

Witness 103 – Preparing to Witness
(from Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

PRAYER – CARE – SHARE

PRAYER

2 Corinthians 5:19-21

*But all these things are from God, who **reconciled us to Himself** through Christ, making us acceptable to Him, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, so that by our example we might bring others to Him, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people's sins against them – but canceling them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation, that is, restoration to favor with God.*

*So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were **making His appeal through us**; we, as Christ's representatives, plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. He made Christ who knew no sin to judicially be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God – that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness.*

Reconciliation:

The restoration of friendly relations: reuniting, reunion, bring together again

Who does this? God does! He is reconciling the world to Himself.

Witnessing is simply COOPERATING with the God who is ALREADY ATTENDING to the person brought into our presence.

A lifestyle of witnessing begins with such an offering in prayer:

“Lord, I’m available to talk about You with anyone You bring my way today.”

- First, at every point in our lives, we are called to say, “Not our will, God, but Yours.” Satan is a master at tempting us to be afraid of witnessing, so I must be fully surrendered to Christ to be aware and in tune with the urging He places in me to witness.
- Second, the prayer reminds me that **God is the evangelist**.
He brings people into our life orbits so we can share our faith with them.

CARE

1 Peter 2:11-12,

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers in this world to abstain from the sensual urges, those dishonorable desires that wage war against the soul.

Keep your behavior excellent among the unsaved Gentiles – conduct yourself honorably, with graciousness and integrity – so that for whatever reason they may slander you as evildoers, yet by observing your good deeds they may instead come to glorify God in the day of visitation when He looks upon them with mercy.

Honor: honesty, fairness, or integrity in one's beliefs and actions

Hebrews 13:18

Keep praying for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, seeking to conduct ourselves honorably, that is, with moral courage and personal integrity in all things.

Gracious: pleasantly kind, benevolent, and courteous, indulgent or beneficent in a pleasantly condescending way, especially to inferiors.

2 Corinthians 12:9

He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, My lovingkindness and My mercy are more than enough – always available – regardless of the situation; for My power is being perfected and is completed and shows itself most effectively in your weakness."

Therefore, I will all the more gladly boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may completely enfold me and may dwell in me.

Integrity: adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.

The state of being whole, entire, or undiminished: a sound, unimpaired, or perfect condition.

Proverbs 10:9

*He who walks in integrity and with moral character walks securely,
But he who takes a crooked way will be discovered and punished.*

SHARE

Colossians 4:5-6

Conduct yourself with wisdom in your interactions with outsiders – non-believers – by making the most of each opportunity, treating it as something precious.

Let your speech at all times be gracious and pleasant, seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer each one who questions you.

Witnessing is one part prayer, one part care and at least three parts share.

If we don't tell people about Jesus, they'll never know He is the source of our love and lifestyle.

Stages of Sharing:

1. Follow the 10-minute rule. Don't God-talk til you're into a conversation.

Then, more questions than answers: "What is your spiritual background or practice?"

- Two directions – good and keep going OR bad and stop the conversation.
- This is God's timing – NOT yours. It may take days, weeks, months, years...

2. Storytelling. Believers call these praise reports or God sightings.

Stories from our daily Christian journey – large or small miracles out of everyday life

- Most non-Christians have little experience of a God who is present in, involved with and caring about anything that concerns us.

3. Lead them to Jesus – follow the Romans road or use a pamphlet.

STEPS TO KNOWING GOD

1. God loves us – we were created to have an ongoing friendship with God!

1 John 3:1: See what an incredible quality of love the Father has shown to us, that we would be permitted to be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are! For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2. But we have sinned, separating us from God

Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and continually fall short of God's glory...

3. The payment for our sin is death

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God – His remarkable, overwhelming gift of grace to believers – is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

4. Jesus willingly paid for our sin-debt

Romans 5:6, 8-10: While we were still helpless, powerless to provide for our salvation, at the right time Christ died as a substitute for the ungodly. But God clearly shows and proves His own love for us, by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Therefore, since we have now been justified – declared free of the guilt of sin by His blood – how much more certain is it that we will be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more certain, having been reconciled, that we will be saved from the consequences of sin by His life – that is, we will be saved because Christ lives today.

5. To avoid this sin-debt of death, accept God's gift –Jesus as your Savior!

Romans 10:9-12: ...because if you acknowledge and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord – recognizing His power, authority, and majesty as God – and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes in Christ as Savior, resulting in his justification – that is, being made righteous, being freed of the guilt of sin and made acceptable to God – and with the mouth he acknowledges and confesses his faith openly, resulting in and confirming his salvation. For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him – whoever adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him – will not be disappointed in his expectations." For there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile; for the same Lord is Lord over all of us, and He is abounding in riches and blessings for all who call on Him in faith and prayer. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord in prayer will be saved."