

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To show that sharing our faith is an essential part of our Christian life.

TEXTS:

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| 1. MT 28:18-20 | 10. MT 10:5-6, 28 |
| 2. LK 6:40 | 11. 2CO 5:14 |
| 3. LK 19:10 | 12. LK 8:38-40 |
| 4. LK 9:23 | 13. AC 4:29-31 |
| 5. JN 4:10-13 | 14. AC 4:18-20 |
| 6. REV 22:17 | 15. PS 125:5-6 |
| 7. AC 1:8 | 16. MT 24:14 |
| 8. AC 8:1-4 | 17. IS 6:6-8 |
| 9. 1TH 1:6-8 | |

THE STUDY:

- 1. What three things does the Great Commission call for believers to do? MT 28:18-20**
Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to follow His teachings.
- 2. What is a disciple? LK 6:40**
A disciple is one who strives to be like their teacher.
- 3. What single passion filled the life of Jesus and should fill the life of His followers? LK 19:10**
Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. If we are truly His disciples, then we will choose to live for the salvation of others, just as Jesus did.
- 4. What condition did Jesus give to those who were considering becoming His disciples? LK 9:23**
We must be willing to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by choosing to lay down our lives for the salvation of others. For the majority of Christians, this is not to be accomplished through martyrdom, but through denying our own personal comforts, means and ambitions in order to reach others with the gospel.
- 5. Are all who receive salvation called to share that salvation with others? JN 4:10-13**
Absolutely! When we drink of the living water, we will become fountains of living water to those around us.
- 6. Once a person has received the offer of salvation, what does Jesus ask them to do? REV 22:17**
Those who hear the gospel invitation are to repeat the invitation to those who haven't yet heard it.
- 7. Isn't witnessing a spiritual gift only given to some Christians? AC 1:8**
Absolutely not! This is one of the most dangerous misunderstandings that has come into the Christian church. There are four "spiritual gifts" lists in the Bible, but witnessing is not included on a single one! Why? Because it's what we might call "standard equipment"! Jesus taught that everyone who receives the Holy Spirit becomes a witness for Him.
- 8. Who spread the gospel message in the early church, and how did God get them to do it? AC 8:1-4**
God allowed persecution to come upon the early church to scatter them abroad as witnesses. Note that everyone was scattered except the apostles, and it was the ones scattered, and not the apostles, who went everywhere preaching the word. Preaching in this sense doesn't refer only to public speaking, but to sharing the message in crowds, in homes, or one-to-one. God has promised to equip us for this vital work, but if we don't stir ourselves to take part in it, God may allow some trial to come into our lives to compel us to take part.

- 9. How thorough was the witness of individual church members in the early church? 1TH 1:6-8**
So thorough that the apostles didn't need to say anything else – the church members had said it all!
- 10. Doesn't the fact that a person is afraid to witness prove that it's not their gift? MT 10:5-6, 28**
Not at all. When Jesus sent His disciples out to witness, they were plenty scared! He had to encourage them by telling them not to be afraid of man, but be afraid of the consequences of not obeying the command of God.
- 11. What motivated the early disciples past their fear? 2CO 5:14**
Christ's love and passion for the lost should motivate us to work for perishing souls. We may still be nervous, but our love in our hearts for the lost will compel us to share His love with those around us.
- 12. How can I witness when I still have so much to learn what if we don't know a lot? LK 8:38-40**
God only expects us to tell what we know. Even the demoniac of the Gadarenes became a witness for Jesus, and likely had never even heard a complete sermon from Him. But he shared what he knew, and told what Jesus had done in his life. And as a result, multitudes were ready to receive Jesus when He returned to that region.
- 13. What did the disciples pray for to overpower their fear? AC 4:29-31**
The disciples knew that there were real dangers associated with preaching the gospel, possibly even death. Yet rather than excusing themselves of their responsibility, they asked that God would give them boldness to preach with power, and He did!
- 14. Is there really any good reason why we shouldn't witness? AC 4:18-20**
No! We must tell others the things we have seen and heard about Jesus!
- 15. But what if it seems that no one listens? PS 126:5-6**
God has promised that those who go forth with a passion for the lost, sowing the gospel seed, will "doubtless" see results for their labors. Our job is clear; we are to tell what we know, and leave the results with the Lord. He has promised us success!
- 16. What will take place when the world has been sown with the gospel seed? MT 24:14**
Jesus will return!
- 17. In view of all these things, what should be our response to the call of God? IS 6:6-8**
When Isaiah experienced God's forgiving, cleansing power, He responded to God's call to tell what God had done in his life by saying "Here I am; send me!"

APPEALS:

God wants to send you, too. He wants you to venture out in faith and bear witness to what He has done in your life. You may feel totally unqualified, but God will use you to reach others if you will give yourself to His service. This is our commission; Jesus has given us all power to accomplish it; Won't you determine today to go for the Lord Jesus?