

“Become a Consistent Witness”, page 1015

Introduction:

1. We are considering the “Ten Steps to a Dynamic Christian Life.”
 - A. “Take a Personal Spiritual Inventory.”
 - B. “Include God in Every Aspect of Your Life.”
 - C. “Develop a Personal Prayer Life.”
 - D. “Develop a Spiritual Growth Plan.”
 - E. “Understand and Use Your Spiritual Gifts.”
2. Today our Bible lesson is about our Christian witness.
3. Christians often avoid this subject because of confusion and misunderstanding.
 - A. What is required to be an effective witness?
 - B. Who does God expect to be His witnesses?
 - C. How do I become an effective witness?
4. *Acts 1:7-8: “And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’”*
5. There are three important aspects of becoming an effective witness.

I. The Qualifications of a Witness.

- A. We cannot witness to what:
 1. We have not seen.
 2. We have not felt.
 3. We have not experienced.
 4. We have not heard (first hand).
- B. Even in our court system, a witness must have been present to a specific event before he/she is qualified to witness.
 1. Cannot say, “My friend told me this.”
 2. I read about that event in the newspaper.
- C. *Philippians 4:9: “The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*
- D. The apostle Paul was an effective witness.
 1. When he was in prison, God gave him inner peace.
 2. When he had been beaten with rods, God gave him comfort and inner strength.
 3. Paul was speaking from what he had experienced. That is what makes a good witness!
- E. Our granddaughter, Megan, was doing tricks with her sister and pulled her shoulder out of socket.
 1. Therapy two or three times a week.
 2. She called Friday on her way to therapy.
 3. She was explaining what they do to help her injury.
 4. They freeze, burn, and use electricity.
 5. Megan was a witness to what she was experiencing = solid witness.
- F. We cannot give expression to what we have not received or experienced. (A-E)

II. The Authority and Power to Become an Effective Witness.

- A. The apostle Peter is an interesting person to study concerning this aspect of effective witnessing.
- B. Peter before Pentecost.
 - 1. *Matthew 26:34: "Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.'"*
 - 2. *Matthew 26:74-75: "Then he began to curse and swear, saying, 'I do not know the Man!' And immediately a rooster crowed."*
- C. Let us look at the apostle Peter following Pentecost.
 - 1. Same person.
 - 2. Same area.
 - 3. Same situation.
- D. The power of our personal witness is the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.
- E. If we confront Satan in our own power, we will lose every time.
- F. Our authority to be an effective witness must come from the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

III. The Importance of an Effective Witness Is Amazing.

- A. We are the visible Bible that people read each day.
- B. We must walk the walk before we can talk the talk!
 - 1. We cannot live one way and witness to something that is contrary.
 - 2. We cannot be serving Satan and witness about Jesus.
- C. The lifestyle people see and the words people hear us saying must be consistent.
 - 1. The same Peter who denied Jesus preached a message. *Acts 2:40-41: "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."*
 - 2. The same Paul that gave permission to murder Stephen wrote several books of the New Testament.
- D. Our witness has an amazing impact on people if our witness is consistent.
 - 1. We may never speak to thousands.
 - 2. We will never write a part of the Bible.
 - 3. But we can witness to our neighbor!
- E. People are watching us each day. And some would say that:
 - 1. It is not fair—yes it is!
 - 2. I never asked anyone to watch my life—God did!
 - 3. I do not care what people think about me—we should care!
 - 4. I am not responsible for other people—yes we are!

Conclusion:

- 1. Let's end our consideration about witnessing with some words from Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Matthew 5:14-16: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."*
- 2. The closer we are to God, the brighter our light will shine.