

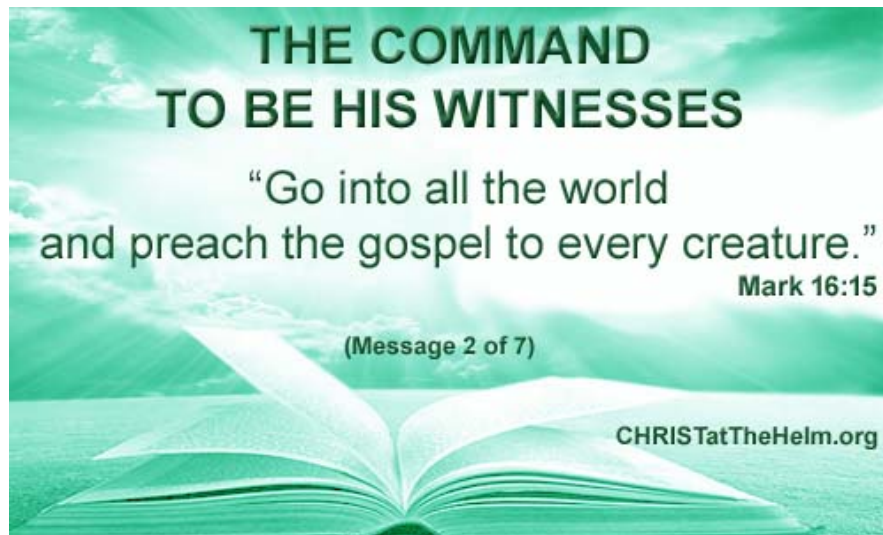
What does it mean to be a witness? In the world, it is described as a person who sees an event, and in a court of law gives a testimony to afford evidence. The purpose is to help a judge in establishing guilt or innocence. As a result of this testimony a judge, according to the law only, is able to establish whether the law has been upheld or broken.

Similarly, to be a witness for Christ is to share and testify to the knowledge of Christ through His Word. Our purpose must be to bring God's path of salvation to people, in order for them to be rendered innocent of sin through surrendering their life to Christ Jesus, or found guilty and separated from God for eternity.

Pro 14:25 says, "A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful *witness* speaks lies." Interestingly, we find that in both material and spiritual life, there is a possibility of encountering false witnesses, the reason Jesus said in John 8:15-18, "My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I *am* with the Father who sent Me. It is also written in your law that the testimony of two men is true." Paul confirmed this in 2Cor 13:11, "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

Are we committed, faithful and true witnesses for Christ?

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When discussing our duty to be Christ's witnesses, I sometimes hear people say, "I haven't been called to be a preacher. Jesus appointed His apostles to do that, and now pastors and evangelists have this responsibility."

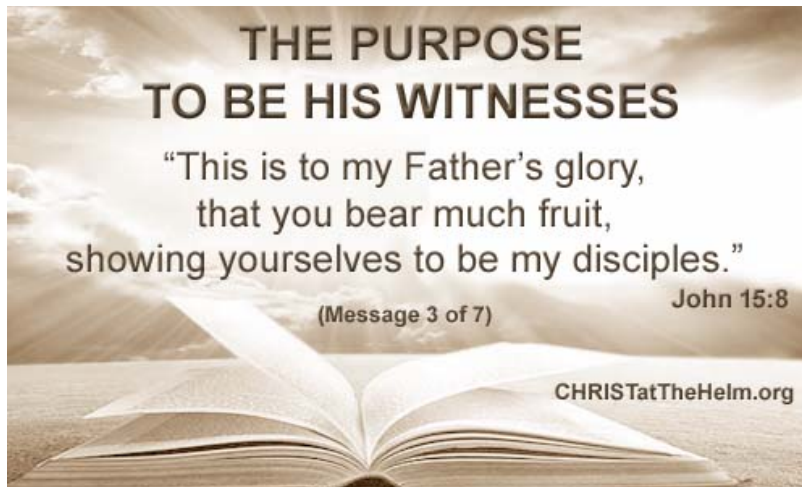
Let's ask ourselves this question, "Who is the person that first shared the message of Christ with us?" Was it a friend, relative, neighbor or even co-worker who first testified to us on the message of salvation, or at least invited us to hear the message from a trained pastor/evangelist?

While we may not all possess the gift of teaching the Word of God, as true believers in Christ we all have the responsibility to both live as Christ taught us, and share the message of salvation with friends, neighbors, the world around us, or simply invite them to come hear the message from trained servants of Christ.

Jesus gave this command to His disciples after His resurrection, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." (John 20:1) In addition, Jesus added in Luke 12:8, "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God."

Are we afraid to confess Christ to others? How determined are we to share Christ with the world around us?

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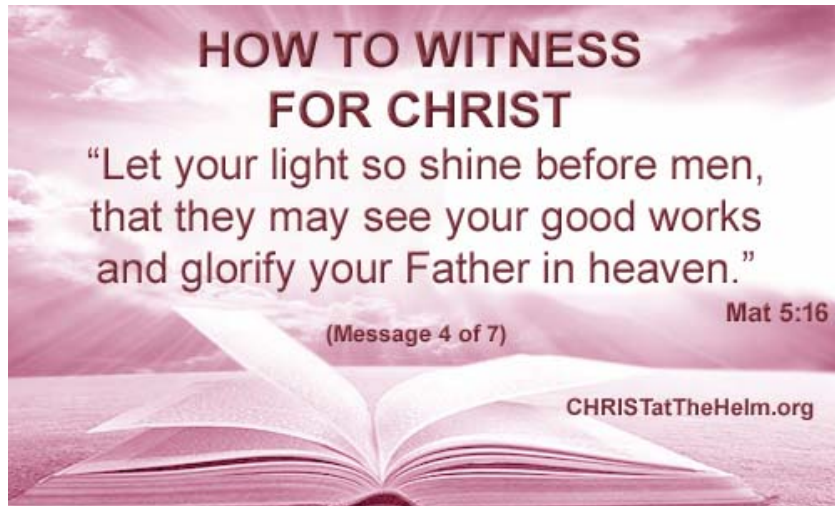
In the parable of the true vine, Jesus said “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.” (John 15:1-2)

Jesus made it clear that the proof we belong to Him is found in the fruit that we bear to God's glory. Those who do not bear any fruit are no more than a weed trying to live off a plant, and therefore will be cut off. As true believers, we must feed on the Word of God so we can grow into a living branch of the Vine, producing fruit to the glory of God.

Then, Jesus added in Mark 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” In essence, we are to be bearing fruit by being His witnesses to a lost and dying world that needs salvation. Why? Jesus said, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3) He added, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” (Mat 24:14)

How much spiritual fruit do we bear right now so as to draw a spiritually dying world we live in, to turn to Christ for salvation?

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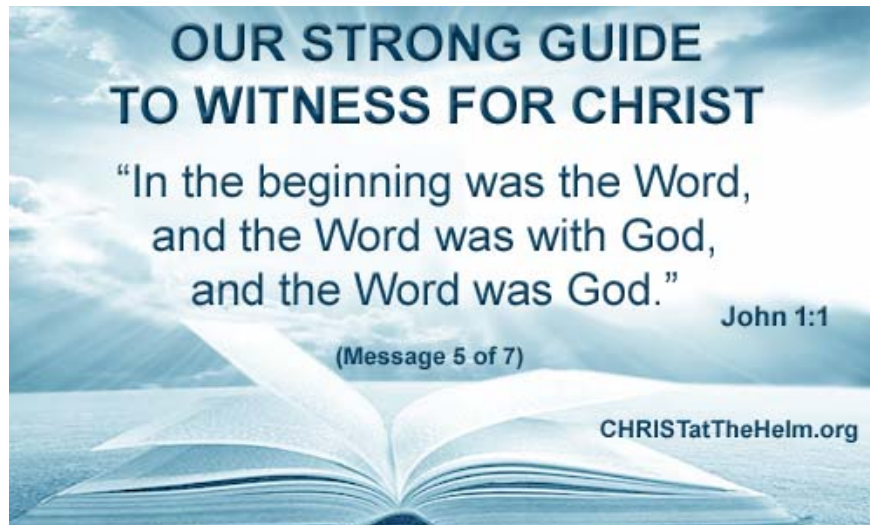


Just as the greatest proof of salvation is found through our regenerated life in Christ in bearing fruit, the greatest testimony for Christ is exactly how we live in light of His teachings, His Word. That's why Peter said, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (1Peter 3:15)

In essence, people must be able to see a transformed life in us so they can be drawn to Christ. Additionally, we must feed our spirit on God's Word through the ministry of pastors and teachers, so we can be equipped to share God's plan of salvation with the world around us. Paul in Rom 12:17 said, "So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Then he added: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2Tim 2:15)

In other words, we must become a worker for Christ through knowledge of His Word, and share the true message of salvation with the lost. And it all starts with a transformed life to the glory of God, which shines His light through us, to the world around us. How brightly does Christ's light shine through us right now?

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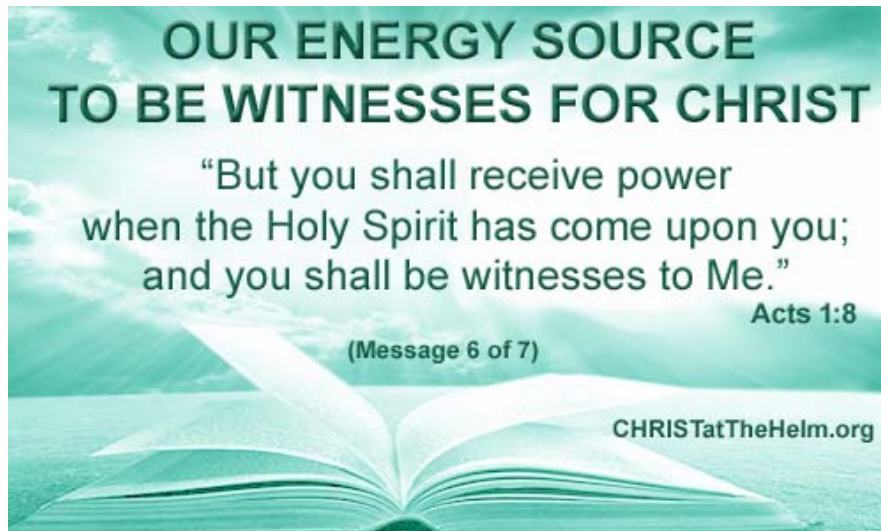


As believers in Christ, what is our ultimate credible and sure source of information to equip ourselves with the knowledge and ability to be witnesses for Christ in this spiritually dying world? Obviously, God's Word is the answer, and is also referred to as Christ Himself. Christ is the Word of God, and He was sent to us to give us the only way to God for salvation. In John 3:16, Jesus made it clear when He said, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." So, the knowledge that Christ gave us is the pure will and intent that God has for this world.

In 2 Tim 3:16 Paul said, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." In essence, we have the one and only true source of knowledge to guide us in our lives, and to inspire us to live according to what Christ taught us. It also becomes the strong and powerful tool for us to become His witnesses as the Word enjoins us.

The big questions to ask ourselves are, how much effort do we put into learning what the Lord desires from us? Then, how much effort do we put into sharing Christ's message?

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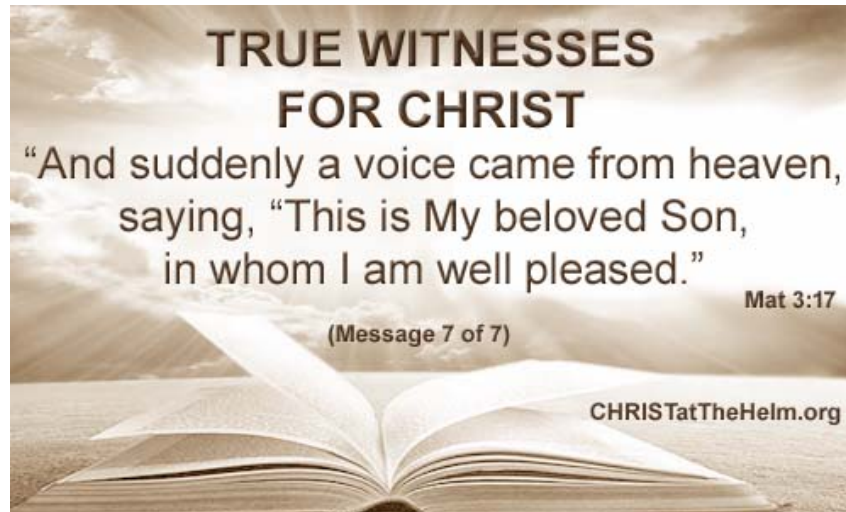
Luke repeated the message of Jesus to the Christians in Acts 1:8, telling them that through the power of the Holy Spirit, they would be energized to be His witnesses to the world. Isn't it what still goes on, over 2,000 years after Jesus went back to the Father?

In Acts 5:32 Luke added, “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” In clear terms, the power to convict of sin and produce repentance in people is never because of how intelligent, convicting or wise in the natural a person is. Rather, the only power able to convict a person of sin is through the Holy Spirit that is imparted to those who truly believe in and follow Christ.

That's why in John 15:26 Jesus said, “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” Truly, our testimony is simply the channel that God uses to shine the light of Christ without any effort on our part. Our duty is to simply be a willing servant to allow God's Spirit to reach out to the lost.

Feel inadequate, insecure, or even unworthy? “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2Tim 1:7)

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The Word of God shows us that true witnesses for Christ are messengers who guide people to the light, Christ Himself, and not to themselves. In essence, the only focus must be Christ, His sacrifice, and the salvation that is offered through repentance and surrender.

That’s why John 1:6-8 says, “There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.” As well, in John 3:30, John the Baptist said, “He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”

In other words, all glory in witnessing belongs to God and Christ. Additionally, just as with the apostles and those who followed Christ, our responsibility is to be His true witnesses, always seeking to bring Christ to the surface in our lives, activities, work, family and even our thoughts. Then, through the way we live and whenever the Holy Spirit inspires and guides us to do so, people can see the power of Christ in our lives as we share the gospel message.

Paul said, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.” (Heb 2:3) How ready, willing and determined are we to be His true faithful witnesses?

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