

THE IMPORTANCE OF WITNESSING

The word witness in the Greek signifies "one that gives testimony to the truth at the expense of his life." Many precious saints of God in the past have done just that, and even today in some countries to be a Christian can mean imprisonment or death.

Fortunately in this land we can still boldly confess our faith, tho' it may not be for long. When we make a decision to follow Christ, it is essential that we witness to this fact. It will strengthen our faith, and God requires it of us, and who knows how many people have been saved simply because of the witness of people who are not ashamed to do so.

Jesus command to his disciples was "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." **Mark 16-15.** We are not all called to be Evangelists, but we are all called to be witnesses. Jesus said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the Earth" **Acts 1-8.**

Relying on the Holy Spirit, who is our Helper, we must exercise our faith and "step out" and boldly proclaim our faith; our faith and witness must go together. Your witness can mean the salvation of a sinner and save a soul from Hell! Peter said in **Acts 5-32** "We are His witnesses of these things, and so also is the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey Him." (So we are without excuse)

Jesus said "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him also will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven; but whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in Heaven." **Matt. 10-32/3.** Let us not be ashamed of our faith, but always be ready to testify of it!

This is the true story of a young lady who was asked to come to a tent Evangelistic Revival campaign in Sth. America; she was convicted and went forward to give her heart to the Lord; in the prayer tent her counsellor told her that now she was a Christian, she must also be a witness and said (I thought this was a tall order)

"Now before you go to bed tonight, tell someone of your conversion". So Mary, (not her real name) thought, when I go outside I will find someone to witness to, but when she went out everyone was preoccupied, so she thought, when I get in the bus to go home, I will find someone, but again everyone was busy, so she thought when I get out there will be someone to speak to, but same result; so finally she opened the door of her unit, where she lived; but she was supposed to tell someone "before she went to bed" (Then God stepped in) and the thought same to her I can ring someone.

Not knowing of anyone in particular, she thought "I will open the phone book, close my eyes and put my finger on a number." So she did, and rang the number randomly selected; the phone rang for a while, and then a gruff voice answered and said "what are you ringing me for, what do you want?" Mary was taken aback but bravely told them of her conversion that night. There was a pause, and then in a broken voice a man said, "My wife and I are sitting at a table with two cups of poison, and we were just about to drink them, we were so fed up with life, we just wanted to end it all, and now you tell us about this" So Mary said, why don't you come to the meeting tomorrow night instead, So they did, and found the Lord, and remained true to Him.

So that night two souls were saved from Hell. I cannot give you a greater reason for witnessing to our Wonderful Saviour and God. Your testimony can do likewise.

Alfred Curtis, August 2020