

## **DISCIPLESHIP COURSE**

### **PART VIII: WITNESSING**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 1:8

**PURPOSE:** One of the most important things we can do for others is to tell them or to direct them to Jesus and to what God has done for us "IN CHRIST". To understand this and what it means to be a witness is the purpose of this lesson.

**LESSON:** A witness or to be a witness is not just something we do or say. A witness is something WE ARE. While it includes what we say and do, it definitely has to do with WHO WE ARE and HOW WE LIVE. Who we are determines how we live. When we KNOW JESUS and HE has CHANGED OUR INNERMAN (Our Spirit) we will BE A WITNESS for or unto HIM. We will point or direct men to CHRIST by the WAY we LIVE, our ATTITUDES, WHAT WE SAY and WHAT WE DO. In short, our whole life will BE a witness to JESUS.

#### **I. THE DEFINITION OF WITNESS:**

A. "MARTUS" or "MARTUR": "English, 'MARTYR', one who bears witness by his death." The term denotes one who can or does state POSITIVELY or AFFIRMS what HE has SEEN or HEARD or KNOWS. Thus we have "TESTIMONY"; "TO TESTIFY".

B. The term also includes within its meaning one, who even at the point of suffering torture and physical death can not help but testify to the TRUTH he KNOWS. (Acts 4:13-21).

C. It also has a much deeper meaning. Every DISCIPLE HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST and our relationship to HIM in HIS DEATH causes us to also be related to HIM in HIS LIFE. (Gal. 2:20 & Rom. 6:1-10) Thus the LIFE OF CHRIST within every true believer causes us to BE A WITNESS unto HIM. Even more so as we appropriate His Life and Loose ours. "He MUST increase, but I MUST decrease." (John 3:30)

#### **II. THE RESULTS OR EVIDENCES OF BEING A WITNESS:**

A. We bear witness or TESTIFY to the fact that HE IS ALIVE.

1. We do so by our LIVES. People will see a person who knows JESUS and the way they live for HIM and they will know that THEY HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT from the world. The believers LIFE gives evidence that there is a force or power within them and about them that makes them PECULIAR.

2. We do so by our WORDS. The true Christian can not keep his mouth shut. His words, his expressions of praise, his lack of cursing and bitterness, murmuring and complaining, ALL give him away. HE CANNOT HIDE WHO HE IS.

3. We do so by our ACTIONS. The way we act toward others, the way we react to circumstances and situations of life, the way we hold up under stress and our attitude of peace, joy and happiness ALL SPEAK OF WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND INDICATE TO OTHERS THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING OR SOMEONE THAT THEY NEED. We of course KNOW WHO that SOMEONE is, JESUS!!!

4. The way or manner that we conduct ourselves in all the situations and circumstances of life indicate that there is a LIFE within us that enables us to LIVE above ALL the THINGS of this life. Because the way A CHRISTIAN handles his affairs and holds up under difficult circumstances and situations of life IS BEYOND HUMAN ABILITY.

B. We bear witness or TESTIFY to HIS LOVE.

1. Since we are forgiven and accepted in the BELOVED we indicate HIS LOVE for US in our assurance, firm reliance, peace and joy unspeakable and full of glory. Our attitudes of CONFIDENCE and ASSURANCE IN HIM will sometimes upset some of those who DO NOT KNOW HIM.

2. Because of HIS love and acceptance of US we can LOVE and accept others. His LOVE is shed abroad in OUR HEARTS and flows over into our LIVES where it is manifested by our ATTITUDES and ACTIONS toward others, even OUR ENEMIES. The way we treat others, the many ways we help others with our encouragement, our help in their time of need i.e. food, clothing, money, support of any kind etc. all testify to HIS LOVE. When we are KIND, GENTLE, HUMBLE, UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANT, FORGIVING, NOT ENVOIOUS, NOT JEALOUS, NOT BOASTFUL, PROUD, ARROGANT, CONCEITED, NOT SELF-SEEKING, TOUCHY, FRETFUL, RESENTFUL and DO NOT INSIST IN OUR OWN WAY we testify to HIS LOVE and HIS LIFE WITHIN. (See 1 Cor. 13 in the Amplified Bible)

C. We bear witness or TESTIFY to HIS POWER.

1. Of course ALL of the above attitudes and actions we have spoken of bear witness to HIS POWER because they are all beyond our human abilities.

2. The POWER of the HOLY GHOST or SPIRIT as mentioned in our memory verse is the RESURRECTION POWER OF GOD. (Eph.1:19-20) This is the mighty POWER within the BELIEVER which enables him to live as we just described.

3. When we cooperate with the HOLY SPIRIT in our lives HE will produce HIS FRUIT in our lives. He will impart SPIRITUAL GIFTS and thus make witness of GOD'S POWER to save and to deliver. People, especially those who knew us before will see what GOD has done in and with our lives; they will also hear from us what GOD has done and is doing and they will KNOW that the POWER is of GOD not of us and that HIS POWER can change their lives also.

4. Our lives, our actions and our words also TESTIFY to HIS power to DELIVER. God can do anything. He has delivered and still does DELIVER people from DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DEMONS, MENTAL PROBLEMS, WORRIES, DEPRESSION, SUICIDE, and thousands of other problems to numerous to mention.

5. The Christian's life will also bear witness to God's POWER TO HEAL and to perform MIRACLES. The book of Acts and many other passages of scripture bear this out. God bears witness through signs and wonders to HIS SAVING, HEALING AND DELIVERING POWER. HE bears witness by these that HIS message and the messenger is faithfully delivering HIS WORD. (Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:4 etc.)

### **III. CONCLUSION:**

A. There will be no questions concerning this study. There could be many which would stimulate us to think but we will let you ask your own questions under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. As you can see there are many ways to be a witness and a witness is something you are. If you are a Christian then you are a WITNESS. You can be a better one if you will cooperate with the HOLY SPIRIT. Learn to hear HIS voice and to follow HIS directions.

THANK YOU!

GOD BLESS YOU!

ISN'T JESUS WONDERFUL!