

WITNESSING

Witnessing is an essential part of being a believer in Christ. What does it mean to witness? The apostle Paul was commissioned by Christ in Acts 22:15: “For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.” As believers, we have all seen something of Christ that we can testify to others, and we should witness what we have seen and heard from Him. Let us look at some examples from the Bible:

<u>John 1:43,45:</u> ...He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, Follow Me...Philip found Nathanael and said to him, We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote, Jesus, the son of Joseph, from Nazareth.	In these verses, we see that as soon as Jesus called Philip, he went and found his friend Nathanael. Philip did not use many verses to back up his speech; he simply said that he had found the One. We do not need to have extensive knowledge of the Bible or any other spiritual books; we just need to testify of what we have seen and heard to others, even to our friends.
<u>John 4:28-29:</u> 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?	This passage concerns a Samaritan woman who was thirsty and unsatisfied with her life. In Jesus, however, she found eternal satisfaction. Immediately, she left the well and went back to testify to the ones in her city about the man that she had found.
<u>Acts 9:19-20:</u> And once he had taken food, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples in Damascus for some days. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, that this One is the Son of God.	Although he had previously persecuted the believers relentlessly, after his salvation Paul did not hesitate to publically proclaim the gospel in the synagogue. In this example, we see that Paul preached to others, even strangers. We should be those who are so excited after our salvation that we immediately preach to strangers!

Further Example: Household salvation is something that many Christians have counted as a blessing from the Lord Jesus, but what exactly is it? In this section, we will take a look at various examples of household salvation in the Bible to get a grasp on what it means. Hopefully, at the end you will have a solid idea of what household salvation involves from different angles and be able to put this into practice.

<u>John 1:40-42:</u> One of the two who heard this from John and followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found the Messiah (which translated means Christ). He led him to Jesus...	These verses show household salvation among brothers. Usually, this salvation involves testifying or speaking, as occurred in v. 41 when Andrew found and told his brother Simon that he had found the Messiah.
<u>Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:31:</u> And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.	This particular example is taken from the promise that Paul and Silas gave to the Philippian jailer after they were freed. According to one Christian commentator, Guzik, we should “to trust Him for the salvation of our families.” We need to trust in God for the salvation of our families.
<u>Lydia - Acts 16:15:</u> And when she was baptized, as well as her household, she entreated us, saying, If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and abide. And she constrained us.	This shows that when people are saved, they are more likely to open up their house and allow others to stay with them. Biblically, Lydia was a wealthy lady who sold purple dyes. After she received the Lord, however, she opened up to Paul's speaking. Household salvation here seems to entail an opening of a physical household to the believers.
<u>Mark 5:19:</u> And He did not allow him, but said to him, Go to your house, to your own people, and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.	This verse is drawn from the story of the demon-possessed man Jesus cured near Decapolis. Jesus tells this man to go home and proclaim what He has done for him. This shows Jesus' charge to proclaim to one's household, and to others, the wonderful ways of Jesus' healings. Here, even a healed demon-possessed man (like us) can proclaim the gospel to his family and friends.

Conclusion: As believers, who have been shown great mercy and grace from God, we have the obligation of bringing others to Christ and their salvation. In addition, the examples from the Bible emphasize that believers went to testify of Christ to others immediately after their salvation! This immediate action should be our example as well: our initial belief should spontaneously produce a desire within us to preach to others immediately.

In addition, we can see household salvation as a great example in the Bible of witnessing. Household salvation includes brothers preaching to brothers, an opening of a physical household to other believers, and a charge to proclaim and report the things that have happened to us. In all of these verses, the believer witnesses to his family immediately after his salvation! Praise the Lord that he Lord's plan and operation are surely amazing!

Further Questions to Consider:

1. How should you witness to your family and friends?
2. Have you ever felt the Lord's leading to witness?
3. What do you think hinders you the most from witnessing? How can you overcome these hindrances?