



The Why and How of Sharing our Faith (3)

Discuss in Group –

Q. What do you think is our responsibilities as a Christian in reaching out to the lost?

Q. Do you think that we as churches in this country fulfil the responsibility to be witnesses of Jesus?

Q. What do you think God's part to play is in how people come to personal faith in Jesus?

One of the simple truths about a person coming to faith in Jesus, is that every conversion is a real miracle from God. Jesus declares that a person MUST be Born Again if they are to enter the Kingdom of God. This spiritual new birth is a powerful work of God that transforms and regenerates a person's life. **WE CANNOT MAKE CHRISTIANS BY THE THINGS THAT WE DO, WE ARE CALLED TO SIMPLY WITNESS TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL THAT JESUS CAME TO ESTABLISH.**

The transformation itself is a miracle of God however we are called as God's people to bring the Good News message to the lost that they might hear and be transformed by it. It is a wonderful truth that the Lord has given the message and ministry of reconciliation to the church. It is our responsibility to share this life changing message with the Lost **Read** – 2 Corinthians Chapter 5 v 14 – 21

Discuss –

Q. Why do you think that 94% of the population of this country are now outside of the church and it's proclamation of the Gospel?

Q. How do you think that we as a church can witness to a people who will not come to us?

Q. In what ways can we encourage the whole church to really engage in mission to the lost?

So what are our responsibilities in witnessing to Christ? (Discuss these responsibilities)

Responsibility 1:- Called to SOW seeds

As God's people we are called to be salt and light to the people around us. As we have fellowship with God, there is a real sense that people begin to notice the differences about us. This then provides natural opportunities to share small amounts of truth and testimony about the Lord and what He is doing in our lives. These seeds of truth when watered with prayer, are in every sense the starting points of new life. We need to be ready to give an account of the hope that we have in Jesus without giving people spiritual indigestion. **Read** – Matthew 5 v 13 – 16, Matthew 13 v 1 – 9 (we are all mini sowers who sow the seed of the Kingdom of heaven into the lives of the lost)

Responsibility 2:- Called to WATER the seed – This second area of responsibility is all about presence evangelism. As we get alongside people and share our lives with them. Our lifestyle and our actions should back up the words of truth and testimony that we have shared with them. This means that we have to be a people of integrity in how we live out our Christian lives within our daily living and relationships. If we bear witness to something in the Word, or in our lives through testimony, then we need to be living it out before people who are searching for Jesus. The simple truth is that many people do not take the witness of Christians seriously because we say one thing with our lips and say the opposite with our lives. Where words of witness are watered with real Christian living, the Gospel goes forward in power. **Read** 1 John 4 v 7 – 16 Acts 2 v 40 – 46 (living out real faith) verse 47 (found favour with all the people) watering the seed

Responsibility 3 – Protecting the seeds (Weeding) As we begin to witness to people and they see the reality of God in our lives, what you will find is that they will begin to ask a lot of questions about both what Christians believe and also what they have heard from science and other religions. For many people, asking questions and understanding how answers given, fit into their lives, is an important part of their journey of discovering faith. As a Christian friend we are called to walk alongside of people and help them deal with their doubts, fears and wrong ideas by pointing them continually to Jesus.

Responsibility 4 – Conversion. As someone comes to the point where they want to give their lives to Jesus, we are called to act almost like a mid-wife in facilitating the New Birth that is about to happen. In every sense the birthing process is in the domain of God so we must listen to what His Spirit is saying, however we are there to encourage and support the individual, as they respond to the work that the Lord is doing within them. It is good to understand the process of conversion and also to know well the sort of prayers that are needed to encourage people to respond to the Lord in the right way. **Read** – John 3 v 1 – 7

Responsibility 5 – Reaping and follow up. When someone becomes a Christian in a real spiritual sense they are like a new born baby. As a Christian who has been involved in the process of conversion, we have a responsibility to care for and nurture a new believer. Jesus calls His people to make disciples **NOT** converts and therefore we have a responsibility to teach, pray and encourage a new believer until they can stand on the certainty of their own faith in Jesus. By law it is a criminal offence to leave a new born baby to fend for itself. As a church we need to make sure that before the Lord, we are responsible in how we disciple new people in the faith. **Read** – Matthew 28 v 18 – 20

We have looked at what our responsibilities are as co-partners with Christ. Now we come to the **Lord's Responsibilities.**

Responsibility 1 – Conviction – Scripture makes it clear that people have been hardened and blinded to the Good News of Jesus, by the spirit of the world. As we go forth and share the Good News with people, it is the work of the Holy Spirit that convicts people of sin and also opens their eyes so that they might see the truth in Jesus. **Read** – John 16 v 5 – 11

Responsibility 2 – Regeneration – As we have already looked at the New Birth experience is a miracle of God. He is the one who transforms from death to life, darkness to light, turns a sinner into a child of the Living God. The act of conversion is completely an act of God's sovereignty and grace. **Read** – Ephesians 1 v 3 – 7 Ephesians 2 v 1 – 10

Responsibility 3 – Preservation – One of the truths of Scripture is that God is active in keeping and equipping His people when it comes to their salvation. God is active in the preservation of the Saints. **Read** – 1 Thessalonians 5 v 16 – 24

Responsibility 4 – Reward – The fullness of our salvation and reward is administered by Almighty God.