

SO HOW DO WE WITNESS EFFECTIVELY TO JESUS?

When we look at the early church we see that there was a number of different ways they built relationships and witnessed to Jesus. What we see within their example is that they struck a balance between words and actions. At the heart of their witness was the **proclamation of the Good News** of Jesus which was backed up by **personal words of testimony** concerning the great salvation found in Him. Alongside of this they were proactive in **meeting the needs** of people and caring for those who could not care effectively for themselves. This **social action** was deepened and made effective by active **signs and wonders of the Kingdom** that authenticated the words and deeds that they did.

All these things together resulted in a powerful witness to Jesus that saw salvation come to most of the known world at that time.

SIMPLE RESPONSE!!!

One of the simple ways both Jesus and the early church witnessed was through **ACTS OF KINDNESS!** This is a very practical part of witnessing that **ALL** of us can do. **ALL** of us can be kind and show that kindness to people in hospitality, action and service. Servant witnessing comes out of the love that God has for people. As we grow in the heart and love of God it should be a natural overflow that we look to be kind and meet the needs of those around us. Jesus set us an example in this when he said, "I have not come to be served, but to serve and give my life as a ransom for many." This is not rocket science - this is something that we all can do because it comes out of our new nature as Christians. **BY** simple acts of **KINDNESS** and hospitality through friendship and a willingness to give an account of the hope we have in Jesus. We are promised that the lost **WILL** come to salvation. In all of this remember **PRAY!!**

Readings:- (Please Read) Mark 16 v 15 – 20, 2 Corinthians 5 v 17 – 21, Romans 10 v 9 – 13 Matthew 6 v 1 – 4, Matthew 25 v 31 – 46, Acts 2 v 42 – 47, Acts 4 v 32 – 35, Acts 6 v 1 – 7, James 2 v 14 – 17

Across this country of ours almost every village, town and city has numerous churches that have been there for many years.

Yet in the 1980's 3000 churches closed down. In the 1990's 3357 church closed down.

It is estimated that today there are 50 million people in this country who are lost and do not know Jesus.

YET most of these people have a church on their door step. What is going wrong??

For this situation to change **ALL** Christians need to recommit themselves back to the practical mission directive of Christ.

This tract is written to help us all understand our call to witness to Jesus today in the everyday situations of our lives.

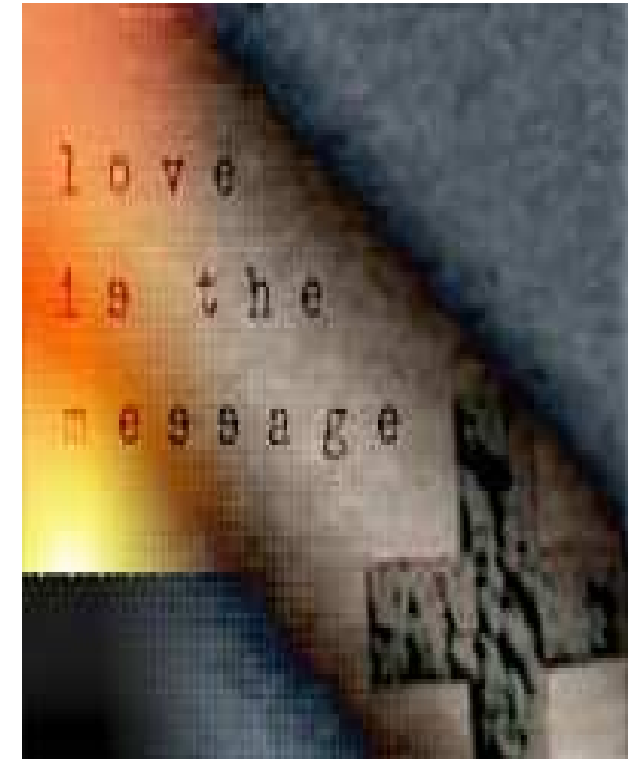
It is written to help us understand the message of salvation and the process that God uses to enable each one of us to be salt and light in the world today.

We have the joy of having our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life, **RIGHT NOW** God has made you and me Co-partners with Jesus Christ to the message of Salvation!!



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THE PRINCIPLES



OF

SHARING OUR FAITH

"I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL, BECAUSE IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION OF EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES; FIRST FOR THE JEW, THEN FOR THE GENTILE." (Romans 1 v 16)
SALVATION IS FOUND THROUGH NO OTHER NAME. (Acts 4 v 12)

Many people when they think about evangelism think it is the domain of the professional or the trained evangelist. Yet Jesus made it clear that it is every Christian's responsibility to bear witness to the salvation that we have received in Him. We have an obligation to God to witness to the Good News to our families, our friends, the

people we work with, as well as those who live around us. We are called to witness to this through both words and actions.

Why Share our faith with others?

As Christians it is important that we understand the biblical reasons why we share our faith.

Reason 1 - We are commanded by Jesus to be His witnesses.

As followers of Jesus we are called to share in the ministry of Jesus. It is a simple truth that the main thrust of Jesus' ministry was to

proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. This is not only what He did, but He called His followers to do the same. We are commanded by our Lord and Savior to **GO OUT** and proclaim the Gospel.

Reason 2 - The reality of Hell.

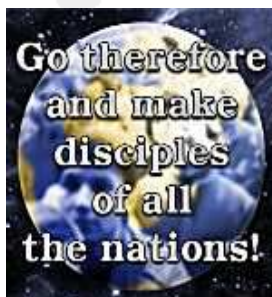
The Bible makes it clear that there is

a consequence to sinning in our lives. The eternal consequence of un-forgiven sin and unbelief in Jesus Christ is that people will be judged and sent to hell. Hell is a place of eternal punishment where people will be completely separated from God, His love and grace. It is a place of spiritual and physical torment which is described in Scripture as a place of unquenchable fire. Jesus taught about hell and declared that all will be resurrected, all will undergo judgement and all will be sentenced to hell who have not accepted Him personally as Lord and Savior.

Reason 3 - To show the heart of God.

Scripture declares to us that God so loved the world.... As the love and compassion of God grows in our lives, the natural

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overflow should be a deep desire to want to share His love and salvation with others. We have the best news ever that saves, forgives, heals and restores a relationship with the Creator God. If we believe that, how can we keep that to ourselves? A growth in understanding our own salvation results in a passionate desire to share that salvation with others.

SO WHAT IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WE PROCLAIM?

Here is a summary of the important ingredients that make up a faithful witness to the Gospel.

Step 1 - God's purpose for us is peace and life.

Human beings are not an accident of nature, But God has actively made us to enjoy a relationship with Himself. We have been created with intelligence, emotion, creativity, a spirit and imagination so that we can truly know God and worship Him in Spirit and in truth. In this relationship is fullness of life and the fulfillment of the very purpose to which we were created.

Step 2 - Our problem - sin separates us from God.

With any real expression of love there needs to be a freedom to love or not to. God created us with free will to choose to love and be in relationship with Him or not. The problem is that we have used this free will to disobey God, live our lives for ourselves and actively do

wrong in His eyes. This pride and wrongdoing separates us from God and results in spiritual and physical death. As a result of this sin and failure to meet our true purpose in life, we fail to experience God in our lives and in eternity are condemned to hell.

Step 3 - Jesus the ONLY solution.

Scripture makes it clear that NO good works, religious duty or high morality can outweigh our sin and restore us back into a right relationship with God. But God has an answer to the sin and

rebellion in our lives. That answer is the Lord Jesus Christ. God sent His own Son into the world to take on our humanity and to die for our sin. When Jesus died on the cross He took the full weight of our sin, shame, guilt and separation and died our death upon that cross. In so doing



He has satisfied the full judgement of God in regard to sin and has opened the Kingdom of heaven to all who believe and trust in Him. This is expressed in the reality of being Born Again spiritually and coming into a living relationship with the God who created us. As a result our debt has been paid, our lives cleansed by His blood, and forgiveness has been given to all who believe in Jesus.

Step 4 - To receive Jesus is to receive life.

To enter into a relationship with God and receive the new life God promises us, we must respond personally to and receive Jesus into our lives. We invite Jesus into our lives by repenting of our sins, believing in who He is and what He done by claiming His work on the cross for ourselves. We invite Him to be Lord by handing our lives over to Him and trusting Him to guide and direct us from now on.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND GOD'S

One of the simple truths about a person coming to faith in Jesus is that every conversion is a real miracle of God. The New Birth experience is a powerful work of God that transforms and regenerates a person's life. As a result of this we need to understand that **OUR** responsibility is to sow seeds of the gospel into the hearts and minds of those around us. The results are very much left in the hands of God. As long as we are faithful to sow those seeds in words and actions, covering those seeds of truth with prayer then we have fully honoured all that Jesus has called us to do.

Our Responsibilities:-

Sowing seeds:- of truth through words of testimony and proclamation of the gospel. **Watering the seeds :-** is about presence evangelism As we get alongside of people and share our lives with them, our lifestyle and actions should back up the words of truth and testimony that we have shared with them. **Weedings:-** As people hear the gospel and see the evidence of its power within our lives there will be many questions, doubts and fears that will come to mind. We are called as Christians to walk alongside of people and help them deal with their doubts, fears and wrong ideas that they have. We do this by continually pointing them to Jesus. **Conversion:-** As people come 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 which is about to happen. **Reaping and follow up:-** As Christians we are called to make disciples of Jesus, not converts. This means that it is our responsibility to nurture the life and faith of a new Christian and help



them grow to maturity in faith, truth and character.

God's Responsibilities:-

Is to bring Conviction, regeneration, preservation and rewards. P.T.O