

What are the key elements for an effective witness for the Lord?

**Witnessing** – Telling others the gospel (good news) and how you came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Key verse: Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” – The word gospel means “good news.” 1 Cor. 15:3-4 specifically defines the gospel: “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**; (v.4) And that **he was buried**, and **that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**.”

- A. Christ (Person)
- B. Death, Burial, and Resurrection (Work)
- C. Sins
- D. The Scriptures

**1. Christ** – He is God (Jn. 1:1), and the Son of God (Jn. 3:16). He was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16) by being born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23). He became the Sin-bearer (Isa. 53:6), He is a Risen Saviour (Rom. 4:25; Heb. 7:25) and is Lord of all (Acts 10:36). He will return to earth to establish His kingdom and rule and reign over all (Rev. 19:16).

**2. Death, Burial, and Resurrection** – He died on the cross as a payment and substitute for our us and for our sins (Rom. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn. 4:10). He was buried and remained under death for three days and three nights – to fulfill the Scriptures and to defeat death (1 Cor. 15:56,57). His resurrection is evidence that he is Lord (Matt. 12:40; Mk. 16:19; Acts 17:31). Jesus did all the work necessary for our salvation and all we must do is to believe on Him or receive Him (Jn. 1:12).

**3. Sins** – Sin is the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). It is breaking God’s law or neglecting to do what God told us to do. It is missing the mark and coming short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Our sins will someday reward us death (Rom. 6:23). We are all naturally sinners from birth because of Adam’s disobedience (Gen. 2-3). We are confirmed sinners because of our conscience and choices (Mk. 7:20-23). All sinners who die in their sin shall suffer eternal damnation in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8). If a man thinks that he is good or even partially good, he cannot be saved (Lk. 5:31-32). A man must be convinced that he is a lost, hell-bound, sinner and deserving of God’s wrath.

**4. The Scriptures** – The word “Scriptures” means sacred writings. This is God’s Holy Word. It is important that sinners are shown the Word of God. When witnessing to them, the best thing to do is to have them read the Scriptures. We must carefully take the time and go over Scriptural words and terms so that they understand what they are reading or hearing. (Jn. 5:39; Lk. 24:32). Remember: Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God! (Rom. 10:17).

These are the many elements that we must go over in order to give people an effective witness for the Lord. In the end, our goal is to help them put their faith and trust on Jesus Christ or to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. They must turn from sin, self, and false teachings and beliefs. They must turn to Jesus Christ alone (not trusting in themselves or their own “good works”). We watch them and observe to see if they are interested and listening. We ask them questions to know that they understand what we are talking about. We carefully and lovingly deal with them, no rush. We are trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to work in them while we are showing them or telling them about the word of God. We urge them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for their forgiveness of sins, and to have true reconciliation with God.