

We Cannot but Speak the Things we have Seen and Heard Acts 4:20
You shall be Witnesses unto Me Acts 1:8

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It is very important for us to remember the many commands of the Lord Jesus, **to be active witnesses unto Him**, at all times, in all places, with all boldness, and by all means.

Some of Jesus' commands: (Why do you call me "Lord, Lord!" and do not do the things I tell you? Luke 6:46.)

Acts 1:8. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be witnesses unto Me. (Everywhere.)

Mark 16:15. Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Matthew 28:18,19. All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.....

Luke 9:2. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:2. **The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray therefore that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into HIS harvest.**

John 4:35. Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; **for they are white already to harvest.**

Revelation 3:8. Behold, I have set before you an open door and no man can close it.

One day as I was thinking on 2Corinthians 5:14, "**The love of Christ constrains us**; for we thus judge, that if One died for all, then all were dead." Suddenly a strong impression came to me; I think that it was audible or nearly so, "The lost are eternally lost!"

This morning, I was reading Philippians chapter 1 and I was impressed by the emphasis on Paul's urgency for all believers to be active, strong, bold witnesses to the Gospel.

Paul was in prison, in chains, actively confirming the Gospel. V7.

The whole Palace Guard knew that Paul was there as Christ's witness. V12,13.

This example encouraged the saints in the Church to be much more bold in their active witnessing for Christ.

(Some were preaching Christ with the motive of goodwill, but some from the motive of envy. However, Paul was rejoicing that Christ was being preached!) V14 – 18.

Paul expressed his dependence upon the prayers of the saints and the supply of the Spirit to be even bolder in his proclamation of the Gospel. V19,20.

In writing to the Church of Thessalonica, which Paul had previously planted, Acts 17:1-9, he commended them strongly for their faithful witness to Christ and the Gospel. 1Thessalonians 1:5-10.

So I turned to the example of the early Church in Acts, where the believers carried the priority of boldly proclaiming the Gospel at all times, in all places and by all means.

The immediate impact of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4, **was the bold witness of the 120 disciples**, as they declared the wonderful works of God, Acts 2:11. From the 'upper room' they went out on the streets among all the pilgrims, who had come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, from 15 different nations.

Peter preach the Gospel powerfully. 3000 were saved and water baptized that day.

Many returned home to places like Rome to establish the Church of the Lord Jesus. Acts 2:10.

Through the miracle at the Temple Gate another door of witness opened. Acts 3:6 -10.

Through the preaching of the Gospel 5000 were saved. Acts 4:4.

This time some of the disciples were arrested by the religious authorities. Acts 4:3.

They were commanded to stop preaching the Gospel. Acts 4:18.

They said, "**We cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard.**" Acts 4:20.

They were moved by divine motivation. **The harvest was ready. It must be reaped. It is the Lord's harvest.**

After threatening them the religious authorities let them go. Acts 4:21.

The disciples prayed for more boldness in their witnessing! Acts 4:29,30.

In Acts chapter 5 there were more miracles and multitudes came to the Lord. Acts 5:12-16.

The disciples were arrested again. They boldly proclaimed Jesus Christ. The religious authorities beat them. They rejoiced in the Lord. And daily in the temple and from house to house, they ceased not to preach and teach Jesus Christ. Acts, chapter 5.

After this there was great persecution against the Church. Many believers fled from Jerusalem. Acts 8:1-3.

Therefore those who were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word. Acts 8:4.

The Lord has a way for each of us to witness to the unsaved. For me, I carry tracts which I have written, and I ask the Holy Spirit to show me who to offer them to. When I am aware of a prompting of the Holy Spirit, I say, “Would you like to read a good news message of what Jesus did for us when He died for us on the Cross?”

I aim to go out on the street once a week in our town centre and spend some time going about offering tracts. About 90% of those I speak to accept the Gospel message. Also I carry the tracts all the time, and wherever I am, I frequently offer the tracts to the people I meet.

In getting going as an active witness, I found it a very great help to make a list of the Scripture verses which say that the Lord has made us His effective witnesses, and that the Lord has given to us His boldness.

These lists are in www.pastornotes.com, on the Home Page under “Scripture Promises”; pages 17 and 18.

We all have fear to overcome and we cannot do this by human will power.

Jesus said, “You will receive power after that the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be witnesses unto Me. Acts 1:8.

The power and boldness for witnessing come from the Holy Spirit, by faith.

Faith is believing and declaring the promises of God. 2Corinthians 4:13.

Also, I found a measure of release from fear of witnessing, through believing and proclaiming the Scriptures from page 7, of “Scripture Promises”, “Every Fear Cast Out”, as well as from believing and proclaiming the two pages mentioned above, pages 17 and 18.

I did this each day for about 2 or 3 months and I found a release from fear, and a boldness and ability to witness to the unsaved. It just started to happen. It was a work of the Holy Spirit working through the Word in my life.

As my wife and I prayed together, we also asked the Lord for Boldness, Words to speak, Opportunities to witness, Compassion for the unsaved, and the Leading of the Holy Spirit.

When you pray a prayer like this, believe that you have received what you have asked for. James 1:6-8, Mark 11:24.

After maintaining this for several months, I found myself witnessing quite frequently and boldly.

I was somewhat surprised and amazed at what had happened. It is the work of the Lord in us and through us by faith.

As I have kept this up, my ability to be a witness for the Lord has increased.