

WITNESSING FOR JESUS CHRIST

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Jesus before He left this world instructed all His followers to continue His work of soul winning by bearing witness to what they have seen and heard from Him, tasted, tested and experienced in Him and with Him. And the Bible recorded that His followers obeyed with all their heart and despite the great persecution continued to preach the gospel as they bore witness to the name of Jesus Christ. It was because this faithful men and women obeyed the Lord that we are today born again Christians.

It is our duty as well to continue the work of the Master and bear witness to His name everywhere and to all that we come across. It is rather unfortunate that many believers today do not want to be a witness for Jesus Christ who gave up all to save them from their sins and give them eternal life. In our study, we are going to examine the subject of witnessing for Jesus Christ closely. Pay great attention and allow God to speak to your heart.

WHAT IS WITNESSING?

Witnessing is giving testimony of what one has seen, heard, tasted, tested and experienced. To witness for Jesus is to testify to people what you know about Jesus and what you have experienced in Him. It is to announce the faithfulness of Jesus. It is more of giving your personal testimony of the deliverance power of Jesus Christ to the public.

You can not bear witness to what you have not seen, tested or experienced. This is the reason why Jesus Christ is willing and always working on behalf of the believer to bless and transform his or her life.

John 1:6-9

6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

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Acts 1:22

22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

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Acts 22:15-16

15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

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Acts 26:16-18

16 Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

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Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

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WHO IS A WITNESS FOR JESUS?

1. A witness for Jesus is someone who has experienced the salvation that Jesus Christ came to offer mankind by repenting of his sins and confessing Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord with all his heart and goes about sharing his faith with friends, family and the public about his new found faith.

Luke 24:45-49

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

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2. A witness is someone who having received Jesus goes about with great joy and zeal to his community and world testifying of the goodness and mercy of the Lord to him, explaining how his life has been changed and calling his hearers to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Ps 34:1-3

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. 2 My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. 3 Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

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Matt 9:27-31

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" 28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; 30 and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." 31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

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3. A witness is someone who is so excited about Jesus and the miracles He is doing in his life that he goes about telling people what the Lord has done and is doing for him, and through his testimony people come to embrace Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Mark 7:31-37

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

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Mark 5:18-20

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

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WHY DO I NEED TO WITNESS?

- 1.** You need to witness because Jesus wants all whom He has saved to reach out to others.
- 2.** His plan is that each believer should be an extension of His ministry of conversion of the world back to the Father.
- 3.** It is an effective way of telling the Lord I love and appreciate what you have done for me.
- 4.** Many are perishing and will continue to perish until you as a believer do something about it. Think about the millions of people heading towards hell including members of your family, and the fact that your testimony could change and convert someone.

Mark 16:15-18

15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

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Matt 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

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WHAT IF I DON'T WITNESS?

- 1.** If you don't witness, you are proving to Jesus you do not appreciate what He has done for you or His vision of world redemption.
- 2.** If you do not witness, you are indirectly saying to Jesus, "I don't care about the perishing; I am only interested in my life". And this is very bad.
- 3.** It means that you are not concerned about what Jesus is concerned about.

4. If you do not witness, it means your love for Jesus is so weak that it cannot move you to do what he has commanded.
5. You will miss the reward for soul winning in Heaven at the end of the age.

Mark 8:38

38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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2 Tim 1:8

8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,

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Rom 12:1

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship.

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Jude 22-23

22 Be merciful to those who doubt; 23 snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear-hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

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HOW CAN I BE A FAITHFUL WITNESS?

1. By making up your mind to be a faithful and a fruitful witness.
2. Being willing to share your testimony with people with the aim of winning them to Jesus Christ.
3. Studying to understand how to communicate the gospel better and win more souls for the Lord.
4. Adding to your practical testimony simple and easy to explain and understand scriptures that will lead the sinner to Christ.
5. Use simple everyday life affairs that the people can identify with to explain the gospel.
6. Be a good listener when witnessing – don't do all the talking. Let it always be an interactive meeting if it is one on one witnessing.
7. Constantly interceding for the souls of the perishing to be saved.
 - Pray for the forgiveness of their sins.
 - Break the power, control and influence of the devil over their lives and set them free.
 - Bind the devil and cast him out of their lives.
 - Pull down the stronghold of the enemy in their minds and hearts.
 - Destroy every argument and knowledge opposing the gospel in their lives.
 - Ask God to remove the veils from their faces.
 - Take their minds captive to the obedience of the word of Jesus Christ.

- Keep praying for them to stand firm in Christ after they have accepted Christ into their lives.
- 8. Always believe each time you go out to witness that the Lord will save somebody as you preach. Be expectant all the time.
- 9. Always make a call to surrender to Jesus after witnessing to somebody. If the response is positive, lead the person in a prayer of repentance and acceptance of Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
- 10. Your job does not finish immediately the person accepts Christ, it just began. The command of the Lord is to make disciples, so you must go further to build them to become faithful disciples of Jesus.
 - Prayerfully follow them up after they surrender to Christ.
 - Introduce them to your church or fellowship where it will be easier for you to monitor their growth and speak into their life.
 - Teach them how to pray, read the Bible, witness for the Lord and how to live in victory daily.
 - Be their spiritual mentor unto maturity.
 - Pray for them regularly.

WHAT ARE THE REWARDS OF FAITHFUL WITNESSING?

1. Beautification of your life by God.

Isa 52:7

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

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Rom 10:15

15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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2. Eternal rewards in heaven.

1 Cor 3:5-15

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

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Matt 16:24-27

24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

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Rev 22:12-15

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

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- 3.** Joy and satisfaction that you are useful to God and a blessing to someone.
- 4.** Upliftment in life.

CONCLUSION

It is important that you take witnessing for the Lord your Saviour serious. Make it your lifestyle. Enjoy doing it. Never see it as a tedious task, but an opportunity to show your love to your Master and Saviour.