**Being an Intentional Witness**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMLYBvmMbPE>

**Jesus said in Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you.

Jesus has called each of us to be a witness on His behalf. This means we are to tell people about Jesus and his saving grace.

This is something most Christians know they are called to do, but rarely do they ever do it. Why?

If witnessing is such an important task (And it is as it saves people from eternal damnation), Why do we have such a hard time doing it?

Notice I use the word “we”. This is an area that is also difficult for me in many situations. The difficulty comes from a number of reasons including fear of what others will thing, Fear of being rejected, and being uncertain about what to say or do.

What if they have really good reasons for not believing that I don’t have answers for?

Let’s look at the role of a witness that Jesus has called us to and hopefully we can overcome some of the fear, anxiety and pressure along the way.

So First: Peter tells us to Honor Christ and always be ready:

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts **honor Christ** the Lord as holy, **always being prepared** to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it **with gentleness and respect**,

Paul tells us to be in Prayer and proclaim the message clearly

Colossians 4:2-6 **Devote yourselves to prayer**, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, **that God may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may **proclaim it clearly**, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; **make the most of every opportunity**. Let your conversation be **always full of grace**, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**Requirements of a Witness**

**What is a witness?** A Witness is one who gives testimony concerning something they have seen or experienced firsthand.

This means that only people who can give an effective testimony about Christ are those who have had a personal experience with Jesus Christ.

**What is the Purpose of a Witness?** A witness is intended to shed light on the work of Jesus Christ in saving the world. It is one thing for a person to hear that Jesus can change lives, it is totally different for a family, friend or coworker to see the changed life created by Jesus Christ

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**What are the benefits of witnessing?** We should not look at witnessing as a duty we need to perform for God. By doing this you would miss the essence of what God is calling you to do. This should feel more like a privilege we have to tell others.

Maybe God has placed you in the right place, position, location to speak up on his behalf

Think about it this way. If you had just witnessed an amazing event that could change the world wouldn’t you be rushing to tell everyone about it.

God is not primarily interested in what you do for Him but who you become in Him and if it is shame or embarrassment that is keeping you from sharing the Gospel then Jesus gives us a warning.

Luke 9:26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

Paul puts it best in Romans: Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes…

Think of it this way: God gives us an opportunity to Witness for him and we should take it as an honor to do so. God Chooses to use us. He will even put you in the right place, opportunity and time to do so. Even if we fail to bring anyone to Christ God Knows you tried and God will bless you for that!

Remember Ester when Mordecai told Ester she needs to speak up on behalf of the Jews who were about to be slaughtered. He said “**if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?**” (Esther 4:14)

Now, to be honest, I am not one to walk up to some stranger and start a conversation. I don’t talk much to people I know much less strangers. Mostly because I feel awkward that I have nothing important to say. Put me in a room full of people and I am usually the silent one in the back. Rarely will I even talk much among friends or coworkers unless I have a specific thing to talk about.

My mantra: It is better to remain silent and thought a fool than open your mouth and remove all doubt

you may have noticed that I’m not good in conversation and I struggle for things to say, especially one-on-on. But I feel comfortable teaching and witnessing about God to Kids, I am not sure why, but I am sure that is what God has called me to do.

What I am trying to say here is not everyone can or should just walk up to a complete stranger and try and witness. God has a plan for each one of you. Don’t try to force something you are not comfortable doing just ask God to use you in away that you can share. Could be through Music, teaching, preaching, mission work. Just be open to God’s calling

**Ways to witness to friends**

**Ask Questions.** People like being asked questions more than they like being told answers. So, ask questions to find out where they are at spiritually.

* Do you feel that you are a spiritual person?
* What do you think happens when a person dies?
	+ Does it matter if you are Good or Bad?
	+ What if you are wrong?
* Then you can ask if they have heard about Jesus Christ
	+ IF they say yes ask what they have heard
	+ Ask if they believe it (Why or Why not)
* Then just be yourself and tell them what you believe
	+ Jesus died on the cross so that all my sins can be forgiven and I can Live in eternity with Christ in heaven

**Witnessing**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfQjvuU_aT0> to 4 minutes

Many people will say they are Christians but they have never surrendered to Christ

**Ask Questions.** People like being asked questions more than being told answers. So, ask questions to find out where they are at spiritually.

* You may start out asking a question like: Are you a Christian? they may say yes to avoid talking to you so follow up with: What makes you a Christian? And see if they know. They may say something like I go to Church or My Parents where Christians

* Are you a spiritual person?
* What do you think happens when a person dies?
	+ Does it matter if you are Good or Bad?
	+ What if you are wrong? (You can say this to just about any answer)

**If they believe in Heaven**

* If they say you go to heaven or Hell ask:
	+ How do you get to heaven?
		- usually they will say by being a good person?
	+ Are you a good person?
* If they say no then say: so you are ok going to Hell?
* If the say something like yes or mostly yes:
Let me give you the 10 commandments test just to see where you stand…
* Have you ever told a lie
	+ If yes then you are a Liar
* Have you ever stolen anything even if it was small?
	+ Cheating in School is stealing answers
	+ If Yes then you are a thief
* Have you ever taken the Lords name in vain (even OMG)?
	+ that’s called Blasphemy and it’s very serious in God’s eyes.
* Have you ever looked at a Girl/Boy with lust?
	+ Jesus says if you lust after someone you have committed adultery with him/ her in your heart.
* Have you ever looked at something someone had and wished you had it?
	+ That’s called coveting!

🡪So by your own admission you are a lying, thieving, blaspheming, coveting, adulterer at heart and that’s only 5 of the 10 commandments.
**🡪** So on judgement day (The bible says we all will face judgment) will God find you innocent or guilty according to His laws? GUILTY

* Hebrews 9:27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

🡪If you are guilty will he send you to Heaven or Hell? All Sinners will have their part in the lake of fire

* Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

**End:**🡪 Do you know / understand what God has done so you don’t have to spend eternity in hell?

 He sent his one & only Son to die on a cross for you so that if you put your trust in Jesus you will inherit eternal life. There are 2 things you must do in order to avoid your righteous judgement. Put your trust in Jesus as your savior and he will lead you to repentance and help you turn from all your sin.

* John 14:23  Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

The Holy Spirit will reveal to each believer how their sin separates them from the father.

When you sin it is just as if you put that crown of thorns on his head, you ripped his beard from his face, you whipped and beat him to near death and you hammered those steaks into his hands & feet.

The weight of whole world’s sin is such an unimaginable thought but even greater is the love of God on the cross, and If that doesn’t bring you to your knees in repentance, the Holy Spirit is most likely not in you and on judgement day it will be too late. Repentance is necessary for salvation.

Biblical repentance is changing your mind about who Jesus Christ is and turning to God in faith for salvation and letting him Change your life.

* Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

I know some of you will walk away from this message and say I just can’t do that. But do me a favor and really ask God to show you what you can do. God calls us all to do something. Find out what that is?

* Maybe you can teach a lesson.
* Pray for someone
* Talk to a friend
* Give someone a track or a bible
* Sing or Play music

What ever it is do it to the glory of God