

"Can I Get A Witness?"

Part 5

Sunday, March 24, 2013

(Text) Romans 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? NIV

Acts 1: 8 *But ye shall receive *power, (dunamis -Miraculous power, a miracle itself) after that the Holy Ghost is come upon (arrive influence) 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.*

(Review) 4 Errors

First Error What I call "Extreme Witnessing" Door to door approach

Error # 2 Passive aggressive witnessing

Error # 3 Covert witnessing (Witnessing in disguise) "Jehovah Sneaky"

Error # 4 Lethargy (Laziness) - We live a good moral life but we simply don't do anything

St: "Christians are meant to reproduce!"

QT: John 15:8 *"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." KJV*

Def: A witness - is someone who testifies of what they have personally experienced - what they have first hand seen or heard.

Every single one of us Jesus has done something in our lives- Forgiveness, healed our bodies, restored our marriage, amen "Can I get a witness"

Those experiences are now what God wants you to share. You are to authenticate what Jesus Can and will do for them

Peter witnessing to Cornelius -

Now Cornelius - is not a Jew, he's not a Christians -So he is out of Peter's circle or Peters Bubble - Peter would normally not have anything to do with him.

Cornelius a non Christian is pray in g to God -

You would be surprised how many sinners pray to God all the time.
In crises or pain, maybe every night.

Maybe they are hoping that there really is a God and they just need someone to authenticate that He is real and can and will make a difference in their lives too.

St: The majority of people you witness to in life will not be anything like you.

(Text) Acts 10: 34- 43 (Message) ³⁴⁻³⁶ *Peter fairly exploded with his good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.* ³⁷⁻³⁸ *“You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John (John the Baptist) preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.* ³⁹⁻⁴³ *“And we saw it, **saw it all**, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn’t put on public display. **Witnesses** had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn **witness** that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that He is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the **witness** of all the prophets.”* ⁴⁶ *No sooner were these words out of Peter’s mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners.*

All Peter did was share his experience and while he was sharing the Holy Spirit moved upon them and radically, eternally changed their lives.

D) A witness shares what they have experienced and know personally

Peter only shared what he had first-hand experience of what he had seen and heard and knew to true from his own life.

Remember when Jesus asked - "*who do men say that I the son of man am?*"

Mat16:13

Matthew 16: 13- 18 *13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my KJV*

In that moment - Peter discovered who Jesus truly was -

***!!!Peter also discovered who he truly was meant to be - his identity was now made clear Peter had been forgiven.**

1) Peter had personally experienced **massive forgiveness**, he had failed - yet Peter could share what a merciful God

**That our his God was restorer - that his God was the God of second chances
Have you had failures in your life?**

Things broken, mistakes you have made in your life. -

That the Lord has forgiven you for -

Things that He has restored your life, your hope,

*****When you have truly experienced things like that - you want to share it with others.**

2) Peter had experienced the **Healing power of Jesus** - when his mother-in-law was on her death bed Peter saw Jesus raise her up.

3) Peter experienced the miracle working power of **God's provision** multiplying the loaves and fishes

Peter experienced How Jesus gives, abundantly, overflowing when he his nets were filled to capacity not once but twice

Peter experienced the supernatural provision of God to pay his taxes

The Lord told him to go fishing and take out a coin to pay for Jesus' taxes and his own.

4) Peter experienced seeing **Jesus Glorified** on the mount of transfiguration

5) Peter experienced what it was like to **walk on water**

St: People may need to be able to trust you before they can trust God.

It's not deep theological knowledge they need - they need someone to authentic that this God they serve is real and caring and wants to be in theirs. Can you hear the Lord Asking "Can I get a witness"

II) A witness is necessary to confirm to the truth

People who are away from God - are not really aware of the spirit realm
they don't necessarily believe in the supernatural

John 1:14- 15 NLT ¹⁴ *So the Word became human^[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness.^[e] And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.* ¹⁵ *John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'* ¹⁶ *From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.^[f]* ¹⁷ *For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.* ¹⁸ *No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God,^[g] is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us.*

People want to believe - why not - they haven't had a witness!

Jesus came to those who could not believe in a God that they could not see.

Jesus came as a man who they could see -

God made flesh - a witness to confirm the truth,

To authentic that God is Real, -

He loves mankind -

He is interested in our everyday needs.

Jesus proved that - "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son - that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. - "Can I get a witness?"

III) A witness must willing and ready to share

"Peter was exploded - he was excited and ready share?"

Don't you think that God wants us to be consumed with Him enough that He is doing something new and fresh in our life everyday!

You don't have to go door to door - but you do have to come out of hiding!

You will need to get out of your bubble.

**Jesus needs His life, His death, His love, His forgiveness, His provision,
HIS RESURRECTION - to be shared with others -**

Jesus is looking for a witness someone who will take His Word and make it flesh and blood .

Maybe your neighbor doesn't have any problem with the four spiritual laws maybe he 's tired of asking you to mow your grass or keep your kids out of his flowers.

Maybe that mean ole boss of yours wouldn't have a problem coming to church with you if they could see you coming to work on time and not ridding the clock.

Whatever Jesus ask of you is worth it, it's worth it to obey Him
It's worth giving your best, giving Him your all,
You can be sure it will stretch you - make you trust Him,
Cause you grow
It will challenge you to greater depths you haven't lived at yet.

Maybe you need to be willing to take a risk like Peter - Go strolling on the water with Jesus .

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