

## **Get Growing - Session 5 - "Witnessing"**

- Good Evening, we are at session 5 of our Get Growing Series
- We are learning how to grow as Christians in this series on Wednesday nights
- Let's pray
- Our famous wheel diagram
- The four spokes represent the 4 fundamental activities of Christian growth
- Two vertical - our interaction with God - prayer and the Word
- Two horizontal - our interaction with others
- Tonight we look at the very important spoke called witnessing
- Two groups of people in our life as Christians
- Fellow Christians - Fellowship - your closest relationships and friendships belong right here
- Non-Christians - Witnessing / Evangelism - Sharing Christ with everyone in our life who is not a believer
- Witnessing for Christ must be a spiritual discipline

### I. Get Growing - Session 5 - Witnessing

#### A. Importance of Witnessing

- Witnessing is THE Mission of the Church
  - ▶ Witnessing for Christ is THE mission of the church
  - ▶ Just before Jesus ascended to heaven He gave The Great Commission to His disciples
  - ▶ These are our marching orders:

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 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, 20 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.

- ▶ He also spoke these words to His disciples shortly before ascending

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- ▶ We are to be witnesses for Jesus Christ, we are to evangelize the entire world, that is the mission
- ▶ That’s why we are still here on planet earth: not to make money, not to raise a family, not to be entertained and have fun, but to be witnesses
- ▶ In fact the main purpose for becoming a mature believer in Christ Jesus is to reproduce ourselves
- ▶ You get saved, you mature, you lead others to Christ, you help them mature
- ▶ Dawson Trotman was a zealous evangelist who took this spoke very seriously
- ▶ He preached a famous sermon back in 1955 entitled: “Born To Reproduce”
- ▶ His basic argument was that something is seriously wrong with a Christian who doesn’t reproduce spiritually, mature Christians reproduce!
- ▶ Dawson tried to share the gospel with at least one person every day

He would go to bed and think, I didn’t share Christ with anyone today. Get up, get dressed, go down to the store or a gas station and share the gospel with someone cold!

- ▶ We are to be witnesses, we are to grow in this fashion, we need a burden for lost souls all around our lives
- ▶ Ok so how do we witness for Christ? Well let’s consider some ways to witness, and we’ll start with the one that is the scariest for most Christians

## B. Ways of Witnessing

- Cold Calls
  - ▶ Cold call witnessing
  - ▶ This is where you just set aside some time and go witness to complete strangers
  - ▶ You and another Christian or a group of Christians go out and witness
  - ▶ You have tracts that you hand out, you have a plan of attack of some sort
  - ▶ You grab a group and you go to the mall to engage strangers
  - ▶ You go to the downtown plaza and engage strangers, hand out tracks
  - ▶ Maybe you go door to door in a neighborhood and attempt to share the gospel
  - ▶ Now this is scary at first, but it becomes much easier as you do it more
  - ▶ And I will tell you that if you want some excitement in your life, you will get it with this type of witnessing
  - ▶ Absolutely amazing, supernatural divine appointments, seeds planted, it will greatly encourage you
  - ▶ NMSU - I would go on campus with our director and just approach students and share the gospel, lead many to Christ, encouraged backslidden Christians back, incredible
  - ▶ Interesting - the Director is still doing that and he regularly refers students who live in El Paso to our church here
  - ▶ Incredible!
  - ▶ Be listening to the Holy Spirit throughout the day who will often lead you to total strangers to share the gospel with
  
- Mass Evangelism
  - ▶ Another way: get involved in those mass evangelistic efforts
  - ▶ Crusades, events, meant to bring people to Christ
  - ▶ Billy Graham Crusades, Greg Laure crusades

- ▶ Luis Paleaou did a crusade here years ago
- ▶ Frankly Graham did a crusade here several years ago
- ▶ Serve in those events, invite friends to those events, blanket the city with flyers
- ▶ The Lord has gifted the church with gifted evangelists
- ▶ Get involved in events like that
- ▶ My experience at a Greg Laurie crusade
- ▶ Another way to evangelize is to invite your friends to church, we regularly share the gospel here and lead folks in the prayer of salvation
  
- General Support of Great Commission
  - ▶ Another way, very practical way, help fund evangelistic efforts
  - ▶ Financially support crusades
  - ▶ Financially support mission organizations
  - ▶ Give volunteer support at church
  - ▶ All the different ways to be a part of a church in support of sharing the gospel
  - ▶ Christmas outreach example, VBS outreach
  
- Lifestyle Evangelism
  - ▶ And now let me speak of the most important way to be a witness, and this should be the most common and consistent way in our lives as Christians
  - ▶ Personal / Lifestyle evangelism
  - ▶ Be a witness for Christ in your day to day life, in the midst of the people you see regularly
  - ▶ A witness to your family members, your co-workers, your neighbors, your fellow students
  - ▶ Those people that you interact with in life on a consistent basis, that's your mission field!
  - ▶ Maybe you are involved in a bike club, those members are your mission field
  - ▶ Maybe you are involved in the local schools in some way
  - ▶ Maybe you are involved in some kind of sports community

- ▶ Our boys played club basketball and baseball, Lindsay played club volleyball, traveling, going to games, being a witness in the midst of that community
- ▶ Live the Christian life before them: a life of integrity, a life of Biblical morals, joy, peace, contentment, satisfaction, standing out for Jesus, shining for Jesus
- ▶ Pray for these folks, pray for opportunity to share with these folks
- ▶ Be sensitive to those who are hurting
- ▶ Be ready to share Christ with them
- ▶ Get ready to be asked questions
- ▶ Be the person in your office that people come to when in need, can you pray for me?
- ▶ This by far is the most effective means of witnessing, just in the course of your interaction with other people
- ▶ You have established credibility with them, you have friendship with them
- ▶ You can lead them to Christ and then can follow up getting them involved in spiritual growth, church attendance, mentoring them in the Christian faith
- ▶ This is one of the things that I miss most about working in a secular job
- ▶ That place, your sphere of influence is your mission field
- ▶ Shine for Jesus before them
- ▶ Look for opportunities
- ▶ Field the questions
- ▶ Warning - you will be hated by some
- ▶ Blessing - you will lead some to Christ

### C. Sharing the Gospel

- Core Message of the gospel
  - ▶ Ok now my brother and sister in Christ, it is very important then that you know how to share the gospel message
  - ▶ When you get to the point of sharing the gospel, you need to be ready, you need to know how to articulate it

- ▶ There is a God who created all things and created you and loves you
- ▶ God is Holy without sin
- ▶ We are sinners, and our sin separates us from God
- ▶ Our sin deserves condemnation and judgement
- ▶ Our sins need to be dealt with in order to get right with God
- ▶ God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and rose again the third day
- ▶ You must put your faith and trust in Christ for salvation
- ▶ You will be saved, you will have the hope of heaven when you die
- ▶ Lead them in a prayer of salvation, and have them repeat out loud after you
- ▶ Some good examples from prominent evangelists and Christian ministries

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen.

Billy Graham

Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

Campus Crusade for Christ

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I confess You as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me. Amen.

Greg Laurie

- Helpful Resources
  - ▶ There are some fantastic resources to help you share the gospel
  - ▶ The Wordless Book, using colors
  - ▶ Gold - Heaven, God loves you
  - ▶ Black - our Sin separates us from God
  - ▶ Red - the shed Blood of Christ washes away our sin
  - ▶ White - you become clean in the eyes of God, saved
  - ▶ Green - need to Grow
  - ▶ Powerful - As good as the Harvest Crusade in ABQ, great story here!
  - ▶ The Romans Road
  - ▶ Romans 3:23 - all have sinned
  - ▶ Romans 6:23 - Wages of sin, eternal life is possible
  - ▶ Romans 5:8 - Christ's sacrifice
  - ▶ Romans 10:9-10 - Believe in Jesus
  - ▶ Romans 10:13 - Call upon the Lord
  - ▶ Personal Testimony - this is probably the most effective way to share the gospel
  - ▶ Let me tell you my story
  - ▶ My past (don't dwell long on this, careful of all the sordid details)
  - ▶ I heard that Jesus died on the cross for my sins
  - ▶ I received Him as my Lord and savior
  - ▶ He changed my life
  
- Discipleship/Mentoring/Follow-Up
  - ▶ And then this idea of witnessing should continue with follow up
  - ▶ Mentoring, trying to help that person grow
  - ▶ The Wheel Diagram on a paper napkin
  - ▶ Now what are the benefits of witnessing?

## D. Benefits of Witnessing

- Joy and Excitement
  - ▶ There is great joy and excitement in being used by the Lord to lead someone else to Christ
  - ▶ Absolutely nothing like it!
  - ▶ You will become addicted! You will want to do it more and more
  - ▶ This really is the part of the Christian faith that keeps you, “young and excited” about the faith
  - ▶ Leading someone to Christ and seeing their excitement keeps you excited

Luke 15:10 (NKJV)

10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- ▶ The Joy of Heaven fills your heart, you will join in with the celebration in heaven in your heart
- Spiritual growth
  - ▶ You will grow spiritually as you witness
  - ▶ As you share your faith you will get questions, good questions, questions you never even thought about
  - ▶ Find out the answers to those questions
  - ▶ Study your Bible, ask Christians for help where you fellowship
  - ▶ As you seek to witness you will be praying for folks and praying for opportunity and praying for more sensitivity
  - ▶ You will become more dependent upon the Lord as you witness
  - ▶ So all the spokes on the wheel really work together, in fact they reinforce one another and complement each other perfectly



## Conclusion

- Ok let's close with a couple of exercises
- First get a napkin and a pin, and draw out the wheel diagram from memory - you get 5 minutes, no looking
- Now check your answers
- Get in groups and pray for a burden for lost souls, pray for sensitivity
- Pray for the salvation of someone that the Lord has placed on your radar
- Pray for a burden for lost souls
- Homework - write out your own testimony, write out how you would quickly share the gospel, practice how you might lead someone in prayer