

## **Personal and Corporate Witnessing**

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Joseph Carty / General

Live Ministry / Evangelism; New Believers / John 4:14

As individual enter the church and become members, we should be careful to show them that they have now been instructed to become fishers of men themselves. How can we train and employ new members to be young evangelists?

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- Discipleship
  - Baptism
  - Discipline New Members
- Fishers of Men

## The Dangers of the Pastor

Perhaps nothing has had a more crippling effect upon the mission of the church than the idea that sharing Bible truth with others is the job of the paid clergy, or of only a few “gifted” lay people.

- Paid Professionals
  - Evangelism
  - Witness

- Soul Winning

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“We have not settled our ministers over churches as pastors to any large extent. In some of the very large churches we have elected pastors, but as a rule we have held ourselves ready for field service, evangelistic work and our brethren and sisters have held themselves ready to maintain their church services and carry forward their church work without settled pastors. And I hope this will never cease to be the order of affairs in this denomination; for when we cease our forward movement work and begin to settle over our churches, to stay by them, and do their thinking and their praying and their work that is to be done, then our churches will begin to weaken, and to lose their life and spirit, and become paralyzed and fossilized and our work will be on a retreat.” A.G. Daniells in an address to a ministerial institute in Los Angeles, California, in March, 1912.

### **Witnessing is not a spiritual gift.**

- Every Christian
  - should be witnessing.
- When calling first disciples,
  - Jesus made promise:

### **Mark 1:17 ESV**

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”

- **If we have chosen**
  - **to become His disciples**
- **then we have chosen**
  - **to become fishers of men**
- Key Passage
  - Jesus talking to
    - woman at the well.

**John 4:10 ESV**

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

- The gospel is transformational
- Woman debates

**John 4:11-12 ESV**

The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.”

- Fighting conviction with debate

- Jesus answers:

[John 4:13-14](#) (ESV)

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again...

- This water
  - that Jesus has
    - will change your life
      - forever!
  - nothing else compares.

- Jesus continues:

[John 4:14](#) (ESV)

... The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- What happens?

- the person who
- takes Jesus water...
  - **becomes a water fountain for others!**
- One minute
  - you are receiving
    - drinking at fountain
- Next minute,
  - you are a fountain
    - other drinking from you.

No sooner is one converted than there is born within him a desire to make known to others what a precious friend he has found in Jesus.

— Desire of Ages, p. 141

- Greatest gift to give
  - to new convert (or old)
    - teach them
      - calling of mission.

- David said same
  - Psalm of forgiveness

**Psalm 51:12-13 ESV**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

- If you
  - forgive
  - restore
  - transform
    - me.
- I'll be
  - greatest witness
    - of transformation.
      - for others.

- Jesus said about his disciples:

**Acts 1:8 ESV**

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.”

- What is a witness?
  - comes from court
  - to testify about case.

- The key to witnessing
  - you must talk!!!

- People say:

| I witness by smiling to people and holding the door open.

- Being polite and loving
  - is important...

- But by itself
  - misses the mark.
- Witnesses testify about
  - their experience
  - the truth

**Acts 22:15 ESV**

for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

- If you only smile
  - and are kind
  - but never say anything...
    - You are not a witness..
- Jesus,
  - speaking to disciples:

**Mark 16:15 ESV**

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.



- To “preach the gospel”
  - refers not merely to
    - preaching pulpit,
- but, proclaiming God’s Word
  - whether publicly
  - or personally.

- In Acts all church members

[Acts 8:4](#) (ESV)

... went about preaching the word.

- Not just pastors
- not just elders
- not those with that gift
- All believers
  - proclaimed the word!

- The Hindrances:
  - Lack of experience,
  - Poor memory,
  - Introverted personality
  - Fear of failure
  
- We may forget
  - it wasn't easy for
    - original disciples.
  
- They were fishermen
  - not seminary graduates!
  
- They were also scared
  - But what did they do?
  - they prayed for boldness!

**Acts 4:29 ESV**

And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness,

- We have objection
  - Mostly Fear
    - Fear of rejection.
- We need motivation:
- Two great motivators
  - Fear
  - Love
- Jesus chose love:

**Matthew 9:36 ESV**

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- Motivated by love
  - compassion
  - heart roused
- Jesus continues

**Matthew 9:37–38 ESV**

Then he 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.”

- People are there
  - they want truth
- Problem
  - not enough workers.
  - not enough compassion
    - for the lost
- Speaking to Pastors
  - instructed to:

**Christian Service Chapter 7—Co-operation of Ministers and Laymen**

Help all to see that as receivers of the grace of Christ they are under obligation to work for Him. And let all be taught how to work. Especially should those who are newly come to the faith be educated to become laborers together with God.—Testimonies for the Church 9:82.

- Gospel work not
  - just a good idea
  - just a privilege

- But
  - obligation.

**Romans 1:14 ESV**

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

- Paul said:
  - “obligation”
  - not optional
- Why
  - because we are
    - Christians
    - Like-Christ
- When filled with Jesus
  - we do like Jesus
- Jesus changed my life

- I have to share that!
- Prophet Jeremiah
  - told to be quite
  - stop speaking truth
- His response:

**Jeremiah 20:9 ESV**

If I say, "I will not mention him,  
 or speak any more in his name,"  
 there is in my heart as it were a burning fire  
 shut up in my bones,  
 and I am weary with holding it in,  
 and I cannot.

- Jeremiah can't keep silent
- Those fill with Jesus love
  - **Can't Keep Silent!!!**

- After Jesus death
  - disciple preaching
    - threatened...
    - stop preaching
      - or else...

- Their response:

**Acts 4:18–20 ESV**

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

- Breaks my heart
  - to think.
- All 12 apostles
  - faced martyrdom
    - gave their life to preach
- Yet we,

- struggle to find time...
- Something is wrong...

## Fringe Benefits

- Witnessing is not
    - all hardship
    - no joys.
  - There are many
    - “Fringe Benefits”
      - to this job.
1. Joy of Seeing Souls Saved
  2. Development of Spirituality and Devotion
  3. Increased Knowledge of the Truth
  4. Strength to Resist Evil
  5. Development of Christ-like Character



6. Fitness for Heaven

7. Growth in Spirituality

### **Joy of Seeing Souls Saved**

- True reward of this life

### **Development of Spirituality and Devotion**

- We grow personally

### **Increased Knowledge of the Truth**

- Learning by Teaching

Orienteering

### **Strength to Resist Evil**

“Strength to resist evil is best gained by aggressive service” (The Acts of the

Apostles, p. 105).

## **Development of Christ-like Character**

- Question:

Do you want to be like Jesus?

“In order for us to develop a character like Christ’s, we must share in His work”  
— The Desire of Ages, p. 142

## **Fitness for Heaven**

- In helping other
  - to be ready for Christ
  - we are made ready.

“Those who reject the privilege of fellowship with Christ in service, reject the only training that imparts a fitness for participation with Him in glory”  
Education, p. 264

## **Growth in Spirituality**

“Let ministers teach church members that in order to grow in spirituality, they must carry the burden that the Lord has laid upon them—the burden of leading souls into the truth” Christian Service, p. 69

## Conclusion

- There is no greater work.
- No more fulfilling work.
- No more urgent work.
- No more eternal work.
  - Than the work of soul saving.
- God commanded that we focus our efforts on this work.

[Matthew 28:19–20](#) (ESV)

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...

- But He left us with a great promise:
  - last sentence:

[Matthew 28:20](#) (ESV)

... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- God will bless this work!

## Appeal

- Share your testimony of what God has done for you.
- Distribute truth-filled tracts and literature.
- Distribute DVDs on Bible prophecy.
- Study a weekly series of Bible lessons with someone.
- Host a weekly small group Bible study or DVD viewing in your home.