

# Witnessing

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Most messages on witnessing emphasize 15% of the work and not the primary 85%.
- B. God's commands are not burdensome, but joyous. (1 John 5:3)
- C. Witnessing should be a joyous experience.

II. Scriptures: I Corinthians 3:6-9, Luke 8:11, John 4:35, Jeremiah 26:17, Exodus 14:4, James 1:18.

## III. Conclusions:

- A. The seed we sow is the Word of God.
- B. The soil is the heart.
- C. There are at least four kinds of hearts: hardened, honest, preoccupied and shallow.
- D. Man has six responsibilities: sow, plant, water, cultivate, fertilize and harvest. Some may overlap.
- E. God plows and prepares the soil of men's hearts and causes the Word to become life.

## IV. God's part.

- A. Evangelism is considered drudgery because we overestimate what we are supposed to do in contrast to what God is supposed to do.
- B. Many say that God is not doing his job because there is war, social injustice and human suffering.

1. However it is not through grace that people learn righteousness. (Isaiah 26:10)

2. God must be evaluated according to His own objectives. (Acts 28:28)

3. God's primary objective in this age is to take a people for His name out of the Gentiles and He does it through war, social injustice and human suffering - people learn righteousness through these elements.

4. God is in the business of plowing and preparing human hearts.

C. God has been at work plowing and preparing long before we come along.

D. Our job is to sow the seed.

V. Three kinds of evangelism.

A. Disarming evangelism.

1. This should occupy most of our effort. It comes from Matthew 5:41. One serves people and they want to know why he is different. (1 Peter 3:15) It gives the person credibility and it opens the door for the gospel. The messenger is the message.

B. Cold evangelism.

1. This can be simply giving out a tract.
2. This can be having a discussion with someone on an airline.
3. Many have been converted through this.
4. Dawson Trotman's original group was always armed with a tract for witnessing.
5. One has to be prepared for a variety of circumstances.

C. Structured evangelism.

1. This includes church evangelism, missions work, etc.
2. Everyone should be involved in some sort of structured evangelism.
3. This should probably include 10% of your evangelism. Disarming evangelism is preferred. "The only gospel some men will read is the gospel according to you."

Application questions.

1. What is God's part in evangelism? What is your own?

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2. How can one distinguish between the three types of evangelism? Why are all important?

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3. Who comes to mind when you think of serving for an opportunity to share the gospel? Be intentional: write down at least two things you plan to do for that person in the next two weeks.

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