

Witnessing

What is the greatest **THREAT** to Christianity?

- Ungodly People Our Culture Hostile Governments None of the Above

"The greatest THREAT to Christianity is Christians trying to sneak into heaven incognito without ever sharing their faith."

Dr. James Stewart, British Preacher

Christians have the privilege of inviting others to reconcile with God! *The most significant decision people can make is to trust Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.*

"For I [Paul] am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16, NKJV



❖ **Circle** what the Apostle Paul was "*not ashamed of*."

Sharing our faith, or *witnessing*, is an important part of growing as a Christian. Watching God miraculously transform others keeps **our** faith fresh and exciting!

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I [Paul] continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great..." Acts 26:22, KJV



❖ **Underline** whom Paul witnessed to.

Paul witnessed to a king, priests, philosophers, sailors, guards, fellow prisoners, and more!

Sharing Christ with Your Testimony

After Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, this man wanted to travel with Jesus. But....

"... Jesus did not permit him but said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.' And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis [area of 10 cities] all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled." Mark 5:19-20, NKJV

❖ **Underline** what Jesus told the man to do.

❖ **Circle** how people responded to hearing "*all that Jesus had done*."

We may not know much about the Bible or Theology, but we are *experts on our lives*.

- People are more interested in what **God** has done for us, than what **we've** done for God.
- Our **TESTIMONY** is the story of what **Christ** has done in our lives!

How to Share Your Testimony

- 1. Your Life Before Christ:** Share **briefly** about your life before you were saved.
 - Don't spend too much time sharing details of how bad you were.
 - If you were saved at a young age, you may not remember much of your early life.
- 2. How You Came to Know Christ:** Share **how** you heard about Christ, and **how** you decided to trust Him for forgiveness.
 - That enables the person to hear a clear presentation of how to become a Christian.
- 3. Your Life After Receiving Christ:** Share how Christ **changed** your life!



"Many believers are **'Rabbit Hole' Christians**.

In the morning they pop out of their safe Christian homes, hold their breath at work, scurry home to their families and then off to their Bible studies, and finally end the day **praying for the unbelievers they safely avoided all day.**"

~ Jan Johnson

❓ **How** could Christians **not** sharing their faith be the greatest threat to Christianity?

❓ **What** might keep Christians from sharing their faith?



"The **SKEPTIC** may deny your doctrine or attack your church, but he cannot honestly **ignore the fact that your life has been changed.**"

~ Charles Swindoll

HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS

Be Available: Yield your life to God. He uses available servants.

Be Prepared: Ask God to lead you to people to share with. Pray that God opens them to His Word!

Be Filled with God's Spirit: Only God can bring others to Himself. Being filled with the Spirit enables God to share His love for others through us.

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The Great Commission

Why am I HERE instead of in HEAVEN?

- Because my home in heaven is not finished yet.
- Because I must not be good enough yet.
- Because God is having second thoughts about me.
- None of the above.



We are HERE instead of in HEAVEN to fulfill Jesus' final command to all Christians.

Christ's final instructions to His disciples are often called *The Great Commission*, because Jesus *commissions* them to *take the Gospel to the world*.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" Matthew 28:18-20, NIV

- ❖ **Frame where** we are to "go and make disciples."
 - ◆ You can't reach people for Christ unless you *go* to them.
- ❖ **Underline** in whose name Christians are baptized.
 - ◆ Baptism is a public way to identify that you became a Christian. This act of obedience symbolizes you are cleansed from sin by Jesus's death, burial, and resurrection.
- ❖ **Circle** what we are to teach new disciples.
 - ◆ Making a disciple is more than just explaining the Gospel to someone. It involves teaching a person about God and His Word so the person grows in faith and is prepared to share the Good News with others.



The Great Commission is for **ALL** Christians, *not just pastors and missionaries*.

"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." 1 Peter 3:15, ESV



- ❖ **Underline** what we should always be "prepared" to do.
- ❖ **Circle two** attitudes we should have when we witness.

"However, I [Paul] consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me, the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:24, NIV



- ❖ **Underline** Paul's "only aim."
 - ❖ **Circle** the "task" the Lord Jesus had given him.
- Paul devoted his life to sharing the Good News of Salvation with others.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." Prov. 11:30, NKJV

- ❖ **Underline** the description of a "wise" person. Helping others become Christians and grow spiritually is the wisest, most lasting use of time.

"EVANGELISM is the **perpetual task** of the **WHOLE** church, and not the **peculiar hobby** of certain of its members." ~Wilson Carlisle



"You have one business on earth - **to save souls.**"
~ John Wesley

"Whatever we do, we must not treat the **Great Commission** like it's the **Great Suggestion.**"

~ Charles Swindoll

"If a commission by an earthly king is considered an **HONOR**, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a **SACRIFICE?**"

~ David Livingstone

"Except a man be **BORN AGAIN**, he will wish one day he had **NEVER** been **BORN AT ALL.**"

~ J.C. Ryle

"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries.

They forget that **they too are expending their lives...** and when the bubble has burst they will have **nothing of eternal significance** to show for the years they have wasted."

~ Missionary Nate Saint
(killed by Auca Indians)

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The Plan

Where do you start when you are trying to *“make disciples of all nations”*? Acts 1:8 gives us The Plan to follow.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8, ESV



❖ **Underline all** the geographic areas where we are to be Christ’s “witnesses.”

JERUSALEM represented the home area of Jesus’ disciples.
It would be your home town/city, family, and friends.

JUDEA & SAMARIA were 2 provinces. Judea’s capital was Jerusalem.
It would be your state, province, or country.

END OF THE EARTH is **everyone** who needs to be reached with the Gospel.
It includes all nations of the world.



We can witness to people in our **Jerusalem**, and also *work with other Christians* to reach everyone in our **Judea & Samaria**. Reaching the **ends of the earth** may involve Christians *going to live in other nations*.



- *Every Christian should be willing to go.* But even if we do not go, *we should support missionaries with our prayers and finances!*

Where is YOUR Jerusalem? _____ Where is YOUR Judea? _____ Where is YOUR Samaria? _____ ? How can YOU reach the “ends of the earth”?																	

“For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. 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?” Romans 10:13-14, NKJV



- ❖ **Circle** what a person must do to be “saved.”
- ❖ **Underline each** of the **three** “how” questions.

If we don’t share our faith, someone may never hear a clear presentation of the Gospel.

“There are no easy steps to witnessing!

No painless, unembarrassing methods! You must bring men to see that they are filthy sinners under the wrath of God who must flee to Christ for mercy. **That is offensive.** And there is no way to coat it with honey.” ~Walter Chantry



“EVANGELISM

is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.”
~ D.T. Niles



“A person’s coming to Christ is like a **chain with many links**...

There are many influences and conversations that precede a person’s decision to convert to Christ. I know the joy of being the **FIRST link** at times, a **MIDDLE link** usually, and occasionally the **LAST link**.

God has not called me to only be the last link.”

~ Cliffe Knechtle



“Let me not be a **MILEPOST** on a single road; **make me a FORK**, that men must turn one way or another on finding Christ in me.

~Jim Elliot

“Today Christians spend more money on **DOG FOOD** than on **MISSIONS**.”

~ Leonard Ravenhill

? How does God promise to help us when we share our faith? (See **Luke 12:11-12**.)

"Then He [Jesus] said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore **pray** earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Matthew 9:37-38, ESV

❖ Circle what we are to "pray to the Lord of the harvest."

"The **3.5 BILLION** unreached people on earth would form a SINGLE line that would stretch around the equator **25 times!**

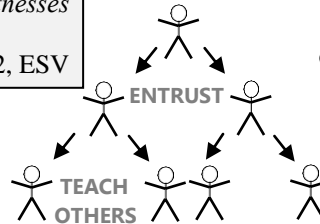
Can you picture **25** LINES of Christless people, trampling endlessly towards Hell? Let that vision stay with you day and night." ~ Larry Stockstill



Spiritual Multiplication

"And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2, ESV

❖ Circle what we are to do with what we "have heard."
 ❖ Underline what "faithful men" are to do.
 This is the principle of **Spiritual Multiplication!**



Spiritual Addition

Each DAY
 Reach 100 People for Christ

THOUSAND	YEAR
36,000 *	1
72,000	2
108,000	3
144,000	4
180,000	5
216,000	6
252,000	7
288,000	8
324,000	9
360,000	10
396,000	11
432,000	12
468,000	13
504,000	14
540,000	15
576,000	17
612,000	18

*Approximate Totals

Spiritual Multiplication

Every 6 MONTHS
 Win, Build & Send 1 Person

THOUSAND	YEAR
4	1
16	2
64	3
256	4
1,024	5
4,096	6
16,384	7
65,536	8
262,144	9
1,048,576	10
4,194,304	11
16,777,216	12
67,108,864	13
268,435,456	14
1,073,741,824	15
4,294,967,296	17
17,179,869,184	18

Spiritual Addition

• Winning people to Christ but **never** building them up or sending them out to Win and Build others.

Spiritual Multiplication

• **Continually** Winning, Building, and Sending people who will **also** Win, Build, and Send others.
 • Could reach the world in just **17 years** by discipling 1 person every 6 months (who then disciples others)!

"PRAY... that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ..."
 Col. 4:3, ESV

TO MAKE CONVERTS

we are tempted to **PLAY DOWN** the difficulties and **PLAY UP** the peace of mind and worldly success enjoyed by those who accept Christ.

We will never be completely honest with our hearers until we tell them the **BLUNT TRUTH** that as **members of a race of moral rebels**, they are in a **serious jam...**

○ If they refuse to repent and believe on Christ, they will most surely **PERISH**.

○ If they do turn to Him, the same enemies that crucified Him will try to **CRUCIFY** them."

~ A.W. Tozer

"Though He [Jesus] did what He could to help the multitudes, He had to **devote Himself primarily to a few men**, rather than the masses, so that the masses could at last be saved. This was the **genius of His strategy.**"

~ Robert Coleman

❓ **What does Isaiah 55:11** promise will happen when God's Word is shared?

PRAYER

Lord, fill me with a passion, like Paul, to witness. Help me not be ashamed to share the Gospel. Enable me to boldly testify the Good News in my Jerusalem and beyond!
 Amen.

APPLICATION



List people **in YOUR life** God is prompting you to witness to.

Pray for God to provide opportunities. Be prepared to "share your faith"!

"And I **PRAY** that the **SHARING** of your **FAITH** may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ." ~ Philemon 1:6, ESV

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