him. We witness because He gives us a special love for others.

God wants you to witness because of the benefits He offers to those who receive Christ:

- They become children of God.
- Their bodies become temples of God.
- All of their sins are forgiven.
- They begin to experience the peace and love of God.
- They receive God's direction and purpose for their lives.
- They experience the power of God to change their lives.
- They have assurance of eternal life.
- God also wants you to witness because of the benefits you will receive.
- Witnessing will stimulate your spiritual growth, lead you to pray and study God's Word, and encourage you to depend on Christ. You will experience the tremendous privilege and honor of representing Jesus to the world (2 Corinthians 5:20).

The Holy Spirit came to provide the power for you to do so (Acts 1:8). Wouldn't you like to share with someone else the most valuable thing you have?

All over the world, I have asked two questions of Christians, young and old, rich and poor, new Christians and people who have been believers for more than half a century. I have asked these questions also of some of the most famous Christians in the world. The answers are always the same, no matter who I ask.

What is the most important experience of your life?

"Knowing Christ as my Savior."

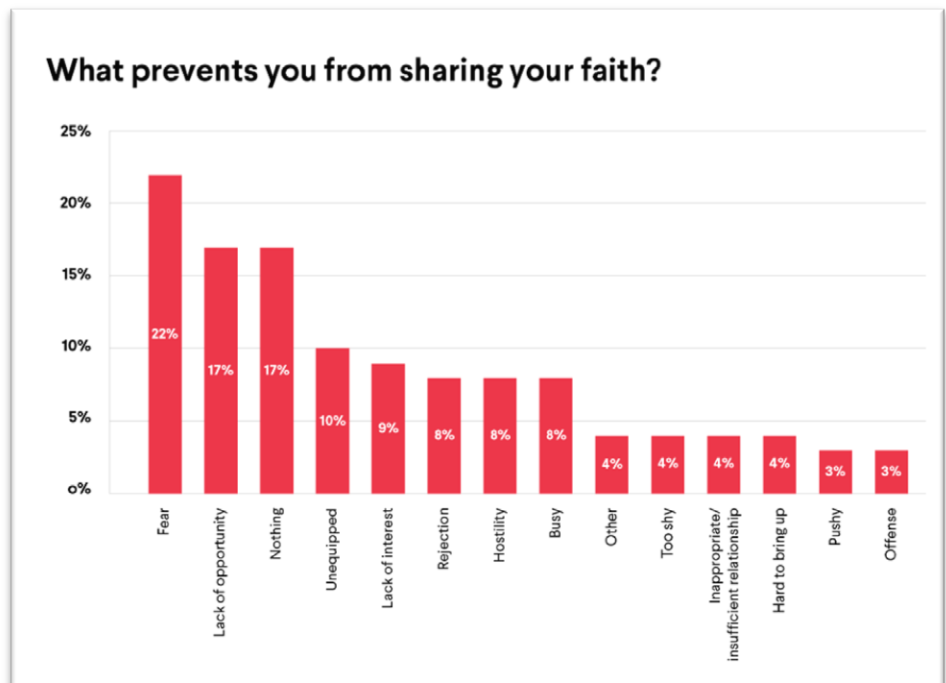
What is the most important thing you can do for another person?

"Help him or her to know Christ."

If you are a Christian, you undoubtedly would give the same answers to these questions. Yet if you are like the majority of Christians today, you have never introduced anyone to Christ. But you would like to do so, and you know in your heart that this is what God called you to do.

### POSSIBLE HINDRANCES TO OUR WITNESSING:

After each of the following hinderances,



describe how it affects your witnessing:

1. **Spiritual Lethargy.** If you are not excited about something, chances are you won't tell many people about it. For many Christians, the excitement of the Christian walk has been dulled by everyday distractions, materialistic pursuits, and unconfessed sin. Like the believers in Ephesus, these men and women have left their first love. How does it affect your witnessing?
2. **Lack of Preparation.** Personal dedication to Christ and understanding how to witness and what to say are imperative. Preparing your heart through prayer gives you the right attitude and opens yourself to the

power of the Holy Spirit.

How does it affect your witnessing?

3. **Fear of Man.** We possibly will be persecuted by unbelievers, as well as believers, but the fear of man will prove to be a snare (Proverbs 29:25). Christ said of those who feared to confess His name, "They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."  
How does it affect your witnessing?
4. **Fear of Failure.** "They won't believe; they won't accept such simple truth." Certainly some will reject or neglect the gospel, but you should never believe the lie of Satan that people are not interested. Christ said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are (present tense... 'now') ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord...to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37,38).  
How does it affect your witnessing?
5. **Fear that the new Christian will not go on to grow in the Lord.** Review the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23). Every seed of the Word of God will fall on one of these types of soil: path, rocky, thorny, or good. Some new Christians will become disciples. Keep up the faithful search for these disciples.  
How does it affect your witnessing?
6. **Lack of practical know-how.** As a result of thousands of surveys, we have found that the vast majority of Christians today not only believe they should share their faith, but they also really want to. However, they don't receive the practical hands-on training that will ease their fears and help them witness effectively. The result is a guilt trip: They know they should, but they hesitate because they don't know how.  
How does it affect your witnessing?

### **EIGHT QUALITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE WITNESSING FOR CHRIST:**

- Knowledge of the Word of God
- Boldness
- Compassion
- Humility
- Obedience
- Receptivity, sensitivity to guidance
- Tact
- Enthusiasm

1. Reflect on each of these qualities. How are they at work in your life?
2. Which ones do you have difficulty with? List ways you can strengthen these areas.

### **BEGINNING STEPS & WISE WINNING:**

#### **JESUS SAYS GO...**

- You will only share what you believe
- You will only share what you're passionate about
- You're only passionate about something important.

#### Perspectives for sharing your faith

1. View evangelism as a process rather than an event.
  - a. Gradually, through a series of conversations, build trust and relationships.
  - b. Evangelism is helping your nonbelieving friends take one step closer to Christ every day and in every way.
2. Pray for more passion.
  - a. Ask God to give you more passion for lost people so that you will be motivated every day to use your conversation strategically to help them find Christ
3. Focus on availability rather than ability.
  - a. Remember that it's the Holy Spirit who ultimately draws people to Christ.
  - b. Your job is simply to lead them to it and give them an opportunity to respond.
4. Listen carefully to what your nonbelieving friends have to say.
  - a. When you hear what people actually believe and detect discrepancies in their viewpoint, you will know better how to reach them for Christ.
  - b. Listen well, giving people your full attention when they speak. When

you understand peoples perspectives more clearly you're more likely to engage them in meaningful dialogue.

5. Ask probing questions.
    - a. Rather than telling them what they should believe, tactfully ask probing questions in ways that allow them to surface the truth for themselves and evaluate the strength of their beliefs.
    - b. When they see for themselves the inadequacies and inconsistencies of what they believe, they'll be curious to hear more about Christ.
    - c. Phrase your questions in nonthreatening ways to minimize peoples defensiveness.
    - d. To avoid overwhelming people with too many questions pray for wisdom to know which issues you should focus on.
  6. Search for barriers.
    - a. People often have unspoken issues that are getting in the way of them coming to faith in Christ they may have intellectual issues that are keeping them from understanding why Christianity is true.
    - b. They may have emotional issues that are preventing them from considering the truth.
    - c. In that case they need you to listen to their concerns, demonstrate compassion, and pray for them
    - d. They may have volatile issues in which they simply don't want to consider Christianity because they'd rather run their own lives than let God guide them.
    - e. In that case they need love and prayer.
  7. Build bridges for the gospel for people.
    - a. Find the right balance in your approach between Objective evidence such as evidence for Christ's resurrection and subjective experience such as how people see God at work in your own life as a role model for them.
  8. Deal well with different worldviews.
    - a. Find common ground with people you're trying to reach, and use those areas you have in common as the basis for meaningful dialogue.
    - b. Earn the right to be heard then build a bridge from the point of shared beliefs toward the gospel.
    - c. Build head bridges by helping people come to understand the Christian faith better.
    - d. Build heart bridges by showing people how Jesus satisfies the longing of the heart and helps them realize their hopes then look for opportunities to transition from preparing peoples minds and hearts to actually sharing the gospel message with them.
  9. Always be ready.
    - a. Get to know peoples bearing worldviews well, and help them work through worldview issues on their own timetable not yours
    - b. Don't pressure them to make immediate decisions; that will turn them off.
    - c. Be patient and keep encouraging them to question for themselves whether or not the foundations of the worldview is adequate.
- a. Be prepared to answer people spiritual questions at any time.
  - b. Constantly anticipate peoples questions or objections as well and be ready to respond to them through your conversations.
  - c. Use every encounter you have with your nonbelieving friends to help them take steps closer to Christ.

## **THERE'S POWER IN YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY!**

### ***Write down your personal testimony.***

Never underestimate the power of your personal testimony!

Preparing your personal testimony begins with telling the story of what your life was like before you receive Jesus Christ. It is not necessarily to go into extreme detail. Effective communication is usually brief, To the point and clear. In fact orally explaining your testimony should not take more than three or four minutes.

Guidelines for writing your testimony

What to do:

- Ask God to give you wisdom.
- Keep to a 3 to 5 minute limit.
- Be realistic don't exaggerate

What not to do:

- Make statements that reflect negatively on any church organization.
- Make statements that reflect negatively on any individual.
- Mission denominations or church names.
- Speak or write in a preachy manner.
- Use vague terms like joyful, peaceful, or changed without explaining them. Avoid religious terms like saved, sin, or convicted without explaining them.

Writing style:

- Begin with an attention grabbing sentence or incident.
- Be positive, accurate and specific... Details arouse interest.
- Use the Bible verses directly related to your experience.
- Delete references, for example, see one of Jesus disciple said rather than writing first John 5:11–13 says

Write logical conclusions

- As you begin writing your testimony right things just as you would say it to

someone in person such as before I receive Christ as my savior, my attitude was..., Or my life was filled with problems I could not solve...