

Witnessing

*For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things
which you have seen and heard.*

Acts 22:15

1. The things which we have seen and heard

Acts 4:20

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

1 John 1:3a

That which we have seen and heard we report also to you...

2. Immediately

Acts 9:20

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, that this One is the Son of God.

John 4:28-29

Then the woman left her waterpot and went away into the city, and said to the people, Come, see a man who told me all that I have done. Is this not the Christ?

3. Indiscriminately

Mark 4:3, 4a, 5a, 7a, 8a

Listen! Behold, the sower went out to sow... some *seed* fell beside the way... other *seed* fell on the rocky place... other *seed* fell into the thorns... others fell into the good earth...

Romans 1:14-15a

I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to foolish; So, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also...

4. A joyful life

Acts 13:49, 52

And the word of the Lord was carried through the whole region... And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Witnessing

The things which we have seen and heard

What is witnessing? In Acts 22:15 the Lord sent Ananias to speak to Paul: "For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard." From this we see that the basis of witnessing is what we have seen and heard. You cannot be a witness to what you have not seen with your own eyes or heard with your own ears. Paul saw something with his own eyes and heard something with his own ears. God charged him to be a witness of what he had seen with his own eyes and heard with his own ears. First John 4:14 tells us what witnessing is: "We have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world." A person is a witness to what he has seen. Thank God, you have believed in the Lord. You have met Him, believed in Him, received Him, and gained Him. You are saved. You have been delivered from sins, received forgiveness, and obtained peace. Now that you have believed in the Lord, what joy you possess. This joy is something which you did not have before. Formerly, how heavy was the load of sin upon you! But now, thank God, this load of sin is gone. You have seen and heard something. What should you do today? You should testify of your experience. This does not mean that you have to leave your job to be a preacher. It means that you should witness to your friends, relatives, and acquaintances of what you have seen and heard, and bring them to the Lord.³

Immediately

All those who have seen that they are sinners surely have a testimony to give. Those who have seen the Savior also have a testimony to give. The woman in John 4 gave her testimony within a few hours after she had met the Lord. It was something that happened on the same day, not something that happened a few years later when she returned from a revival meeting. She witnessed to others immediately after she returned to the city. Once a person is saved, he should tell others what he has seen and understood immediately. Do not speak what you do not know, and do not give a long discourse. Just tell them what you know. This is all you need to testify; you only have to tell others how you feel.¹

Gospel preaching is different from any other work. Teaching the truth requires absolute accuracy, but preaching the gospel does not necessarily require accuracy. It only requires that people be saved. Some brothers are very accurate when they preach, but people are not saved. Others seem to speak nonsensically, yet people are saved. I am not encouraging us to teach wrong doctrines, but I want us to see that leading people to salvation does not fully depend on our accurate preaching of the truth. The preaching may be good and correct, but people may not get saved. A newly saved brother may be unclear concerning the Bible and unable to give a message, but as long as he preaches, people will be saved.²

Indiscriminately

You have seen and heard something, so you must witness

In Luke 24:47, the Lord tells the disciples that "repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...". In Matthew 28:19 the disciples are commanded to "Go therefore and disciple all the nations..." Mark 16:15 even says to "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to all the creation." The gospel is not for those whom we consider "good candidates", the gospel is for all men, even for the whole creation. Our living should just be to preach the gospel wherever we go. Whether in season or out of season, we should testify for the Lord, speak Christ, and proclaim the gospel (2 Tim. 4:2). This should be manifested in our living throughout the day.

A joyful life

The two happiest days in every believer's life are the day he believes in the Lord and the day when, for the first time, he leads another person to Christ. The first one, of course, is a particularly happy day. However, the joy of leading another person to the Lord for the first time may be greater than the joy experienced on the day of his own salvation. Many Christians do not have much joy because they have never spoken anything for the Lord; they have never led a person to the Lord.⁴

In John 15:11 the Lord said, "These things I have spoken to you that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be made full" (v. 11). To be branches of the divine vine and to

Key Verses

- Acts 9:20* And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, that this One is the Son of God.
- Acts 4:20* For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
- Romans 1:14-15* I am debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to foolish; So, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also who are in Rome.
- Acts 22:15* For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

bear fruit to express the divine life is a matter of joy—a joyful life. Many saints have had the experience of being in ecstasy when they have baptized one into the Triune God. They have testified that after bringing one to the Lord, they were unable to sleep well throughout the whole night because the Lord's joy had become their joy.

First Thessalonians 2:19-20 says, "For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting? Are not even you, before our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy." In John 15:11 the Lord refers to our joy being made full. In 1 Thessalonians 2 Paul refers to our joy again. What is our joy? Our joy is the fruit that we bear. These two portions of the Word are related. In John 15 and in 1 Thessalonians 2, we have these two words—glory and joy. To Paul the fruit borne by him was his glory and his joy.⁵

Assignment

Make a list of your friends and a definite plan to witness to them some of the things that have seen and heard in the Bible Study. Pray with your companions before speaking.

Prayer Assignment

Pray that the Lord would lead you into the joy of a life of witnessing.

Additional Daily Verses

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Acts 9:20	John 4:28-29	Acts 22:15	Mark 4:3, 14	Romans 1:14-15	John 15:11	Proverbs 11:25

Weekly Memorization Verses

Acts 22:15

For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.

Proverbs 11:25

The blessing soul will prosper, and he who waters will also be watered himself.