

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 16

TELLING ABOUT CHRIST

In Lesson 3, "Growing in the Christian Life," we said that witnessing was like getting exercise for our bodies. It makes us grow strong. In this lesson we are going to learn more about "why" and "how" we witness.

What was Jesus' last command before He went back to heaven in Acts 1:8?

What did Jesus tell His disciples in Matthew 4:19?

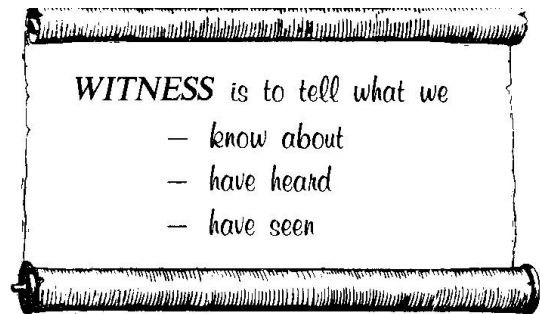
When Jesus was upon the earth He finished His work of making a way to heaven for us. He did this by dying for our sins. He left a work for us to do.

What is this work that Jesus left for us to do?

1. WHAT WITNESSING IS

To witness means to tell what we know about or have heard or seen. To witness for Christ means to tell what Jesus Christ has done for us.

When Saul of Tarsus was saved, what was he told to do? Acts 22:14,15

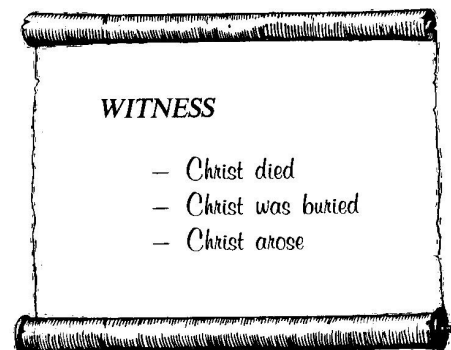


What are the three main things we are to tell in our witnessing? 1 Corinthians 15:3,4.

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Whom are we to tell about Christ? Mark 16:15,16

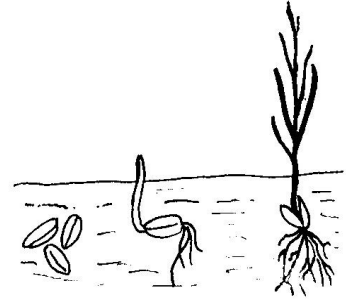
We are to tell everyone that Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose again from the dead.



The Bible tells us that witnessing is like placing seed into the ground.

What is the seed? Luke 8:11

When we tell someone about the Lord Jesus we put the Word of God into his heart. This is like seed falling into the ground. God's Holy Spirit can speak to this person. The Word of God will bring him close to God. Then one day he will be ready to believe on Jesus and live for Him.



According to Romans 10:14-17, what must a person know before he can believe on Christ?

How should a Christian live if he wants to witness? 1 Thessalonians 1:5

What is a Christian's life like? Matthew 5:13

In what ways are Christians like salt?

A Christian should live what he preaches. Then he is like salt. His life helps to make clean, heal and give a joy to life (flavor).

What is witnessing?

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What three things should we witness about?

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2. WHO CAN WITNESS

We can tell others only what we know about or have seen or heard. When we do not believe in Jesus as our Saviour, we cannot really witness about Him. When we do not believe the Bible

we will not use it to tell others about Jesus.

What did John witness? 1 John 1:1-3

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We cannot tell others only, "Jesus did this for John." We must also be able to say, "Jesus did this for me," Acts 4:20. Therefore, to witness for Christ we must know Christ ourselves. Jesus' disciples knew Jesus well.

Because they knew Jesus well, what did He ask them to do? Acts 1:8

Those who know Jesus can witness about Him.

Who can witness?

3. REASONS FOR WITNESSING

Witnessing is important because Christ commands us to witness, it helps us in our spiritual life and lost people are saved.

A. Christ commands us to witness.

What is Christ's command? Luke 24:46-48

B. Witnessing helps us.

As we witness to others, we learn more of God's Word. As we learn more of God's Word, we learn to know Jesus better. When we see people saved, our faith grows stronger.

Why should we witness?

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- Lost people are saved.

C. Lost people are saved.

- **People are lost.**

What does Romans 3:10 tell us?

What does Romans 3:23 tell us?

What does the Bible tell us about the sinner in Isaiah 57:20,21?

What are we told about those who do not have Christ? Ephesians 2:1,2

From these verses we see that all people are lost.

- **God loves all people the same.**

God does not respect one person more than another, Romans 2:11,12. This is one reason every person should have a chance to hear about the love of God. If everyone is to hear, then every Christian must do his best to tell others. Some believe that only the ministers, missionaries and other Christian workers are supposed to witness to people about Christ.

What does the Bible say about this? Acts 1:8

- **God wants every person to be saved.**

How did Jesus feel toward the people? Matthew 9:36

How many people does God want to be saved? 2 Peter 3:9

As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus sends us, John 20:21.

Why should we witness?

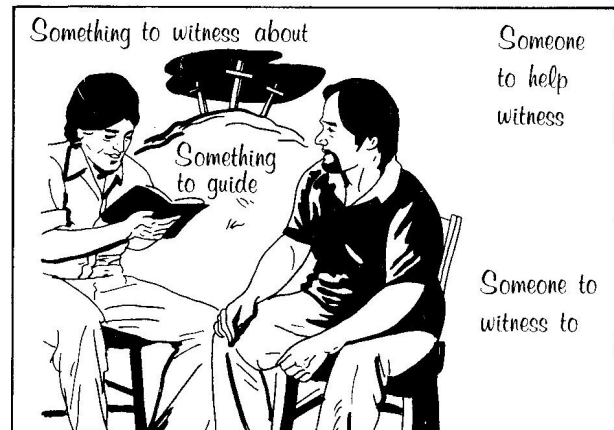
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4. WHAT IS NEEDED FOR WITNESSING

We need something to witness about, Someone to help us witness, something to guide us in witnessing, and someone to whom to witness.

A. Something to witness about.

Remember we said that witnessing is telling about something we know about or have seen or heard, 1 John 1:1-3. If we have not seen it, or heard it, we cannot tell about it. We must first know that Jesus Christ has forgiven our sins and cleansed us before we can tell others about it.



B. Someone to witness to.

There are many people around us who are lost in their sins, Romans 3:23. They do not know Jesus as their Saviour. We can find many that need to know Jesus. We can also witness to Christians who are discouraged or backslidden, Galatians 6:1,2.

What is needed for witnessing?

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- Someone to help witness.
- Something to guide in witnessing (Bible).

C. Someone to help witness.

We need Someone to help us. Unless we accept His help we will not be able to witness the right way.

Who can help us? John 15:26,27

We only have the courage to witness when we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us, Acts 1:8.

D. Something to guide in witnessing (Bible).

Only one book tells us the complete truth about God and Jesus. What is this book called?

Why do we use the Word of God? John 20:31

We should use the Word of God because it gives us the message of Good News. The Bible also teaches us how to witness, and answers questions.

- **The Bible gives the message of Good News.**

The Bible gives us the message of Good News. It tells how Jesus saves.

What truths of this message do we find in the following verses?

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

John 1:12

- **The Bible teaches how to witness.**

Example of Jesus. In John 4:7-26 we read how Jesus witnessed to a woman at Samaria. Read these verses several times. Notice how He started to talk to her. Notice also that He talked about something she knew and understood.

What was it?

He took this thing which she knew and used it to talk about the things of God. She became interested in the things of God. Then He told her about her sin.

How did He do this?

When she was willing to believe that He was the Christ, He showed her that He could give her the water of Life (salvation).

- **The Bible answers questions.**

We may witness for Christ many times. But sometimes people do not want to believe Jesus or the Bible. They give us reasons for not trusting Christ. It is always **best to answer all questions and reasons with the Bible**. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us in the use of the Bible.

- Here are **some reasons** you will hear. **Memorize** the reasons and the verses used to answer.

- "I'm doing the best I can." What does Ephesians 2:8,9 say?
- "All religions lead to heaven." What does John 14:6 say?
- "I am not so bad." What does Romans 3:23 say?
- "I'll become a Christian someday. " What does Proverbs 27:1 say about this?

How should we treat those we want to witness to? 2 Timothy 2:24-25

It is important that we are gentle, patient and loving when we witness.

Why should we use the Bible when we witness?

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What is needed for witnessing?

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5. HOW TO WITNESS

A. Talk to God.

We must first talk to God about people before we talk to people about God. We should first pray for a person before we witness to him.

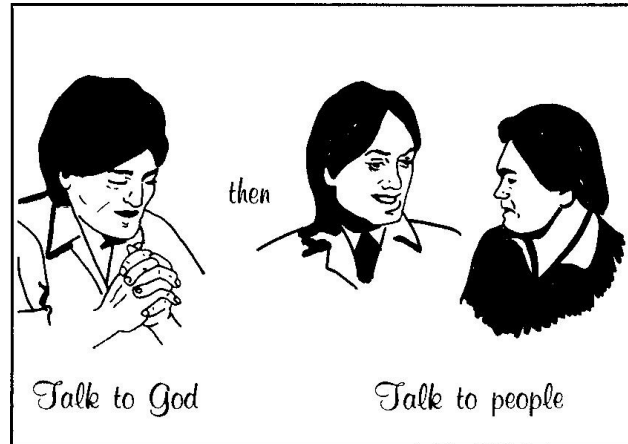
Pray:

- That God will help him to see that he needs to be saved.
- That God will show us what we are to say to him.
- That Satan will not be able to keep him from understanding the Bible and the way to be saved.

B. Talk to people.

Once we have prayed for someone, God will give us the chance to witness to him. He will also give us the strength to witness. It is very hard to start talking about the things of God. It is almost like trying to walk into a cold lake. If we walk in, it takes a lot of time and is very cold. If we jump in, we will soon enjoy it. The more we are interested in the person we are talking to, the less we will think about ourselves.

- First, we talk about the things he likes to talk about. But we soon talk about the things of God.



- We talk to him in a simple way so that he understands what we say.

We talk in a way that he will know we believe what we say.

How do we witness?

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6. WHEN TO WITNESS

2 Timothy 4:2 (N.L.T.) says,

Preach the Word of God. Preach it when it is easy and people want to listen and when it is hard and people do not want to listen. Preach it all the time. Use the Word of God to show people they are wrong. Use the Word of God to help them do right. You must be willing to wait for people to understand what you teach as you teach them.

We must begin to witness right away. Read 2 Timothy 4:2-4.

When should we witness?

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Why should we use the Word of God?

Will people always understand right away?

What must we do when they do not understand?

We should witness for Christ all our Christian life. We should witness when it is easy and when it is hard. We should witness all the time. This is not like a job that we do only so long each day or each year. We should tell of Jesus by the way we talk, and by the way we live every day and every year.

We should always be ready to witness to those who have needs. We should never be too busy with other things so that we cannot help a person who has a problem. We read that one person is worth more than all other things in the world, Matthew 16:26.

When should we witness?

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7. WHERE TO WITNESS

We should witness in our home, in our settlement and in far away places.

A. In our home.

Where do we start to witness? Where did Andrew start? John 1:41

Read Acts 10. We have the story of Cornelius in this chapter. Cornelius loved God. He wanted to know more about God. He wanted to know how to get to heaven. One day while he was praying, an angel came to him. The angel told Cornelius, "Send for Peter." Cornelius sent some of his workers to get Peter.



What did Cornelius do at home while he waited for Peter? verse 24

B. In our settlement.

In Mark 5:1-20 we have a story of a man who had many evil spirits in him. Jesus cast all the evil spirits out of him. He wanted to go with Jesus.

What did Jesus tell him to do in verse 19?

What happened because of this? verse 20

Read John 1:44-51. How did Philip witness to his friends?

What happened?

C. In far away places.

Are we supposed to witness only at home? Acts 1:8

What was Christ's last command, Matthew 28:18,19?

Where are we to witness?

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MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: 1 John 1:1-3.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What is witnessing?

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2. What three things should we witness about?

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3. Who can witness?

4. Why should we witness?

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5. Why should we use the Bible when we witness?

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6. What is needed for witnessing?

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7. How do we witness?

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8. When should we witness?

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9. Where are we to witness?

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WORDS TO LEARN

1. conclusion - the ending.
2. fruitful -1) gives much fruit, Galatians 5:22. 2) bringing many people to Christ.

CONCLUSION

You have learned in these lessons on "Christian Foundations" the things you need to become a strong, fruitful Christian. These truths will help you and others if you follow them. The last lesson is an important lesson. You must use what you have learned in the other lessons. You will be able to give men and women the wonderful story of salvation. You have found the Bible to be true.

What does God promise to those who bring people to Jesus Christ? Daniel 12:3

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