



Introduction

Inside the city walls the people of Israel were starving. The invading army surrounded their city. Just outside the city gates, four outcast lepers were also starving. The lepers considered their options. If they went to the enemy, death would be the worst thing that could happen. On the other hand, the enemy might have mercy on them and give them food. To stay at the city gates meant certain starvation. They decided to go to the enemy and ask for food.

As they came into the enemy camp, the lepers found nothing but empty tents full of food. The enemy had fled during the night leaving everything behind. As the four lepers ate their fill, their minds turned to the starving people in the city. There was enough food for everyone. The ones starving in the city just needed to be told.

Each person who has believed in Jesus is like the lepers who found something that everyone else needs. All we are required to do is tell the ones who are spiritually hungry where they can find the spiritual food.

This study is designed to help you understand the importance of witnessing.

Power to Witness

The last words Jesus spoke to His Disciples concerned witnessing:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

- Circle the resource the Holy Spirit would give them.
- Underline the activity in which they were to engage.
- *The Greek word **marturos** is translated "witness". **Marturos** is the basis of the English word martyr, meaning one who gives up his life for his faith.*

Jesus indicated that the natural by-product of the Holy Spirit living in a person would be a powerful witness. Power to witness comes from the Holy Spirit. But there is power in the message of the gospel as well.

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 1:16

- Underline why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel.
- Circle the two groups of people on whom the gospel is effective.
- Jews are descendants of Abraham by birth. Gentiles are everyone else.

Each person who has placed their faith in Jesus has two wonderful sources of power. The Holy Spirit grants power to witness to each one in whom He lives. And, the gospel when faithfully told, has power to transform the life of anyone who believes.

The details of this beautiful story can be found in 2 King 6:24 through 2 Kings 7:20. Their defining moment came as they were eating:

Then they said to each other, "We're not doing right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves.

2 Kings 7:9



Notice the three geographies mentioned in Acts 1:8.

- Jerusalem is where they were right then. It represents home.
- Judea and Samaria are surrounding areas of Jerusalem, but not close enough to be considered home.
- The ends of the earth are places far away.

We are to start where we are and spread out as God gives opportunity

The Motive for Witnessing

Paul was strongly motivated to share the Gospel with others.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Circle in verse 14 the thing that compelled Paul.
- Underline in verse 15 what those who live should live for.
- The word “**compels**” means to hold together similar to the action one would take against a prisoner. It’s like saying “I’m a prisoner to Christ’s love”.

Someone might say that having the message of the Gospel and keeping it to yourself is characteristic of living for yourself. We are called to live no longer for ourselves but for the Lord Jesus who died and was raised again.

Paul goes on.

¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

- Circle to whom the message of reconciliation has been committed.
- Circle the ones through whom God makes His appeal.
- An ambassador is an official representative of a foreign government. God makes us his ambassador to those without Christ to help them become reconciled to Him.

In another place, Paul gives us an insight into his motivation.

⁷ I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Ephesians 3:7-8

- In verse 7 underline how Paul became a servant of the Gospel.
- In verse 8, circle how Paul viewed himself.
- In verse 8, underline the task Paul was given to accomplish.

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:28-29

Being convinced of the facts of Jesus’ death and resurrection will lead to a concern for those who do not know.

The responsibility for sharing the message of reconciliation passes from one generation to the next. So even though God first committed the message to Paul and the Apostles, anyone who now believes in Jesus shares that responsibility.

Grace

Paul thought that it was a great honor and benefit to proclaim Jesus to those around him. Grace is defined as a special favor that is undeserved.

How do you view your responsibility to share the gospel? Do you consider witnessing as a gift of grace?

Witnessing with Your Life

Christians are to lead a life that is above reproach. Consider the following two passages:

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:4

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

Philippians 2:14-15

- In each passage, circle the qualities of life that are to characterize your life.
- Underline the characteristics of the generation in which we live.

Being blameless implies the highest standards of living. Learning and applying God's Word to your life is the best way to achieve such blamelessness. We need to be blameless because of those who are watching.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Colossians 4:5

- Circle the action requiring wisdom.
- Underline what is to be done with every opportunity.
- Outsiders are those who do not believe in Jesus.

***Your are writing a Gospel, a chapter a day,
By the deeds that you do and the words that you say.
Men read what you write – distorted or true.
What is the Gospel according to you?***

Witnessing with Words

Share the Gospel

The gospel is easily stated.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

The essential elements of the gospel are that...

- God loves us
- Christ died for sins
- Whoever believes in Jesus will have Eternal Life

Daniel's Life

The prophet Daniel was one who lived a blameless life in front of his business associates.

There are many tools that you can use to present the gospel. The **Tools** section of the vDRC web site contains three easy to use tools:

- The Bridge to Life
- The Four Spiritual Laws
- Steps to Peace with God

Using these two verses is one way to accomplish the direction Peter gave:

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

1 Peter 3:15



- Underline the thing for which we are to be prepared.
 - Circle the two qualities that we are to use in giving an answer.
- Notice that the natural result of setting Christ apart as Lord is a readiness to witness. Being ready requires nothing more than understanding the gospel and being able to state it clearly.

How you share is as important as what you share! No one was ever argued into the kingdom of God

Share Your Testimony

A personal testimony is simply your story. It relates the steps you took in coming to faith in Jesus. Your testimony is extremely powerful. Consider.

¹⁰ *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. ¹¹They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

Revelation 12:11

- In verse 10 Circle the one who has been hurled down.
- In verse 10 underline the frequency of his accusations.
- In verse 11, underline the two means by which he was overcome.
- We all know that the blood of the Lamb has great power. But right there along side the blood of the Lamb is the brethren's word of testimony. The accuser is cast down by our word of testimony!

Because it is powerful, every Christian should have a prepared testimony. We will spend the remainder of this study focusing on how to develop your testimony.

A Model to Follow

Paul's testimony is recorded in Acts 26:1-29. It is a model that can easily be followed for your own testimony.

Read Acts 26:1-29. The text can be found on the last page of this study.

Paul's story is similar to your story. The details are different, but the structure of the story is the same. The basic components of Paul's story and yours are:

- How I lived before I was a Christian
- How I became a Christian
- How my life is different as a Christian

A testimony is different than teaching or preaching. Your testimony is unique. It is about you and your path to God. Your goal is not to get someone else to follow the same path you followed. Rather it is simply to relate what path you followed and why. Consequently, your story should not be preachy.

When you write your testimony, keep in mind that the person who will be listening may not understand Christian terms. So try to avoid words like

- saved
- converted
- convicted
- born again
- sin

A story is preachy when you use "you" in the message. The story should use "I", "me" and "my" to put the focus in the right place.

Similarly, a testimony should be short. Make it your goal to finish within three minutes.

Finally, include God's Word in your testimony. If you can remember a verse that was really meaningful or that helped you make your decision, then include the verse.

Your Story

In the following space, write out your story.

Before I Became a Christian

How I became a Christian

My Life Since I Trusted Christ

You can have different versions of your testimony. A short version should contain just enough to communicate the key points. A longer version can contain more detail.

Remember, you are talking to non-Christians.

Can they relate to what you are saying?

Is this realistic?

Did you say specifically "how" you invited Jesus into your life?

Would a non-Christian know how to receive Jesus as a result of listening to your story?

Did you include a verse that helped you make your decision?

Are your examples simple and easy to understand?

Acts 26:4-27

⁴ "The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. ⁵ They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our fathers that I am on trial today. ⁷ This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. O king, it is because of this hope that the Jews are accusing me. ⁸ Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead? ⁹ I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

¹² "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. ¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

¹⁵ "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. ¹⁶ 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. ¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

¹⁹ "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. ²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. ²¹ That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. ²² But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen- ²³ that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

²⁵ "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. ²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

Paul's Life Before Christ

How He Became a Christian

How His Life Changed