

The Race

WITNESS (How you represent God)

The Objective: To become effective in communicating your faith as you were called.

Consider:

It is important to tell others about your relationship with Christ! Sharing your faith will help you grow, as well as give another person the same opportunity you had to become a Christ follower. Jesus told the Apostle Paul in Acts 23:11b to *“...Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so must you witness at Rome also.”* NASB *The point is you are to tell your story where God has placed you.*

“Witnessing”, telling others about Jesus, can be a scary proposition. So make it easy on yourself, at first, by simply telling people your story (for example, see how one man did this in Mark 5:1-20). When we tell people how Jesus changed our life – how can they argue? And they won’t. They may defer, but most will be intrigued and ask for more information. When that occurs, you can refer them to the bible, using this pamphlet for a guide to tell them about Christ. Start on page one, and go, at their pace, through the Welcome and Confidence sections of this follow-up guide. Or use the three-step process provided below. But before you say anything – take a moment to ask God for guidance and grace. He will answer your request powerfully!

Learn:

The words of Jesus from Matthew 28:18-20 were his last words to the disciples, just before He ascended to heaven. It is known as The Great Commission.” And, what makes it the Great Commission is that it stands today as the greatest challenge ever given by the greatest Person who ever lived, concerning the greatest power ever revealed and the greatest promise ever recorded.

“All authority has been given Me in heaven and earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

The following is a simple three step gospel presentation will help you take part in the Great Commission. You can become familiar with this presentation right now and actually begin **applying** it today. Please take time to look up the Scripture’s listed with each of the three steps.

- 1) **All men fail** (Genesis 3:1, 6). Since the beginning, you could say we’ve been infected with a failure bug, called sin. God’s word tells us that we have all sinned and that the penalty for our sin is death (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- 2) **We can win** (1 Corinthians 15: 57) victory is made possible through Jesus Christ. His life, death and resurrection is what provides our victory over sin and death. Once we put our faith in Him, He will never leave us, nothing will separate us from His love (Romans 8:37-39).
- 3) **You must ask God** to be saved. (Romans 10:9-10) It is through faith that you ask and receive Jesus Christ as Savior and become a child of God (Matthew 7:7, 8; John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).

By the way, what do you think Colossians 2:28 means by “So everywhere we go, we tell everyone about Christ.”?

Commit:

We are to represent Jesus, not just by our words and deeds, but by reflecting His character ...His kindness, His confidence, His grace. Until we reflect the characteristics of Christ Himself, we do not fully understand His command to be a His witnesses. Take the time necessary to review the passages (below) associated with the following motivations to become a man committed to fulfilling the *Great Commission*. As they become a part of your life you will communicate with certainty, courage and power the greatest news in the entire world. Go for it!

Motivations for sharing your story with others:

- You bring glory to God. John 15:8
- Because of what God has done for you, it demonstrates your love of Christ to tell others of your faith in God. II Corinthians 5:14
- Telling your story is a direct command of Jesus Christ. Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:18-20
- People without Christ are lost and eternally separated from God, needing your story to hear of Him. John 14:6 & Acts 4:12
- God desires that you tell others about Him because of the benefits He offers to those who put their trust in His son, Jesus Christ. John 10:10b
- God wants you to be open about your relationship with Him because of the tremendous privilege it is to represent Jesus to the world. II Corinthians 5:20
- The Holy Spirit has been given to each Christian providing us the courage and power we need to tell others about our relationship with Him. Acts 1:8

Application:

- Which one(s) of the motivations listed above give you the most motivation in becoming and remaining engaged in the Great Commission.
- Represent the Lord well in all that you do so that when you have the opportunity to tell others about your relationship with Him "you will have credibility." (Your witness will be strong.)
- Memorize Mark 1:17 "*Come follow me Jesus said and I will make you fishers of men.*"