

**Week 3 of Series 'Takin it to the Streets'**  
**A Life That Witnesses, 08-30-15**

**Question for you today:**

Have you ever wondered why, when God saved you, he left you on the earth?

- No quick answer comes to mind
- God could have taken you to Heaven the moment he saved you, but he didn't!
- Which means he left you on earth for a particular purpose

**So Why am I here? What does God want each of us to do?**

**What can we do on earth we can't do in heaven?**

- We can sing here and there
- We can pray here and there
- We can fellowship with Xians here and there....
- We can tell lost people about Jesus here **but not in heaven!**
- God's purpose for Christians is to bring the story of Jesus to lost people
- We are called to be witnesses for God

Listen to what Jesus said in Acts 1:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-Acts 1:8, GW

- WE are the witness (we are God's evidence) to the world
- Our lives, our stories
- 2 things from Jesus:
  - The Holy Spirit empowers disciples and
  - These disciples witness / tell the story of Jesus around the world
  - Witnesses declare the truth to another person

## **Bringing the Message of Jesus**

### **1. A witness tells what he knows, only what he knows**

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.”  
-Acts 10:39-40

A witness tells the truth about Jesus that they know. Know a little?  
Tell a little! Know a lot, tell a lot...to whoever listens

The challenge of being a witness: what if someone rebuts me? Will I have an answer? Enough to say?

### **We need to trust that God will help us witness**

- Pray for me to have the words to say....Paul

“Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God’s ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.”

-Eph. 6:18b-20, NLT

- You will be given the words at that moment-Jesus

“When you are arrested, don’t worry about what to say or how you should say it. At that time you will be given the words to say.”

-Mt. 10:19, ERV

### **2. A witness shares what they have experienced**

Listen to the words of 1 John 1:1,

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.”

-1 John 1:1

John says, "I saw him, I heard him, I walked with him, I touched him."  
Now listen to verse 2:

"The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us." -1 John 1:2

**This is John's story:**

- 1) Jesus appeared on earth,
- 2) We experienced him personally,
- 3) Now I'm telling you the story

**What have you experienced with Jesus?**

- Has he given you hope?
- Has he delivered you from something?
- Do you have purpose in your life as a believer?
- How is Jesus guiding you daily, giving direction to your life? Tell this story

The early believers witnessed to the fact that Jesus was **alive, not dead**. Our witness is the same!

- Use the phrase "I have a relationship with Jesus"
- It may not make sense because lost people think Jesus is dead...how can you have a relationship with a dead person?!
- But that is our witness. Jesus has changed me / is changing me!
- God will empower our story to people

Tell the truth and let God do the convincing!

**3. Witnesses remain loyal to the end**

The Greek word for witness is *marturos* from which comes the English word *martyr*. It means to die for your belief. In some places of the world this happens daily.

In the US we probably won't die for our witness of following Jesus, but it may make you unpopular:

- At work

- At home
- At school

**The main question then for us is this: Will we live for Jesus?**

- Will you hold back your anger because you belong to Him?
- Will you be honest at work and school?
- Will you speak up for others who have no voice, refrain from gossiping towards about someone who has messed up?
- Will you tell the truth about Jesus and let God speak through your words?

**This week will you do two things?**

1. Ask God for boldness and the chance to witness about Jesus this week, and then
2. Commit to speaking up when God gives you the opportunity you prayed for: at home, at work, at school