

# WITNESSING FOR CHRIST

*“It is the Holy Spirit, not we, who converts an individual. We, the privileged ambassadors of Jesus Christ, can communicate a verbal message; we can demonstrate through our personality and life what the grace of Jesus Christ can accomplish. . . . But let us never naively think that we have converted a soul and brought him to Jesus Christ. . . . No one calls Jesus Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”*

PAUL LITTLE<sup>7</sup>

1. In Mark 5:18-19, notice Jesus' words to a man he had healed.

a. Where did he send him?

b. What did he tell him to do?

c. Why do you suppose Jesus gave these particular instructions?

<sup>7</sup> From *How to Give Away Your Faith* (Chicago: InterVarsity, 1966), 53.

2. When you think about speaking of Christ, how do you react? (Either check a given sentence or write one of your own.)

\_\_\_ I find it difficult to speak of such a personal matter.

\_\_\_ I do not speak unless someone asks me.

\_\_\_ I find it easy to talk to friends about Christ, but not people I don't know.

\_\_\_ I find it easy to talk to strangers about Christ, but not close friends.

\_\_\_ I often find myself talking to people about Christ, and I enjoy it very much.

How do you think Peter would have answered this question?

*Acts 4:20*

3. Sometimes you may feel as though you “need to know all the answers” before you can be an effective witness for Christ. What would you share with others? *1 John 1:3*

And for what purpose?

How would you summarize the most important things you have seen and heard about Christ?

4. Contrast the difference in the lives of the people in this chart:

HOW DID THEY ACT?	WHY DID THEY ACT THIS WAY?
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The Authorities  
(John 12:42-43)

Paul  
(Romans 1:15-16)

5. Carefully examine 2 Corinthians 5:9-14. In this section Paul lists several motivations and reasons for witnessing for Christ. List those you discover.

- Verse 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 11 \_\_\_\_\_
- Verse 14 \_\_\_\_\_

*Witnessing is taking a good look at the Lord Jesus and then telling others what you've seen.*

### HOW DO YOU BECOME AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS?

Witnessing is not merely an activity—it is a way of life. Christians don't *do* witnessing; they *are* witnesses—good or bad. Concentrate on improving your witness for Jesus Christ.

### Witness by Love

6. Consider the qualities of love mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Which three do you feel would help you most to become a more effective witness for Christ?

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7. Read John 13:34-35. Imagine yourself as one of the apostles, and Jesus has just finished making this statement. What immediately comes to your mind?

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Why do you think Jesus gave this command?

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Some people never read the Bible and seldom attend church. If you want them to know what Christ can do for them, let them see what Christ has done for you.

### Witness by Life

8. What can be the results of your good works? *Matthew 5:16*

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9. Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-3. What did Paul say was true of the Corinthians?

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Do you think people notice your life and consider it a witness for Jesus? Why or why not?

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*“You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day, by the deeds that you do and the words that you say. Men read what you write—distorted or true; What is the gospel according to you?”*

ANONYMOUS

**Witness by Word**

**10.** What challenge and instruction with regard to witnessing do you see in 1 Peter 3:15?

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**11.** Paul gave some important facts about witnessing for Christ in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5. Paraphrase these verses.

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**12.** The blind man whom Jesus healed had little or no theological training, but he was able to relate simply and effectively the facts of his experience. What did he say? *John 9:25*

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Can you make a statement similar to that of the healed blind man? How would you say it in your own words?

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*“I cannot, by being good, tell men of Jesus’ atoning death and resurrection, nor of my faith in his divinity. The emphasis is too much on me, and too little on him.”*

SAMUEL SHOEMAKER<sup>s</sup>

**PAUL’S STORY**

Read the account of Paul’s witness to King Agrippa and his royal party in Acts 26:1-29, then answer the following questions.

**13.** How did Paul begin his story? *Verses 2-3*

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**14.** What characterized his background? *Verses 4-5, 9-11*

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(*Blaspheme* means to speak evil or contemptuously of God or sacred things.)

**15.** What reversed the direction of Paul’s life? *Verses 12-15*

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**16.** How did Paul explain the gospel? *Verse 23*

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<sup>s</sup> From *Extraordinary Living for Ordinary Men* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1965), 117.

*“Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you. . . . For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4

17. What did Paul ask Agrippa? Why is this question important?  
*Verse 27*

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## YOUR STORY

Now that you've seen how Paul gave his story, work on a way to tell yours. Sharing how you became a Christian can be one of the best ways of witnessing. It is particularly helpful in presenting Jesus Christ to relatives and close friends.

In sharing the story of your experience:

- Make it personal—don't preach. Tell what Christ has done for you. Use “I,” “me,” and “my”—not “you.”
- Make it short. Three or four minutes should be enough time to cover the essential facts.
- Keep Christ central. Always highlight what he has done for you.
- Use the Word of God. A verse or two of Scripture will add power to your story. Remember that the Word of God has a keen cutting edge.

### **How to Prepare Your Story**

Try writing your story down on the next page just the way you would tell it to an unbeliever. Make the story clear enough that the person hearing it would know how to receive Christ.

Tell a little about your life before you trusted Jesus Christ; then about your conversion, how you came to trust him; and finally something of what it has meant to know him—the blessing of sins forgiven, assurance of eternal life, and other ways your life or outlook has changed.

If you have been a Christian for a number of years, be sure that your story includes some current information about the continuing effect of Christ in your life.

As you prepare your story, ask the Lord to give you opportunities to share it. Pray for two or three whom you would particularly like to tell about Jesus Christ in your neighborhood, at work, or at school, and take the first opportunity to share your story with them.

## MY STORY

Before I trusted Christ:

How I trusted Christ:

Since I've trusted Christ:

In conclusion, remember that you do not have the power in yourself to convince anyone of spiritual truth. The Holy Spirit convicts non-Christians of their need to know Christ (John 16:8). As you pray for those with whom you desire to share your story, be sure to ask God to honor the proclamation of his Word, to convince people of their need, and to strengthen you as you share the gospel.

### **Remember These Points**

- According to the principles of Scripture, we are to be witnesses of what we see and hear of Christ.
- We are witnesses by actions of love, by our lifestyle, and by our speech.
- Paul's spoken testimony provides a pattern for verbal witness: telling what our life was like before we met Christ, telling how we met Christ, and telling what our life is like since meeting him.