

What is a witness?

In a legal sense, a witness is someone who was there and saw something, or was actually involved in the happening. He has first-hand information because of his involvement in it. Everybody knows that. Then why, when the Bible says we are to be witnesses (Acts 1:8), church leaders instruct their people to go to perfect strangers and invite them to church?

What does the Bible say?

I Pet.3:15 says we are to **be ready** to give an answer to those who ask us about the hope that is in us.

In Mark 5:19, a man Jesus had just healed was told to **go home** to his family and tell what the Lord has done for him.

Matt.28:19-20, “Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **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.”

What should people see?

Matt.5:16, Let your light shine before men that they may **see** your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Phil.2:15, “That you may be

blameless and innocent, children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you **shine** as lights in the world...”

I Pet.2:12, “...having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles (unsaved) that when they speak of you as evildoers, they may by your good works which they **observe**, glorify God ...”

Eph.5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk (**live**) as children of light.”

Two instructions

By reading these verses, you should see that there are two different instructions given to us. One is to **tell** what has happened to us, and one is to **shine**, or let people **see** that our lives are different from the rest of the world.

I John 5:19 says in the Living Bible, “You are of God little children, but all the rest of the world around you is under the power and control the evil one (the devil or Satan).” Little children need to memorize this verse as pre-schoolers. It helps them to see why you expect them to be nice when other children are so selfish.

Some reasons to not talk:

Here is a quote from Abdul Noor, written in Charisma magazine, Oct. 1997: “Don’t announce it (that you are a Christian) until they discover it. It’s not hiding your faith,” he insists, “but it’s

giving yourself two blessings: Time to grow and deepen your faith in Christ, and a chance to show the differences Jesus has made in your life. Then when the time comes, share it graciously, and give all the credit to God.”

Your testimony

If you have been saved for some time, you need to write a brief testimony. It should be about **one minute long** to tell it. Tell a little of what you were like before you were saved, how you came to Jesus, and something about how you are different now. Tell it to a mature Christian for approval or changes. Then memorize it so that **if someone asks**, you have it ready. If you are wanting to please God in everything you do, people will be attracted to you and will want to know why you are different. You may want to write a three-minute one in case your friend wants to hear more.

Pray regularly for people you work with or see often. Pray for God to open their eyes to see their need of Him, and the futility of life without Him. God will be working in them as long as you pray. They are becoming ripe for the harvesting. Then the picking is so easy. Concentrate on **learning to live your life** like Jesus wants you to, and spend time daily in the Word and prayer. This will make you able.

A true story

This is from my husband, Tom. “I worked at a motor shop for eleven years, and during that time, I got to know many of the men. I was in the Word and prayed for each of them every day for those eleven years. Every time I would go on a service call to fix a customer’s machine, one of my fellow employees would come along as a helper. One of these was a very tall and young black man. He liked going with me, and I liked him. If he screwed up, I wouldn’t yell at him, and that amazed him. I loaned him money when he needed it, and often bought him coffee or lunch if we were on the road. I also helped him fix his car.

“One day he said, ‘Hey, you’re okay for a whitey.’ Another time he asked why I didn’t yell at him when he screwed up. I told him that I’m a Christian and I pray a lot. He began to apologize profusely. ‘Man, I didn’t know! Man, I woulda watched my language!’ I assured him that it was okay, and that it didn’t bother me. Then he asked, ‘Hey! How come you’re not like that other Christian?’ (The one who let’s everyone know it, and doesn’t want any swearing around him.) I answered, ‘Why don’t you ask him why he’s not like me?’

“My friend continued, ‘Man, I used to swear around him just to get him riled up!’ Then he said, ‘You know, my

mama was a Christian, and I’m sure she’s still prayin’ for me.’ Then he asked, ‘Will I go to hell ‘cause I’m livin’ with a girl?’ I said, ‘No. The only thing that will keep you out of heaven is not accepting Jesus as your Savior, and asking Him into your life to be your Lord.’ “Man, that’s it?” ‘Yep. That’s it.’ (I had already led two people in the shop to the Lord, but the Holy Spirit didn’t lead me like that this time. I think God wanted his mom to have the privilege of leading her son to Him.

“His mom got sick and he had to leave for Alabama. He was worried about some money he’d borrowed from me. I told him to find a church that believes in Jesus and give them the money. He said, ‘This is real scary! **If I’d known more Christians like you, I woulda become one!**”

Important points

Several important points can be seen in this account.

1. Tom prayed for the men and was in the Word for many months before the Holy Spirit led him in leading anyone to God.
2. Tom was a good friend to the man without telling him anything about God.
3. He waited until the man asked.

Doesn’t this procedure agree with those Scriptures? And it’s effective!

Don’t Witness



A mini Bible Study
By Cheryl Boone