



Midweek Study

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BECOMING HIS WITNESSES



Becoming His Witnesses

Acts 1:8 – But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

1) What is a witness?

- Attestation of a fact or event
- One that gives evidence
- One who has personal knowledge of something

2) Followers of Jesus are called to be a witness

- You are a witness regardless of what you do. The question is what kind of witness are you?
- Jesus calls us to be his disciples. As we grow in our walk with the Lord, we should grow in our witness to others.
- The closer that we grow to Jesus, the more we become like Him and the more that his reflection in our lives is seen by others.

3) What does being a witness look like?

- Being Christlike in our actions and character.
- Verbalizing what God has done and is doing in our lives.
- Sharing the gospel and God's word with others - evangelism.

We are His witnesses when we believe, live out and proclaim the gospel.

4) Core elements of the gospel

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

- Jesus, God's son, died on a cross to pay the penalty for our sins.
- He rose from the dead three days later to give new life to those who believe and trust in Him.
- **Repent of your sin and believe in the gospel. – Mark 1:15**

5) Evangelism is often a process rather than a one-time conversation

- Culture and society have changed over the past 30 years.
 - Secular world's view of Christianity¹
 - Positive (pre-1994)
 - Neutral (1994-2014)
 - Negative (2014-present)
- Evangelism requires that we first build relationships with the lost.
- Relationships are formed by purposeful conversation
 - Casual – Helps people relax –
 - Meaningful – Shows real interest – Tell me about your family
 - Spiritual – Gently explores faith – Do you have a church background? Or Invite them to come to church with you.
 - Jesus – Point to Jesus – Would it be okay if I shared what Jesus has done for me?

Witness involves loving. Witness involves listening. One who witnesses effectively knows that they listen 2/3s of the time and talk 1/3 of the time. Witness is not a “drive-by shooting”.

Witness permeates shared meals. Witness involves praying for others by name appropriately. Witness involves knowing the children's names as part of our investment in their parents with whom we're sharing Christ. Witness involves the gift of our time. It can be time consuming.

Nik Ripken

6) Evangelism is a process where God brings people to saving faith

Salvation belongs to our God – Revelation 7:10

No one can come to me (Jesus) unless the Father who sent me draws him. John 6:44

7) Evangelism is a process where we work with God to bring people to saving faith

- One sows and another reaps – John 4:36-38
- I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth – 1 Corinthians 3:5-9
- We are all called to be gardeners as his witnesses.

Application

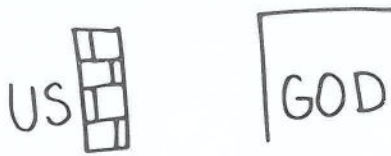
- 1) God calls all his followers to be witnesses in a world that increasingly fails to know or understand Him.
- 2) The gospel is the power of God unto salvation.
- 3) Evangelism is a process where God is at work and we join him.
- 4) Every believer can be a gardener in helping bring people to Jesus.
- 5) God equips all believers to have a part in bringing the lost to a saving relationship with God and making disciples.

¹ Renn, Aaron, “The Three Worlds of Evangelism” First Things, Feb 1, 2022.

STEP

1

SEPARATION FROM GOD



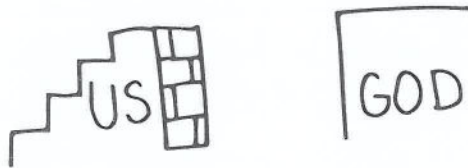
Have you ever thought about your relationship to God? Naturally, we want that picture to look good. **The problem is sin separates each of us from God like a brick wall.**

The Bible teaches us, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* Romans 3:23

STEP

2

CLIMBING THE STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN GETS US NOWHERE



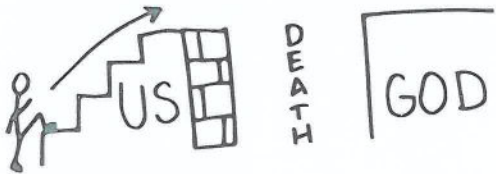
Many of us try to deal with sin on our own. We think, "Maybe I can do enough good things to outweigh the bad and work my way to God." **In essence, we try to build a stairway to heaven with good things.**

Again, God's Word teaches, *"For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

STEP

3

EVEN AT THE TOP, WE FIND THAT THERE IS A GAP



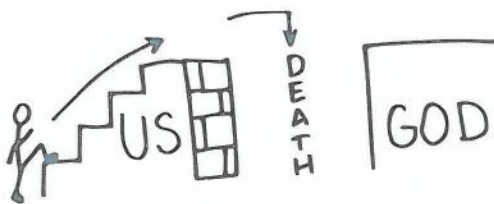
Even if we could climb our way to the top of human goodness, the Bible makes it clear that our goodness isn't enough. *"There is no one righteous, not even one."* Romans 3:10

Doing good things will not make up for the problem of sin. The greatest problem with sin is what it costs — *"...the wages of sin is death..."* Romans 6:23

STEP

4

HERE'S THE PICTURE

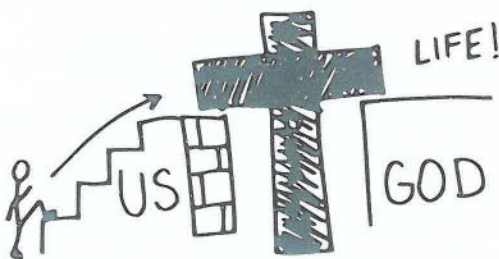


We are all sinners by nature and choice, and sin separates us from God. God is both holy and just, so He must punish sin. **The payment for sin is death and hell.** This makes the gap from where we are to where God is impossible to cross on our own.

STEP

5

THE CROSS OF JESUS BRIDGES THE GAP



What we need is a bridge. Jesus is that bridge. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took on human nature (yet remained fully God), lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sins, was buried in a tomb, and rose from the dead 3 days later that we might live with Him forever. **Through Jesus the penalty for our sin is paid for, forgiveness is provided, and eternal life is a gift.**

Jesus said in John 5:24, *"Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."*

HAVE YOU WALKED ACROSS THE BRIDGE ?

Here's how:

1. Come to grips with your spiritual need.
Admit it — you are a sinner.



2. Make a spiritual u-turn!
The Bible calls this repentance.



3. Confess Jesus is Lord, and believe with your heart that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the grave.



4. Accept God's offer of salvation and receive His gift of eternal life!



Pray a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus, I believe that the penalty for sin was paid when you died on the cross and that you rose from the dead giving eternal life to all who believe in you. I admit that I am a sinner. I repent of my sin and place my faith in you for the forgiveness of my sin and for the gift of eternal life.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:11-12



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