

Step 12 — "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to CARRY this MESSAGE to OTHERS, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Witnessing Tips

This part of our Step 12 study will be on "carrying the message to others." What is the "message" that we want to carry to others, JUST the message of the Twelve Steps? No, we as Christians have a priority, given to us from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, to carry His Gospel (that means good news) to the whole world (Matthew 28:19-20). There are two basic types of witnessing or soul-winning: 1.) Friendship Witnessing, and 2.) Door-to-Door or Crowd Witnessing. The first type is to friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors that you see and talk to on a regular basis. The second is to strangers, people whom you may never see again, unless you lead them to the Lord and will see them in heaven. **The message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is always the same**, but there are differences in HOW to present the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ to those we see on a regular basis.

Some Things that are the Same for Both Types of Witnessing:

1.) Always use the word of God — God's word is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12) and is our sword. If we try to talk and argue using OUR words alone, it is like having a weapon and never using it (keeping our sword in its sheath). USE the word of God, QUOTE Bible verses! It doesn't matter if the person SAYS they don't believe the Bible is God's word. If you USE it, it will do its work, because it is alive and powerful.

•**Hebrews 4:12** "For the **WORD of GOD** is living and powerful, and **sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

2.) Remember that showing the LOVE of CHRIST is more important than winning an argument — In our flesh, on a human level, we like to be the one to "win the argument" and come out ahead. As far as God is concerned, it is more important to back off from an argument and not lose your temper, and to leave the person with the feeling that you are concerned about THEM as a PERSON, rather than just another notch on your belt, or another argument to be won. You don't always HAVE to be right; and if you feel you do, that is PRIDE! Yes, God's word is TRUTH, and the person you are witnessing to is most likely swimming in lies and false doctrines, but the point is, YOU can't change their heart or mind, only God can. Don't be afraid to just show the love of Christ, and be content to plant the seed of the Gospel. It is better that what you do and say is building up (edifying), rather than tearing down.

•**Ephesians 4:29 & 5:1-2** "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your MOUTH, but what is good for necessary **edification (building up)**, that it may impart grace to the hearers." "Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And **WALK IN LOVE**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

•**I Corinthians 13:4-7** "LOVE suffers long (is patient), and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up (proud, arrogant, conceited); does not behave rudely, does not seek its own (is not SELFISH), is not provoked (easily angered); thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; love bears all things (puts up with a lot), believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails....."

•**Colossians 4:6** "Let your speech always be with GRACE, seasoned with salt, that you may know **how you ought to ANSWER** each one."

•**I Corinthians 8:1-2** ".....We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up (makes one conceited), but LOVE EDIFIES. And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know."

3.) Rely on PRAYER and the POWER of the Holy Spirit — After you have used the word of God, and after you have shown the real love of Christ to the person, realize that **only the Holy Spirit** can move in that person's heart to bring conviction of sin, open their eyes to the truth, and even give them the faith to believe in Jesus. For ourselves, the Holy Spirit is the One who **GIVES us the love of God** in our hearts for others, and also helps us when we get nervous or fearful in witnessing situations. His perfect love "casts out fear" so we need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet our hearts and minds, and not concentrate on what people might think about US. After all, the One we should be anxious to please is the Lord, and what other people think about us should not even be COMPARED to the joy or being obedient to our Lord.

•**John 16:7-8** ".....if I do not go away, the Helper (Holy Spirit) will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, **He will convict** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

•**Romans 5:5** "Now hope does not disappoint, because the **LOVE OF GOD** has been poured out in our HEARTS by the **HOLY SPIRIT** who was **given to us.**"

•**Acts 1:8** "And you shall receive **power after the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be WITNESSES to Me..."

•**Read I John 4:7-13 & 16-18** "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves (with God's kind of love) is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love." "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, **we also ought to love one another.** (Verse 13) "By this we know that we abide in Him, and He is us, because **He has given us of His Spirit.**" (Verse 16) "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love (God's kind of love) abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

4.) Plant seeds wherever you go and PRAY! — The seed of the word of God is planted in the heart of the one to whom you are witnessing, and the Holy Spirit will do the work of convicting. Prayer is necessary to "water" the seeds, and our prayers give God an avenue into the lives of the people to whom you are witnessing, and the "right" to intervene in their lives when they are still in the devil's territory. Pray for God to remove their spiritual blindness.

•**Read Luke 8:12-15** "Now the parable is this: **The SEED is the WORD of GOD.** Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away **the word out of their HEARTS**, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, **RECEIVE** the WORD with JOY; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation **FALL AWAY.** And the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. "But the ones that fell on the **good ground** are those who, **having heard the word** with a **NOBLE and GOOD HEART**, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

•**I Corinthians 3:6-8** "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but god who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor."

•**I Peter 1:23** "Being born again, not of corruptible SEED, but of incorruptible, **by the WORD of GOD**, which lives and abides forever."

•**Isaiah 55:11** "So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it."

Some Things that are Necessary for Friendship Witnessing:

1.) Really LISTEN and be a friend — Don't be so anxious to come up with an answer to their questions that you don't really listen to their questions. Sometimes the real issue is

between the lines. An example of this is the story of a man who witnessed to a Jehovah's Witness lady for several hours, only to realize that he hadn't changed her beliefs at all. Finally, as she was leaving, the Holy Spirit prompted him to ask her if she had peace in her life with her beliefs. The woman broke down in tears, saying that "No, she did not have peace, because her religion taught that you can never KNOW if you are saved or not." The man was able to lead the lady to Christ right then, because that was the real issue.

2.) In some way, give your own testimony — If you have come to Christ out a difficult background, by all means share that, but be sure the focus is on what Jesus has done in your life since then. Don't glamorize your past life of sin in any way. Whether you have an "interesting" or "exciting" testimony or not, your main focus should be on the ASSURANCE of salvation you have in Christ, and the fact that it is NOT by any good works that you have done, but only by faith in Jesus Christ. Every one of us as Christians should be able to share the joy, peace and assurance of salvation that we have in Jesus Christ.

•**Ephesians 2:4-9** "But God, who is rich in mercy, for **His great love with which He loved us**, even when we were DEAD in sins, has made us alive together with Christ (by grace are you saved), and has raised us up together, and has made us to sit together in heavenly places with Christ Jesus; that in the ages to come, He might SHOW the exceeding riches of His GRACE in His kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For **by GRACE** you have been saved **through FAITH**, and that **NOT of YOURSELVES**, it is **the gift of God**; not of works, lest anyone should BOAST."

3.) Answer all questions and objections from Scripture — Again, we can't emphasize enough the importance of using God's word rather than your own opinions, or any other source. Don't say things like, "This is what WE believe..." Instead, say, "**This is what the Bible says....**" and then their argument will be with the word of God, not with YOUR opinion. If you don't know the answer from the Bible right then, tell your friend you will look it up and give them the answer later. Call a pastor or other strong Christian for help in finding the answer to questions you cannot answer.

•**Romans 10:17** "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing **by the WORD of GOD.**"

4.) Offer to pray for your friend's needs — This goes along with being a real friend and showing the love of Christ. They may be completely overwhelmed by your willingness to pray for them, even when they do not AGREE with you or your Christian beliefs.

5.) Put the focus on Jesus Himself, not on doctrinal differences — You can argue all day about what they believe and what we believe, but they can't argue with WHO Jesus is and WHAT He said about Himself. LIFT UP Jesus in your witnessing, and He will draw people to Himself. Emphasize that Christ bore THEIR sins as well as yours, because many people, especially in cults, believe they must work or pay for their own sins to be forgiven.

•**John 12:32** "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."