

WITNESS 101

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked Him repeatedly, “Lord, are You at this time reestablishing the kingdom and restoring it to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.

But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses to tell people about Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

THE PRIORITY OF WITNESSING (Acts 1:6)

“...they asked Him repeatedly, “Lord, are You at this time reestablishing the kingdom and restoring it to Israel?”

This is the last message Jesus gives His followers, before returning to His Father

- They wanted to establish THEIR kingdom – Jesus wanted them to share about HIM.
- It isn’t our thoughts or our work, but the trust we have in His direction.

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set Christ apart as holy – acknowledging Him, giving Him first place in your lives as Lord. Always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance elicited by faith that is within you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.

THE PROVISION OF WITNESSING (Acts 1:7)

He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority.”

God’s Part: He provides the opportunities for our witness

- This isn’t “cold-calling” or outside sales!
- This is “path-directed evangelism.”
- “Trust Me – it’s out there!”

John 4:34-38

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to completely finish His work. Do you not say, ‘It is still four months until the harvest comes?’ Look, I say to you, raise your eyes and look at the fields and see, they are white for harvest. Already the reaper is receiving his wages and he is gathering fruit for eternal life; so that he who plants and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, ‘One person sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap a crop for which you have not worked. Others have worked and you have been privileged to reap the results of their work.”

THE POWER OF WITNESSING (Acts 1:8a)

But you will receive power and ability when the Spirit comes upon you...

He empowers and shapes our witness within us – IF we allow the Spirit to guide us.

- Power: spiritual, unbeknownst to humans. Ability: skills and wherewithal to tell others
- Witnessing isn't about you "pulling it off" or you "doing your job"

Matthew 28:18-20

All authority, all power of absolute rule in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, help them learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you; lo, I am with you always, remaining with you perpetually, regardless of circumstance on every occasion, even to the end of the age.

THE POINT OF WITNESSING (Acts 1:8b)

"...and you will be My witnesses to tell people about Me..."

3 People are involved in witnessing: we focus on God – not ME, not YOU, but HIM.

- Witness = martyr. When we die to self, He becomes greater.
- The main point of OUR story is actually HIS STORY.

Acts 22:14-16 (Paul speaking about Ananias)

And he said, 'The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to progressively understand His plan with clarity and power and to see the Righteous One Jesus Christ, the Messiah and to hear a message from His own mouth. For you will be His witness to all men testifying of what you have seen and heard. Now, why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins by calling on His name for salvation.'

THE POSSIBILITIES OF WITNESSING (Acts 1:8c)

"...Jerusalem...Judea...Samaria...ends of the earth."

We obediently witness during our daily life – anywhere!

The possibilities are endless – we witness, everywhere we go!

- This progressively gets "less-accepted."
- Who is in your sphere of influence? Who is influencing your world? You...or others?

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has lost its taste, or purpose, how can it be made salty? It is no longer good for anything, but to be thrown out and walked on by people when the walkways are wet and slippery. You are the light of Christ to the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good deeds and moral excellence, and recognize and honor and glorify your Father who is in heaven.