

The Art of Personal Witnessing - Part 2

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I. Part 1.

A. Introduction.

1. The Bible is one of the basic requisites of being an effective witness.
2. Scripture memory takes a special place. Basic passages to memorize.
 - a. Assurance of salvation. (1 John 5:11-12)
 - b. Assurance of victory. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - c. Assurance of forgiveness. (1 John 1:9)
 - d. Assurance of provision. (John 16:24)

B. The real basis for witnessing: a daily set aside quiet time for personal fellowship with Jesus Christ. (Acts 22:14-15)

1. God chose Paul to be in relationship with Christ. Witness is a consequence of this.
2. One must first have a personal relationship with Jesus before he testifies about Him. (John 3:11, 1 John 5:18)
3. The Christian life is lived out in fellowship with Jesus Christ.
4. Witnessing for Christ is taking a good look at the Lord and going out and telling others. An individual witness always points to his personal experience with Christ. (1 John 1)
5. Time must be taken to look upon and listen to the Lord. We are to see how beautiful He is and listen to what He says. (Psalm 27:4, Psalm 27:8)
6. Time with Jesus gives the follower boldness to share Him. (Acts 4:13)
 - a. This is not the same as rudeness.
 - b. This simply means an unembarrassed willingness to share Him.
 - c. We like to talk about someone we know and love, so we need to spend more time with Jesus.
7. We become more like Jesus as we behold Him. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 - a. We get to know Jesus more by spending time with Him.

b. We let Him talk to us through His Word.

c. We talk to Him through prayer.

II. Part 2.

A. Introduction.

1. The two basic things to being an effective witness is having a working knowledge of the Bible through Scripture memory primarily and through spending time with Christ. (Acts 22:14-15)

2. The Christian life is all wrapped up in a Person—Jesus Christ. The life is lived through fellowship with Him that gives us power for personal witness.

B. Practical tips for fellowship with God. (Daniel 6:10-11)

1. Daniel had a definite time set aside each day for prayer. We ought to have some definite set aside time as well.

a. For most, early in the day is best.

b. This is for nourishment and setting of sights.

c. Fifteen minutes a day is a good place to start for the quiet time.

d. The secret to getting up in the morning is getting to bed at night.

d. Be consistent in quiet time.

1) It is not as if your day will go bad if you miss a quiet time.

2) However the overall average should be consistent for fellowship.

3) Set a consistent time and keep it.

2. Daniel set a place for quiet time. We should set a place. This is first to get alone and away from distractions. (Matthew 14:23)

3. There ought to be a consistent method.

a. Begin with God's Word—some portion of Scripture in which you can ask God to speak to you from. Take note with things that God has spoken to you about.

b. Go to prayer.

1) Confess any known sin and use 1 John 1:9.

2) Praise God for who He is.

3) Thank God for what He has done.

4) Pray for the people God brings to mind. Use the prayers of the Apostle Paul. (Philippians 1, Ephesians 1,3)

5) Petition for yourself.

III. Part 3.

A. Introduction.

1. The key to successful memory is review.
2. The power for witnessing is the Holy Spirit of God Himself. (Acts 1:8)
 - a. Power is promised before witness.
 - b. Peter is an example of how power was used to make someone ineffective effective for witnessing.
 - c. Being filled with the Holy Spirit enables to speak with boldness.

B. Personal witness is a spiritual battle. (Ephesians 6:12)

1. A person outside of Christ is spiritually dead in need of new birth.
2. This can be accomplished alone by God's power.
3. A person outside of Christ is blinded. Man cannot find God by wisdom, but by the Holy Spirit alone. God must work a miracle so no person is qualified. (2 Corinthians 4)
4. God needs a spokesman, and He has chosen us to be His mouthpieces to individuals He brings within our daily sphere of influence.
5. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit as result. (Ephesians 5:18)
6. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus.

C. What is involved with being filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. The confession of sin. (Psalm 66:18, 1 John 1:9)
 - a. Confess means to acknowledge.
 - b. We call sins what God calls them, not simply ask for forgiveness.
2. Have a conscience void of offense before God and man.
3. Surrender of one's will to follow Jesus and the denial of self. (Matthew 4:19)
4. By faith step out and trust Jesus.
 - a. The Holy Spirit will guide you to the right person to help.

b. He will guide you to the right Scripture to help.

c. God will give you power when you trust Him especially to point a person to the Lord Jesus.

IV. Part 4.

A. Introduction.

B. Laying the ground work for witnessing.

1. You must pray - it is impossible to be a witness without it.

a. You should ask the Lord about the person you are witnessing to.

b. The Holy Spirit will also lead you to those whom you are praying.

c. Pray for your friends.

1) Pray that their hostility toward the gospel would be broken down.

2) Pray for the preparation of the soil of their own heart. (John 16:18)

3) Pray that blindness will be removed from spiritual eyes. (2 Corinthians

4)

d. Be definite with God and He will be definite with you.

e. Pray for courage to speak about Christ. God will give you boldness for witness. (Acts 4:29-31)

2. Get an opportunity.

a. You need only one opportunity.

1) You must see if you are interested in sharing Christ. If you are, you will find an opportunity. (Proverbs 14:15)

2) There are problems all about us, so we are to be alert to opportunities the Holy Spirit would bring upon us.

b. Be friendly to all as Jesus was. Jesus fellowshiped with sinners.

c. Live the Christian life by the power of the Spirit.

1) This is a joyful attractive life.

2) This kind of life makes people thirsty.

e. We must do good to people as Jesus did asking God for means and ways. (Acts 10:38)

Application questions

1. Explain why personal time with Jesus is a prerequisite to successful evangelism. What might this look like?

2. Why is Scripture memory so important?

3. How does one get an opportunity to share the gospel?
