

HE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE - Pro 11:30

(Kaikohe CF - 31/3/96 - EKB)

1. Jesus defined wisdom as listening to His words, and obeying them, *Mat 7:24*, and He has instructed us on many occasions to be active as His witnesses, and to seek to win souls to Him. *Mk 16:15, Mat 28:18-20, Ac 1:8, Mat 4:19, Lk 5:10, Jn 4:34,35, Mat 10:27-33.*
2. **The Wise Man**, Jesus said, plans to build His house, chooses an area of rock, cuts holes in the rock with his hammer and cold chisel, sets the foundation poles in the rock with concrete, and there builds his house on the poles. When the storms come, the rains fall, the floods rise and wash over the rock, the wise man's house stands firm. **The Foolish Man** who hears Jesus' words and does not do them, is like the other man who builds his house on the sand, and in the storms and the floods the sand is washed away and the house crashes in ruins, *Mat 7:24-27.*
3. Today you and I are either wise or foolish, wise if we are doing what Jesus tells us, foolish if we are not doing what Jesus tells us.
4. **The storm of testing will come. It comes to all.** If you are doing what Jesus tells you, you will stand. If you are not doing what Jesus says you will be destroyed, *Lk 6:46, Mat 7:21-23.* The storm maybe in this life or at Judgment Day.
5. **Why did God send Jesus?** Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did God become man? *Mat 1:21-23, Jn 3:16,17.* Answer: *1Tim 1:15* "Jesus came into the world to save sinners like me."
6. Why has God given us His Holy Spirit? Answer: *Ac 1:8*, "To empower us to be His witnesses unto Jesus Christ, wherever we go."
7. Jesus did not come to call the good and righteous to repent, but sinners, *Mat 9:13.* **Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, *Lk 19:10.***
8. **The Work of the Church** is witnessing to Christ and winning souls to Jesus. Worship is not our work, it is telling God how much we love Him. Fellowship is not our work, it is sharing together the goodness, love and truth of God.

Witnessing is our Work as believers, out in the harvest field of sinners, Monday - Friday. See *Ac 18:9,10, Ac 26:16-18, Mat 28:18-20.*

Paul puts it this way - *Ac 20:24* (Living Bible) "**My life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the Work given to me by the Lord Jesus**, - the **Work** of telling others the Good News about God's almighty kindness and love." Paul said, "Woe unto me if I preach not the Gospel," *1Cor 9:16.* "Whatever happens to me, remember always to live as Christians should, so that, whether I see you again or not, I will keep on hearing good reports, that you are standing side by side - **to tell the Good News fearlessly**, no matter what your enemies may do," *Phil 1:27,28, Living Bible.*

9. Well then, what will we do to be His witnesses?

10. Start by confessing and repenting of any lack of concern for the unsaved we have contact with, who are living under God's eternal judgment upon sin. *Jn 3:36, Mk 16:16, Eph 2:3*. Ask God for His love for sinners, *Jn 3:16,17, 2Cor 5:14, Mat 18:11, 2Pet 3:9, Lk 19:41*.
11. Remember: "the lost are eternally lost," *2Cor 5:14*
12. Keep a daily faith confession that God has appointed and equipped you to be His witness. *Is 44:8, Mat 4:19, Lk 5:10, 2Cor 3:6, Ac 1:8, Ac 18:9,10, Pro 28:1, Ps 138:3, 2Cor 5:18, Jn 7:37,38, Ac 26:16-18*.
13. Make a list of unsaved contacts, (5-10), and pray for them daily to come to Christ.
14. Pray:
 - a. *Jn 16:8* the Holy Spirit will bring conviction of sin
 - b. *Mat 9:38* the Lord will send believers to speak the Word to them.
 - c. Claim the Blood of Jesus, shed for them, to free them from deception, blindness.
 - d. Ask God to break and remove apathy and hostility to the Gospel, ("hoha" and "agro").
 - e. *Jn 6:44* ask God to draw them to Jesus.
 - f. *Rom 2:4* pray the goodness of God to lead them to repentance.
15. Remember we all have to overcome fear, *Ac 18:9,10, Lk 5:10, Claim 2Tim 1:7*.
16. Put feet on your prayers and go out. Visit your friends and neighbours, looking for ways to relate to them, being friendly, helpful, if you see a need.
17. Seek to move the conversation to spiritual things. This is the week before Easter and you could ask, "What does Easter mean to you?" "Why do we have Easter?" The Bible Society, (Freephone 0800 424 253 as at 4/1/2000), has a tract on the meaning of Easter with a clear salvation message. (They ask for a donation.)
18. Aim at showing people the need of forgiveness. "Do you ever feel the need of God's forgiveness?" "Why did Jesus have to die?" "What do we have to do to get right with God?" "What are you depending on to get you into heaven?"
19. Share the Gospel message if you are able to, leading a person through confession, repentance, and into faith in Jesus Christ.
20. Use tracts, videos, tapes, books, to share the message of Jesus.
21. Bible in schools is a great opportunity to witness.
22. Open air ministry, is an excellent way of getting involved in witnessing.
23. The Campus Life video "Jesus" is an excellent way of witnessing.
24. The Ian McCormick Videos from Hamilton Assembly of God are very good to lend to unsaved people.
25. As you go keep praying for boldness to speak, opportunities to witness, words to share, prepared hearts, and that people will ask questions about Jesus.