

## HOW TO BE A WITNESS FOR GOD

This article is a challenge—it is not for the faint of heart. Believers living in the post-Rapture world will need to have formidable courage to fulfill their calling. The good news is, God will help you to be what He wants you to be.

The post-Rapture/Tribulation-era world will be the most dangerous time in history. As the seven-year Tribulation unfolds, war, pestilence, civil unrest, divine judgments and severe oppression will sweep the earth. Laws will change. Christian literature and gatherings will be banned. Worshipping the Beast (Rev. 13) will be mandated. Refusing to recant Jesus will be punishable by death. It seems that the logical choice may be to run, hide, or build a bunker. And God may, in fact, direct groups of believers to flee and hide to escape the enemy (Rev. 12). However, my best guess is that during this unprecedented time in history, God will want believers to seek opportunities to proclaim His name boldly. I believe that in a dark world, Jesus will want believers to point individuals to the Light. Will you be a bold witness for Him?

Did you know that in the original text of the New Testament (Greek), the word *Christian* and the word *martyr* are related. At this point in history, the goal for believers should not be to start well—it should be to finish well. It should not be to live long; it must be to live-out their faith. It must not be, to be safe, it must be, to be a witness. Will there be a cost? Probably. But whatever is suffered or lost in this world in the name of Christ will be rewarded in the next. Yes, great will be the reward for those who demonstrate great faith and great courage.

Jesus calls **every** believer to share their faith. A Christian is not just a believer in Christ, they are a follower-of Christ, and must try to emulate the actions of Christ. In the early days of the New Testament Church, the term *Christian* was a pejorative—as in, those folks are crazy, acting *like Christ*. To be a Christian is to be Christ-like, and Jesus Christ was a great and powerful witness. The Apostle Paul wrote that all believers should be too. To inspire a young body of believers in Rome, he wrote, "*I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...*" (Romans 1:16). Dare to be bold for God. Ask Him to guide your steps and help you see opportunities to share your faith. Do not step in front of His leading, but courageously do what the Lord leads you to do.

Good Watchmen are good witnesses—they know how to share their faith, and do. What follows are a few suggestions regarding how to grow in being a witness for the Lord.

## WHAT TO KNOW

- **All are called to serve and share.** Acts 1:8 notes that individuals receive the Holy Spirit so they can effectively *"...be [His] witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and the uttermost parts of the earth."* Though the dynamics of the Spirit's working may be different now than it was before the Rapture, I believe God will still assist and empower believers to accomplish great things in these last days. Remember, you are assisted and saved, to serve and share. God expects believers to share the insight and grace they have received from Him.
- **Be courageous but be careful.** Most are aware that one of the early Christian symbols is the image of a fish (  ). What many do not know is that this symbol originated as a secret greeting—a way to identify whether or not a person you were talking to was a believer (an important question as there were times when being a Christian was considered a crime punishable by death). In an attempt to discern if a situation was safe to talk about one's faith openly, a careful individual would subtly sweep an arc (semi-circle) in the sand. If the person you were facing was a believer and it was safe to talk about Christ, they would repeat the action (completing the image of a fish), and the conversation would move forward. I am not suggesting that every believer share only with believers, and only when it is safe. I am, however, noting that there is a place for prudence. Be bold, but do not take unnecessary risks—particularly if you do not sense God's leading to do so. Jesus commended the shrewd steward (Luke 16) and urged His disciples to be *"wise as serpents and harmless as doves..."* (Matthew 10:16).
- **Hospitality opens doors for witnessing.** We are to share the Gospel whenever and however the Lord leads. Opportunities can come at any time, and we are called to be ready for these unexpected opportunities to share. However, you can create excellent opportunities to share by showing initiative in the area of hospitality. You can create an opportunity for spiritual discussion by inviting a person over for a cup of coffee, or for a meal. The objective is to build relationships with those who do not yet believe in Christ and look for opportunities to share your faith.

- **You often have opportunities to share with those you serve.** Look for opportunities to help and serve. This may be someone who is ill or sad, or in need of assistance with a project. Be generous with your time. Invest in helping others as this will create platforms for witnessing. Remember, leading in kindness often leads to opportunities to share the Gospel.

## WHAT TO DO

- **Pray for and spend time building relationships with those who are not saved.** We tend to *listen well* to the people we *know well*. This means, our evangelistic message will likely be best received by people who know us and trust us. This also means we must *make time* to build relationships with those who do not know the Lord to be well positioned to win them to the Lord. Begin with people you know. Believe that God has put a few individuals in your circle of influence so that you can witness to them. Pray and ask God to reveal to you who those people are. Ask God for wisdom to know how to invest your time and build relationships so there will be opportunities to share your faith.
- **Share what you know.** It is tempting to reason that you should leave witnessing to the *experts*. Many defer involvement in personal evangelism thinking that first they should feel more comfortable, memorize more Scripture, acquire more training, or have more answers at the ready. The desire to learn more is commendable, but do NOT allow that desire to keep you from your duty today. An amazing witness does not need to be astoundingly articulate; A powerful witness does not need to be extremely polished—the message just needs to be true, point to Jesus, and come from the heart. Jesus invited Andrew to learn more by simply saying, “*Come and see*” (John 1:39). The Samaritan woman in John 4 was a powerful witness by simply telling others about the amazing things Jesus did. The blind man in John 9 did not have theological training but his witness was powerful when he testified of how the Lord had been good to him saying, “*One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!*” Share what you know. Practice sharing your testimony—a short version (less than 90 seconds), and a longer version. *Look* for opportunities to share, for when you seek them, you will see them.

- **Do not be afraid to share but speak *in truth and love*.** In Proverbs 10:10a we are told, "*Whoever winks the eye causes trouble...*" Our culture suggests that in the name of tolerance and peace, we should ignore sinful behavior. Proverbs 10:10 notes that the opposite is true. Further, Proverbs 24:25 notes that "*...it will go well with those who convict the guilty...*"

This does not mean condemn, reject, shame, or excommunicate, it means care enough about the wayward brother or lost person to let them know what Jesus expects. One verse later we read: "An honest answer [the truth] given is like a kiss of friendship" (Proverbs, 24:26, NLT). A true friend will share about Jesus and His promised, imminent return. It is not OK to be judgmental, but when the motive is pure, and words are spoken in love, it *is* OK to make judgments about what is right and wrong and voice truth. This is the calling of a Watchman.

- **"Do the ask."** Over the centuries many individuals (even preachers) did a fine job sharing *about* Jesus but fell short when it came to asking individuals if they are ready to surrender, confess, and enter into a relationship *with* Jesus. Watchmen will wisely and boldly *do the ask*. Pray and strive to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading in this, but always be looking for that open door to ask, "*Are you ready to become a Christian?*" Then, of course, be prepared to clearly explain what that means and how that can be accomplished.
- **Prioritize knowing the Word and knowing how to respond to common spiritual questions.** 1 Peter 3:15 notes that believers are to "*...Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*" The 1 Peter 3:15 directive is for ALL believers (not just clergy). Believers must study the Word (2 Timothy 2:15), have it embedded in their heart (Psalm. 119:11) and be ready to share it (1 Peter 3:15). It is generally true that the more spiritual answers we can provide, the more compelling our witness will be. Commit to being a lifelong learner. This will honor God, support you in your spiritual walk, and strengthen your witness. *Noted below are a few links to video teachings and articles designed to help you know how to lead someone to Christ, and respond to common spiritual questions:*
- **Consider if news headlines present an opportunity to witness.** In these last days many current events will tie into the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Read the "Bible Prophecy - Warnings and Promises from God.pdf" eBook found in Section 04 – Books and view the

prophecy videos in this Kit of material to become aware of how current events lay a foundation for, or are the fulfillment of, Bible prophecy. This is an age of skepticism; the vast majority doubt the integrity and reliability of the Bible. This is also an age when Bible prophecies are being fulfilled at a pace not seen in over 2000 years. Be aware of current events and become comfortable sharing how the fulfillment of prophecy proves the Bible is true. It will provide an open door for spiritual discussions and strengthen your witness.

- **Use social media to share God’s message.** Be careful here—there are ways for individuals to identify who is posting and sending Christian content on most computers and phones. However, prayerfully consider safe ways to utilize social media/online platforms to spread the Gospel. When posting, be wise and positive—do not use truth as a club. The goal here is to look for opportunities to post, comment, correct, inform, exhort, inspire, and encourage, all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31-33).
- **Expect opposition.** Satan knows his time is short, and he is in a rage (Rev. 12:12). His minions spy to see who is serving and sharing. They will attempt to stop the work. Doubt and discouragement are two of Satan’s favorite weapons. Do not let him steal your joy, slow you down, or hold you back from doing what God wants you to do. Consider this: If you were selected to be on a championship football team, suited up, walked on the field to play, and then came into possession of the ball, you would think it normal that members of the opposing team would chase you, try to tackle you or somehow stop you from completing your objective. And if in the game you were blocked, hit, pushed, or tackled and thrown to the ground, you would not cry foul, pout, run off the field, or tell the coach things were not fair and you wanted to quit. No, you would understand that this was all part of the game. Football players expect to be chased and hit by the opposing team. Believers should expect opposition too. Believers are not promised comfort or ease but *are* promised victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- **Expect God to move.** James 1:6-7 notes that believers should pray *expecting* that God will move. Yes, Satan will attack, but God will prevail. God has, and will continue to move on behalf of, and through, His people. We may not always be able to see His working, but we can know He has a plan (Jeremiah 29:11) and He *is* at work (John 5:17b).

In Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials is a brief video teaching on Nehemiah and the importance of having faith and believing God for a miracle.

- **Persevere.** Believe that Galatians 6:9 is true: *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*