

## Becoming a Witness

**Acts 1:8- “But you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth.”**

**Isaiah 43:10-12- “You *are* My witnesses,” says the LORD, “and My servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I *am* He. Before Me no God was formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, *even I, am* the LORD; and besides Me there is no savior. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shown, when *there was* no strange *god* among you; therefore you *are* My witnesses,” says the LORD, “that I *am* God.”**

**It is extremely pleasing to see or “witness’ the growth that is taking place in our fellowship. Listening to the praise reports last week was evidence that God is moving among His called. Our group is a fellowship. By definition, we are a companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms. We gather on the Sabbath to study the Word of God and worship Him in spirit and in truth. The open forum of our group allows us to discuss scripture and seek answers to questions that may arise. It provides an open opportunity for greater growth and understanding of God’s Word. As the two**

scriptures listed at the beginning, we can see we have been called by God to be witnesses for Him. As I like to include definitions so everyone has a clear understanding of what we're discussing, a witness is defined as:

1. One who can give a firsthand account of something seen, heard
2. Law- testify in court, evidence, etc.
3. Attest to fact, event or statement
4. One who publicly affirms religious faith.

Naturally, number four is what we're concerned with and though we have not witnessed the Biblical events first hand, we have the faith and conviction to believe they are true (John 20:29).

2 Timothy 3:15-17- "And that from a child you have known the Holy Writings, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith, which *is* in Christ Jesus. All Scripture *is* God-breathed and *is* profitable for doctrine, for conviction, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; So that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work."

Also, as we are not out publicly handing out leaflets or tracts, we affirm our faith when we are asked questions by those who may seek an answer (1 Peter 3:15).

Before we can really become good witnesses for God, we should brush up on a couple of building blocks to strengthen our witness.

## Faith

Hebrews 11:1-13- “Now faith is *the* substance of *things* hoped for, and *the* conviction of things not seen. For by this *kind of faith* the elders obtained a good report. By faith we understand that the worlds were created by *the* word of God, so that the things that are seen were made from *things* that are invisible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it, though he died, *he* is yet speaking. By faith Enoch was transported so that he would not look upon death, and was not found because God had transported him; for before his departure it was testified of him that he pleased God. Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*. For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe *that* He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, after being divinely instructed by God about the things *he could* not yet see, was moved with fear *and* prepared an ark for *the* salvation of his house; through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. By faith Abraham, being called *of God* to go out into the place which he

would later receive for an inheritance, obeyed and went, not knowing where he was going. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, like a foreigner, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the joint heirs of the same promise; For he was waiting for the city with *the* foundations of which God is *the* Architect and Builder. By faith also Sarah herself received power to conceive seed, and gave birth *when* she was *well* beyond the childbearing age because she esteemed Him faithful Who had personally promised *her a son*. Because of this *faith*, there came into being from one *man*—and moreover, *one* who was *reproductively* dead— *descendants* as numerous as the stars in the heavens, and as countless as the sand on the sea shore. All these died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them from afar, and having been persuaded of *them*, and having embraced *them*, and having confessed that they were strangers and sojourners on the earth.”

By faith, Enoch was taken away so he did not see death Genesis 5:24- “And Enoch walked with God, and then he *was* not, for God took him.” We know that Enoch walked with God and he pleased God. Hebrews 11:6- “Now without faith *it is* impossible to please *God*. For it is mandatory *for* the one who comes to God to believe *that* He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those

**who diligently seek Him.” Each of those mentioned in Hebrews 11 went through events that increased their faith.**

### **Walking with God**

**The level of our faith is a direct link to the strength of our walk with God.**

**Romans 10:17- “So then, faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing through *the* Word of God.” Our walk with God must be based on His Word. Our walk can only be pleasing to God when we are in agreement with God.**

**Amos 3:3- “Can two walk together unless they be agreed?” The only way we as a group or an individual can walk with God is if we conform our very lives to the way God walks, obeying His Commandments and Holy Days. To diligently seek Him in prayer. Not to pray in a repetitious daily chant, but an earnest, heartfelt one on one relationship, seeking His wisdom and guidance in all aspects of our life (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We must change to conform our likeness into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. When walking with Him, we must be in total agreement and submit to His will. We must seek this relationship with all our hearts for the necessary change to take place.**

**The way we walk with God is based on our personal relationship with Him, continually striving to be just like Him.**

**These points are so critical because to the level that we conduct ourselves to be like God will be the degree to which we will be a faithful witness. Jesus said “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” (John 14:9). Jesus’ walk was in perfect agreement with God the Father and He (Jesus) was called the “Faithful Witness” (Revelation 1:5, 3:14). Jesus is a true and complete representation of God the Father which is a result from walking wholly with Him.**

**The progression of examples listed in Hebrews 11, displays the proper sequence of things. Becoming the faithful witness for God occurs at the end of that progression, often involving trials, time and life’s lessons. We will never resemble God if we are not walking with Him in that personal relationship, He desires from each of us. He is our Father; we are His children. We cannot even seek Him without having a connection to Him, to be at peace and at one with Him.**

**Trying to represent God before we have a solid foundation and good understanding of Who He is and our relationship could even backfire and**

**make us a witness against God. If we fail to recognize the order and importance of setting the foundations in place and try to skip the spiritual preparations, we risk being of no use to God and possible even unfit for His Kingdom. So don't get too anxious to throw your arm out of socket and get noticed giving out Biblical wisdom. Be careful not to shoot your mouth off if your brain isn't loaded.**

**As a group, we have a sound foundation in our beliefs, rock solid on the Word of God. But if we are not walking by faith and resembling God in all our actions and conduct, we will not become a witness that is pleasing to God. As the Body of Christ is made up of individual members, each of us are unquestionably essential in our separate roles within the Body. The Body cannot faithfully execute the role of witnesses without the members first resembling God. The spiritual health and growth of the Body is greatly dependent on the spiritual health of *all* of its members.**

**If a witness keeps the 10 Commandments, the Sabbath and Holy Days, tithes and rejects false doctrines but has a temper or tells dirty jokes and insinuations, is critical of others or backbites and gossips, what kind of a witness are they? Is God smiling? Someone's conduct like this and thinking they are fit for the title of witness is simply lying to themselves much like the Laodiceans. When Jesus speaks to the Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14),**

**He introduces Himself as “the Faithful and True Witness.” He uses His title to show them where they are so sadly lacking. They are so into themselves, puffed up on pride overlooking just how wretched they really were. They did not glorify God and failed to demonstrate any holiness or being separate from the world. We know we have been called out and set apart and are to “come out from among them.” (2 Corinthians 6:17).**

**God has given us His Holy Spirit so we can fulfill His purpose. We can understand His Word and plan for us. Our primary duty God has given to those He has called and set apart is to be a witness to the rest of the world of His way of life. All of the “good Sunday church folks” are failing in this. While they may be some of the kindest people on Earth, failing to keep God’s Commandments (all of them) makes them accountable. We cannot be a witness for God if we do not do what He tells us to do (Luke 6:46).**

**The result of God’s Holy Spirit being active in our lives is that we will bear good fruit as our changes take place (Galatians 5:22-23). When we walk with God and are led by His Spirit, we will display these attributes as we grow over time.**



**Trying to witness out of the arm of the flesh will not bear the fruit God desires. You may find yourself in a boxing match with the devil or one of his minions. Faith and walking with God are essential building blocks for becoming a faithful witness. As you grow in these areas, you will be prepared to give the “ready answer” someone may so desperately need to hear. It is always best to give them the Word of God and not an editorial. Let them read it for themselves when possible, from their own Bible. It is difficult to argue a point from God’s Word from their own Bible.**

**If we have that personal relationship with God and a solid prayer life, we will have the Holy Spirit provide the words we need to share at the appropriate time. Luke 12:12- “For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in that same hour what needs to be said.”**

**We have received the Holy Spirit at baptism and if we maintain a close relationship with its Giver, we have the means to be the true and faithful witnesses that God desires and commands us to be. We will obey the laws that God gave to Israel on Pentecost and we will continue to be led by the Holy Spirit that God gifted His people with on another Pentecost, and by His grace, we will ultimately be united with the rest of the firstfruits of God's spiritual harvest. What an event that will be!**

**One of the best witnesses we can display is to let others see the light of God in us. Matthew 5:16- “In the same way also, you are to let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works, and may glorify your Father Who *is* in heaven.”**

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