



Jesus is All About Life!

Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

ALLC Personal Evangelism Series Session 2 – How to be a Witnesses

Focus of today's session: Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Tim.1:12)

2.1 Introduction

A witness is one who has a personal knowledge or experience of some fact or event, one whose evidence can be expected to be reliable. Our value as a witness does not necessarily depend on our own eloquence. If you were a witness in a court, the judge would say to you, "Please tell the court, in your own words, what happened (or, what you saw)." The value of what you said would largely depend on just two things: (1) whether the court believed you to be truthful, and (2) the accuracy of your report. Before the hearing, the barrister would probably review your evidence, so that you were clear in your own mind about the fact or event to which you were to testify.

What does all that have to do with our rôle as Christ's witnesses? A lot. Consider:

1. A witness is called on the *testify* – to tell the truth about some fact or event he or she has personally experienced. If you take the witness box and tell about something you heard from someone else, or read about, the judge would rule your evidence as valueless: it would be called "hearsay." We testify to our own personal experience with our Lord, Jesus Christ, not to something we know from reading or hearing from someone else.
2. A witness must testify in his or her own words. The witness may quote from someone else, or from a book, to make a point, but his or her value as a witness ultimately depends on being able to give an accurate account of the fact or event he or she has *personally* experienced. As Christ's witnesses, that means that each of us must be able to say, "*I know whom I have believed,*" and to tell it in our own words.
3. It is considered good professional practice for the barrister to help the witness clarify his or her evidence beforehand. As Christ's witnesses, we should take the opportunity to review our "evidence," our own personal testimony, with others who can help us clarify it.

2.2 Know whom you have believed

There is no formula for telling others about the Saviour. Each of us has been met *personally* by Jesus Christ, each of us has a unique story to tell. We may testify by word of mouth (personal conversation, preaching, radio, TV), or in writing. In each case, the elements of our testimony will be the same, it is the format of delivery that will differ. But be sure of your evidence! What then are the basic elements of a personal testimony?

2.2.1 Why are you a Christian now?

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2.2.2 What caused you to recognise your need of Christ the Saviour?

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2.2.3 How did Jesus Christ become your Saviour? What did you do? What did He do?

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2.2.4 What difference does Jesus Christ make to your life? How is your life different ?

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2.3 Some Scriptures which may help you think about the questions above

2.3.1 God's attitude to us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (John 3:16,17)

2.3.2 Our problem: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Rom.3:23)

2.3.3 God's solution to our problem: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom.6:23)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom.5:8)

"[Jesus Christ] was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." (Rom.4:25)

2.3.4 What we have to do: "... if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [For] everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Rom.10:9,10,13)

2.3.5 The Apostle Paul's testimony: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' He replied.

My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked. 'Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him. Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth. You will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.'" (Acts 22:3-16)