

## Witnessing

Without any doubt, the greatest and most notable difference between apostolic, New Testament Christianity and present-day New Testament Christianity is witnessing! The early churches were most noted for their witnessing of Christ while many 20<sup>th</sup> century Baptist churches are characterized by their lack of witnessing.

In this lesson, you will learn that is God's will for you to witness and be a soul winner for Him. You will also learn how to be soul winner; that is, how to lead someone to Christ.

ALL other lessons you have studied and learned through this series will have been greatly diminished in value if your life does not BEAR FRUIT.

### 1. What does "witnessing" mean?

- A. A witness in a courtroom trial is expected to tell what he/she knows, what they have seen, or what they have heard. He cannot tell what others have said – he must relate his own personal experience in his own words. Witnessing for Christ is the same. It is YOU telling in YOUR own words what happened to you.

**Read below for two examples from scripture...**

- B. Read the story of how Jesus healed the blind man in John 9:1-38 <sup>1</sup> And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. <sup>4</sup> I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. <sup>6</sup> When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, <sup>7</sup> And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. <sup>8</sup> The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? <sup>9</sup> Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. <sup>10</sup> Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? <sup>11</sup> He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. <sup>12</sup> Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. <sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind. <sup>14</sup> And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his

eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see. <sup>16</sup> Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup> They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet. <sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight. <sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see? <sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: <sup>21</sup> But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. <sup>22</sup> These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore said his parents, He is of age; **ask him.** <sup>24</sup> Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner. <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. <sup>26</sup> Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes? <sup>27</sup> He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples? <sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples. <sup>29</sup> We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is. <sup>30</sup> The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes. <sup>31</sup> Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth. <sup>32</sup> Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. <sup>33</sup> If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. <sup>34</sup> They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? <sup>36</sup> He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? <sup>37</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. <sup>38</sup> And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

- 1) When questioned by others, do you think this man was able to give a detailed explanation of what happened? NO
  
- 2) According to verse 25b, what was the man able to say? "I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

C. Read the story of how Jesus won a woman to Himself in John 4:5-30 <sup>5</sup> Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. <sup>7</sup> There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. <sup>8</sup> (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) <sup>9</sup> Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. <sup>11</sup> The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? <sup>12</sup> Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: <sup>14</sup> But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. <sup>15</sup> The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. <sup>16</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. <sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: <sup>18</sup> For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. <sup>19</sup> The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. <sup>21</sup> Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. <sup>25</sup> The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. <sup>26</sup> Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. <sup>27</sup> And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her? <sup>28</sup> The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, <sup>29</sup> Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? <sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

What was the first thing the woman did when she had actually met Christ? **TOLD others (verses 28-30) about what happened to her and professed Jesus as the Christ.**

## 2. Are “witnessing” and “soul winning” the same thing?

- A. You will often hear these two words used – they are both Bible words.
- 1) Witnessing = relating your own personal experience of salvation.
  - 2) Soul Winning = using your witness and the Word of God to bring others to Christ
- B. You cannot separate witnessing and soul winning.
- 1) John 15:8 <sup>8</sup> Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. [fruit = bringing others to Christ]
  - 2) Proverbs 11:30 <sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life [blessing of eternal life?]; and he that winneth souls is wise. [read also] <sup>31</sup> Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

## 3. Why should you be a witness and a soul winner?

There are nine Bible reasons why you should endeavor to tell others of Christ and seek to win them for Him:

- A. It is a command. Lookup Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- B. It is a duty. Read Matthew 4:19 <sup>19</sup> And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
- C. It is a debt. Read Romans 1:14 [from verse 13 and more] <sup>13</sup> Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup> **I am debtor** both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. <sup>15</sup> So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- D. It is a responsibility. Read Ezekiel 3:17-18 <sup>17</sup> Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. <sup>18</sup> When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the

wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

- 1) God made you a watchman.
- 2) A watchman warns those in danger
- 3) When we fail to tell others of Christ when we have the opportunity,
  - a) The wicked man shall die in his iniquity
  - b) **God will require his blood at your hand.**

E. It is a calling. Read II Corinthians 5:20<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

- 1) We are to be ambassadors for Christ
- 2) As in human affairs, this is a position of trust.

F. It is a need. Read Mark 8:36<sup>36</sup> For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? THIS IS WHY SOUL WINNING IS SO IMPORTANT.

G. There is a reckoning. II Corinthians 5:10 – 11<sup>10</sup> For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. <sup>11</sup> **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord**, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

- 1) One day we all will stand before the Lord and be judged concerning how we served the Lord.
- 2) Paul's motivation for persuading men was "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord,..."

H. It is caring. So much of today's caring centers upon the physical needs of man. Real, godly caring focuses on the external needs of man. Read Psalm 142:4<sup>4</sup> I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

I. It brings joy.

1) Joy on Earth. Read Acts 8:5 – 39<sup>5</sup> Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ...<sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city. ...<sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus,...<sup>39</sup> And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

- 2) Joy in heaven. Read Luke 15:7, 10<sup>7</sup> I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. ...  
<sup>10</sup> Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.
- 3) Joy everywhere. Read: Psalm 126:5 – 6<sup>5</sup> They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

#### 4. Is witnessing the duty of every Christian?

- A. Some people have it in their minds that witnessing and soul winning are duties belonging to pastors or others with the gift of gab.
- B. The Bible shows clearly that every Christian is to be a witness for Jesus.
  - 1) Read Psalm 107:2<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD **say so**, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;
  - 2) Read Acts 8:1 - 4<sup>1</sup> And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, **except the apostles**.<sup>2</sup> And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. <sup>4</sup> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.
  - 3) In Acts 8:4<sup>4</sup> *Therefore they that were scattered abroad went **everywhere preaching the word**.* [This did not include the apostles.]

#### 5. How often should you witness?

- A. Read Acts 5:42<sup>42</sup> *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*
- B. Read Acts 20:31<sup>31</sup> *Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.*

## 6. What are God's requirements for you to be a witness?

### A. God requires you to have a burden for souls.

- 1) Read Esther 8:6 <sup>6</sup> *For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?*
- 2) Read Romans 9:1 – 3 <sup>1</sup> I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, <sup>2</sup> That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:
- 3) Read Romans 10:1 <sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

**Ask God to burn these messages upon your heart. Most Christians don't witness and win souls because they have NO REAL BURDEN.**

### B. God requires you to have a love for souls.

- 1) Read Jude 21- 22 <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. <sup>22</sup> And of some have compassion, making a difference:
- 2) Read II Corinthians 5:14a <sup>15</sup> And that he died for all, that they which live **should not henceforth live unto themselves**, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.
- 3) It was LOVE that sent Jesus Christ into this sin-cursed world to die on the cross (John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.) and it is **love** that will motivate you to bring Christ to the lost.

### C. God requires you to live a clean separated life.

- 1) Read II Timothy 2:21 (from verse 15) <sup>15</sup> Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. <sup>17</sup> And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; <sup>18</sup> Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. <sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and

some to dishonour. <sup>21</sup> **If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.** <sup>22</sup>

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

- 2) Read Jude 23 <sup>23</sup> And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; **hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.**
- 3) Read Philippians 2:15 (from verse 14) <sup>14</sup> Do all things without murmurings and disputings: <sup>15</sup> That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

**“Actions speak louder than words”** has no greater relevance than in the matter of soul winning.

#### D. God requires you to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- 1) Read Acts 1:8 <sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- 2) Read Ephesians 5:18 <sup>18</sup> And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Don't try and be a witness your way. God's work must be done in God's way in God's power.

#### E. God requires you to have perseverance.

- 1) You will not always have success. Read Matthew 22:1-10 <sup>1</sup> And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, <sup>2</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, <sup>3</sup> And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. <sup>4</sup> Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. <sup>5</sup> But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: <sup>6</sup> And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. <sup>7</sup> But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. <sup>8</sup> Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. <sup>9</sup> Go ye therefore into the

- highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. <sup>10</sup> So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.
- 2) I Corinthians 15:58 <sup>58</sup> Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
- 3) Galatians 6:9 <sup>9</sup> And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. [It is a long hard road.]
- 4) Our task is not to win everyone but to TELL everyone. Read Acts 13:46 <sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

**Not everyone will listen. Not everyone will be saved. But soul winning is one task for which promises success.**

- 5) Read Psalm 126:6 <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
- 6) Read Isaiah 55:10 <sup>10</sup> For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: <sup>11</sup> **So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

## 7. Four steps to the soul winning witness.

The most common illustration of soul winning found in the Bible is that of an agricultural "harvest." Read:

- Psalm 126:6 <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
- Matthew 13:3-9 <sup>3</sup> And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup> And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup> Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup> And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup> But other fell into good ground, and brought

forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. <sup>9</sup> Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

- **John 4:35-38** <sup>35</sup> Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. <sup>36</sup> And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.
- **I Corinthians 3:6-8** <sup>6</sup> I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. <sup>8</sup> Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. <sup>9</sup> For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

There are several steps to be taken before bringing the harvest into the barn:

CHECK FOR KJV text from here-----

## A. Step 1 – GO

- 1) Preparation (no farmer ever reaps a harvest without preparation and hard work. You will never win a soul to Christ without this preliminary step! Read:
  - a) **Psalm 126:5 – 6** <sup>5</sup> They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
  - b) **Christ Jesus set the example of spreading the good news even after His resurrection. Read Mark 16:15 (from verse 9 [this was immediately after Christ had risen])** <sup>9</sup> Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. <sup>10</sup> And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. <sup>11</sup> And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. <sup>12</sup> After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. <sup>13</sup> And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. [We should NOT be discouraged.] <sup>14</sup> Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. <sup>15</sup> And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to**

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

- c) Acts 5:20 <sup>20</sup> "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### **GO - THIS IS THE FIRST STEP YOU MUST TAKE TO REACH SOULS.**

#### 2) How May I "GO?"

- a) Church visitations of members out to the community to invite people to services or visit in homes of prospects.
- b) Visits are conducted 2 by 2 basis (a young and an old.)
- c) Make a list of people in your own circle and influence who are lost (friends relatives, acquaintances, etc.) Create a plan of action to witness to them and try to win them to Christ.

#### B. Step 2 – Sow

You may need to go out of your way to help somebody. You may have to invite someone to your home for a meal. You may have to win the confidence and trust of a person first – but before they can be saved, the seed must be sown. Read

- Luke 8:11 (from verse 4 since it's so great) <sup>4</sup> And when a great crowd came together and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: <sup>5</sup> "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. <sup>6</sup> And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**" <sup>9</sup> And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, <sup>10</sup> he said, "*To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand* [people whose heart is right with God will understand and those whose heart is not right with God will NOT understand.] <sup>11</sup> **Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.** <sup>12</sup> The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. <sup>14</sup> And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go

on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

- I Peter 1:23-25 <sup>23</sup> You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; <sup>24</sup> for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, <sup>25</sup> but the word of the Lord abides for ever." That word is the good news which was preached to you.

**It is imperative to use the Bible when witnessing and leading a soul to Christ. THE SALVATION OF SOULS IS THE WORK OF GOD (not you); thus you need to use weapon of God, His Word the Bible (KJV). Ephesians 6:17 the Sword of the Spirit is Word of God!**

**It is unnecessary for you to use logic, philosophy, theology, or salesmanship when it comes to soul winning. God's Word works!**

### **How may I sow?**

- a) Get into the habit of carrying sound Gospel tracts with you (pocket, purse, car, etc.) Leave a tract with those that you meet. Include a tract with letters you mail. Leave them on restaurant tables, etc. Many people have been saved by the silent witness of a tract. Always include the church name and phone number on the tract and obey reasonable ordinances in the distribution of tracts.
- b) Invite people to the preaching of your church. Don't give up when people first decline or make excuses. Work at bringing people to church.
- c) Be soul – conscious: Ask God to help you become aware that everyone you meet is a soul that will spend eternity somewhere. Cultivate the ability to insert some witness into every conversation. Share a blessing, a verse, a warning, but don't be pushy or over-bearing. **BUT DON'T BE SILENT EITHER!**

- d) Learn the "Romans Road to Heaven." Refer to these 4 scripture references:
- Romans 3:23 – The **FACT** of sin: <sup>23</sup> since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
  - Romans 6:23 – The **CONSEQUENCES** of sin: <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - Romans 5:8 – The **REMEDY** for sin: <sup>8</sup> But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
  - Romans 10:9 thru 13 – The **HOW** to be saved: <sup>9</sup> **because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** <sup>10</sup> **For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.** <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. <sup>13</sup> **For, "everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."**
  - Remember, it is the **LAW** that brings knowledge (conviction) of sin – Romans 3:19-20 <sup>19</sup> Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the **law is the knowledge of sin.**

**Everyone breaks the Law (sins) and it takes only one offense to make us an offender. Read James 2:10 <sup>10</sup> For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**

### C. Step 3 – Water

There must be water before the seed can come up.

- Psalm 126:5 <sup>5</sup> They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
- Psalm 126:6 <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.
- Acts 20:31 <sup>31</sup> Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

This step refers to the need for prayer. When we have sown seed in the heart of someone, pray for them earnestly and fervently before they are saved.

One of the characteristics of a soul winning Christian is a broken and compassionate heart. **Many tears are shed over a lost one**

#### D. Step 4 – Reap

The second greatest joy of the Christian life (after the joy of salvation itself) is the joy of actually leading a person to Christ... to be a kind of “spiritual midwife” and witness the miracle of a new birth. God promises you a harvest.

- Psalm 126:5 <sup>5</sup> They that sow in tears **shall reap in joy.**
- Psalm 126:6 <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again **with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.**

Have you ever seen a self-harvesting crop? No crop will pick itself since harvesting requires labor and method.

#### How many I reap?

- Plan to reap! It’s amazing how many Christians fail to win those that they witness to simply because they don’t expect to. Act in faith – take God at His Word, and expect to reap a harvest.
- Make certain (by asking questions) that the one you are dealing with fully understands the plan of salvation. Be careful not to ask loaded questions such as “Do you want to go to heaven?” Do not try and reap **if there is no evidence of the conviction of sin**, or there is no real understanding about what Christ has done. Remember, human nature expects to “**work**” for salvation. Don’t harvest an “unripened” crop. However, if it is not time to reap, ALWAYS leave the door open.
- Explain carefully that salvation is believing , that means repenting (turning sin and self) and receiving (turning to Christ), and that is calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ through a simple, heartfelt prayer.

- The so-called “sinner’s prayer” has no set format, but needs to include two important elements:
  - Acknowledgement of the facts that I am a guilty sinner destined for Hell
  - Repentance (turning from sin) & faith (receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as personal savior).
- After you lead a soul to receive the Lord, pray with him, rejoice with him, encourage him to come to church at the next opportunity. Get others to pray for this new babe in Christ, and talk to the pastor about extending his knowledge by participating in a Christian growth program.

#### 8. Some assignments:

- Assignment 1 – Plan and execute a visitation.
- Assignment 2 – Set aside copies of your church brochure at various locations.
- Assignment 3 – List two or three people the Lord would have you pray for and make opportunity to witness to in the next month.
- Assignment 4 – Write out your own testimony as though you were telling someone of how you came to Christ and what Christ has done for you. Your testimony should be divided into three parts:
  1. Your life before you were saved.
  2. How you came to be saved (what you did).
  3. Your life once you were saved.

## Witnessing Outline

1. What does “witnessing” mean?
2. Are “witnessing” and “soul winning” the same thing?
3. Why should you be a witness and a soul winner?
4. Is witnessing the duty of every Christian?
5. How often should you witness?

6. What are God's requirements for you to be a witness?

7. Four steps to the soul winning witness.

A. Step 1

B. Step 2

C. Step 3

D. Step 4

8. Some assignments:

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Assignment 4