

Witnessing



Class Section 1: Why Witness?

* Making a difference

In [the last class](#) we talked about Heaven. We know it's a wonderful place, and today we're going to talk about how we can offer more people the opportunity of experiencing it! But we're not just going to talk about making a difference in eternity.—Let's also look at here and now.

When someone receives the Lord, their problems don't all magically disappear, as you've probably experienced yourself. But the difference is that now they have Jesus to walk with them along the path of life. They have the source of joy, of love, to help them through their lives. Don't we want other people to know Jesus as we know Him?—That's what "witnessing" is about. Witnessing is sharing the love of Jesus with another human being

* Jesus gave the "Great Commission" to all believers



Matthew 28:19-20—"Go make disciples of all the nations, ... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. John 20:21—So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

Romans 10:14-15—How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

"Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) doesn't sound like an option, does it!? The message is clear! Jesus again made it quite apparent that all believers are appointed to preach the Gospel when He said:

John 15:16a—You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.

*** "The love of Christ compels us"**

Matthew 9:36—But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

2 Corinthians 5:14a—For the love of Christ compels us.

The Lord wants us to be moved by the same feelings of compassion, love and care as He is. The love of Christ should motivate us to do all we can to reach out to others, not merely out of a sense of duty and obedience to His commandments, but because our hearts are sincerely touched by the needs of others.

The blind man who was healed

A blind man was taken to a hospital. The doctor operated, removing cataracts from his eyes. The man went back to his home

seeing and rejoicing. In a few weeks he went back to the hospital. This time he was holding the end of a rope to which forty blind people were clinging. He had led them to the place where he had received his sight. Should we attempt to do less in a spiritual way?

*** How your witness can change the world**

Your witness can change more than you realize! The words of God's prophets have crossed the ages and swept around the earth and changed the course of nations! Their messages have changed the hearts of men and given hope for a better world.

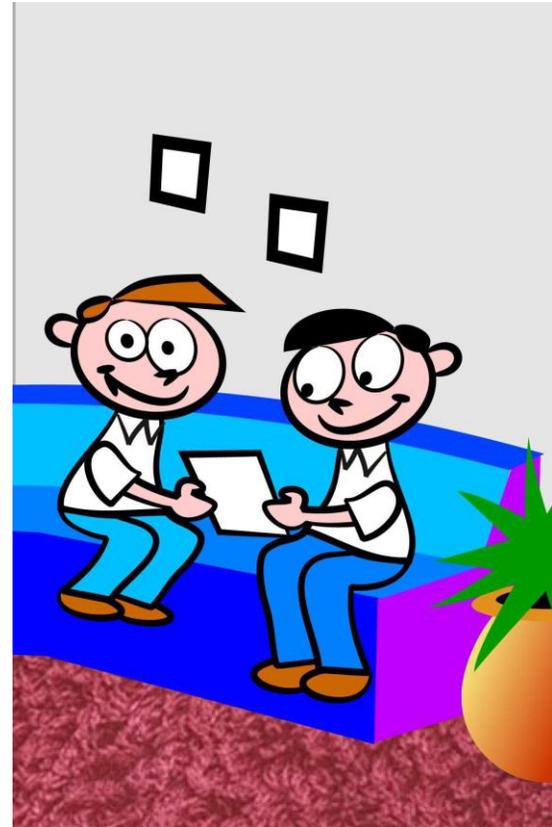
But whether you change a nation or not, if you have changed even one life by the power of God's love you have changed a part of the world! If one life can be

changed, it shows that it's possible for more lives to be changed, and the world can be changed, starting with just one person—all because you shared the love of God with others.

Never underestimate the far-reaching results that the salvation of even one person can have!

Bible or dinner?

In the island of New Guinea, a chieftain sat peacefully reading the Bible, when he was interrupted by a French trader. "Bah," he said in French, "why are you reading the Bible? I suppose the



missionaries have got hold of you, you poor fool. Throw it away! The Bible never did anyone any good." Replied the chieftain, calmly, "If it weren't for this Bible, you'd be in my kettle there by now!"

* **Heavenly rewards for witnessing**

Daniel 12:3—Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.

Luke 12:8—Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God.

1 Corinthians 3:8b—Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Class Section 2: Witnessing Tips

* **If your life is full of the Lord, it will flow out on to others**

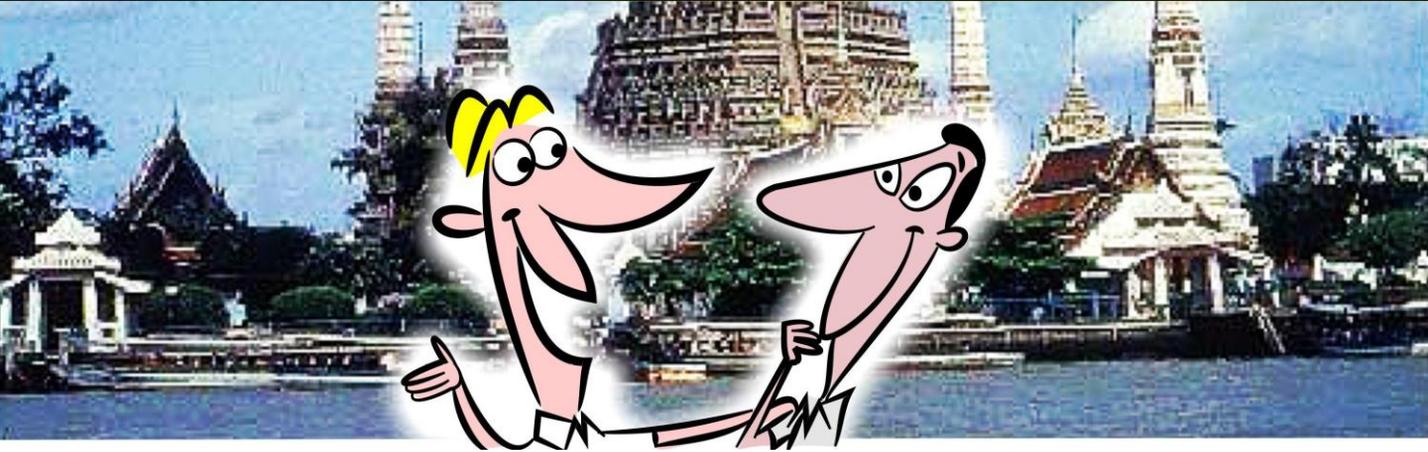
You will naturally talk about what you believe in:

John 3:11—We speak what We know and testify what We have seen

Acts 4:20—For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

If you have the love of Jesus you cannot hide it!

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.



* Be a sample of love

Your personal example is an important aspect of your witness that will help to win others.

Philippians 2:15-16a—That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the Word of life.

1 Timothy 4:12b—But be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Titus 2:7-8—In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

John 13:35—By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Your greatest witness is love, for the only love of God they can see is the love they see in you. If you don't show them love they can see and feel, they're going to have a hard time believing that there is Someone up There whom they don't know and that He really loves them.

You should always drop a little love into the hearts of those you

pass by, even if only with a word, a smile, or a look of sympathy, so they will know that God has loved them that day!



You may find that your greatest witness to those who know you well is not the words you speak but your sample. As you let Jesus work in your life, you should find that some aspects of your character and behavior are changing. Perhaps you don't get so anxious or angry when things are difficult, or you are more cheerful or more considerate. Those who are around you daily will notice these

changes and will wonder what's happened to you. Their curiosity may open the door for you to explain the source of the changes.

The first Christians turned the world upside down with the love of God. The way they lived convinced others that their faith was real. The Roman author Tertullian (c.160–c. 225), when speaking of the early church, reported that the pagans would exclaim, “See how they love one another!” Clearly the Christians’ concern and care was visible in their actions, attitudes, and words.

*** Don't forget that part of your sample is the joy of the Lord!**

Portray the Lord as He is—a happy God, who loves and rejoices in love and happiness. A joyful countenance helps to win others.

Psalm 144:15 - Joyful indeed are those whose God is the LORD.

1 Peter 1:8 - Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

*** You don't have to know all the answers!—Jesus is the Answer!**

You don't have to answer all people's questions and their confusion and their doubts about things. If they ask you a question you don't know the answer to, just tell them that's something you're not sure about yet and you're still learning. "The Bible is a big book and it takes a lifetime of study to learn all the neat things in the Word. But one thing I do know, I sure know that the Lord answers prayer and He's my Best Friend and He really works!"

The blind man that Jesus healed was a perfect example of that. When the scribes and Pharisees came up to him and asked him about his healing, he said he didn't know too much about the details, but this one thing he knew: once he was blind but now he could see!

John 9:25—He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

*** It's the Holy Spirit that wins!**

When trying to express the wonderful love Jesus has for people, our words often seem to fall short. But the Holy Spirit can nevertheless use our words to speak to people's hearts so they understand what you are trying to express. Like Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:4-5—And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

If you're sincere and trying to do your best, the Lord will bless your

witness! You don't have to be afraid of making a mess of things, because whatever you say to try to share the truth of the Word, the Lord's going to bless it. His Word is not going to return unto Him void.

Isaiah 55:11—So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

* Don't give up!

Even though you might not see the results of your witnessing right away, in some way you're getting results. The Lord has promised that His Word will not return unto Him void, it will accomplish His purpose!



You will not see some of the results until you get to Heaven because you don't always know the results of the seeds you plant in someone's heart, how or when they will take root. Perhaps the person you have witnessed to will eventually find the Lord due to something that you said, or your witness will have worked in their heart to cause them to be more open and receptive when some other Christian witnesses to them.

We can't always expect to be the sowers and the reapers, because the Lord said that some sow and

some water, but God gives the increase.

1 Corinthians 3:6—I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

Witnessing never fails! Even if you don't feel like a success, you are doing the job that the Lord gave you to do, so you're succeeding!



Thank You Jesus for all that You have given me: salvation, the Holy Spirit, Your Word—such a wonderful life full of love! Please help me to "love my neighbors" by witnessing, by sharing You and Your Words with others.

Help me to have Your love and concern for those to whom I witness, Jesus. I want to show You, not myself, and to speak Your Words, not my own. Help me to put aside my personal problems and care about others, so that I can help others find You. Help me not to be shy or self-conscious, but to let You shine in me and through me.

Thank You Jesus for this high calling to be Your witness. Please help me to obey Your commandment to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15).

