

TRUSTING GOD

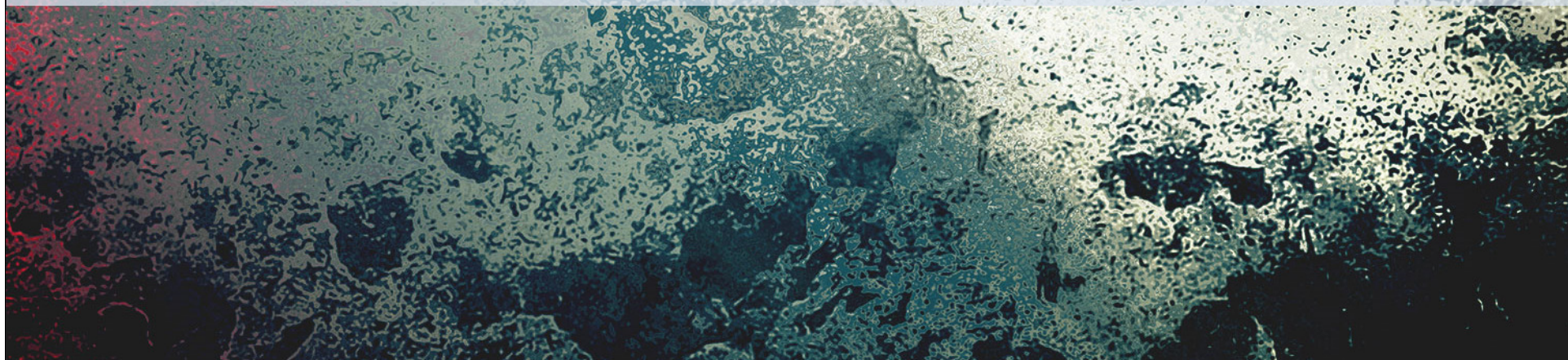
Soul-winning
Prov. 11:30

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and
he that winneth souls is wise.

When asked if they have a personal responsibility to share their faith with others, 73% of born again Christians said yes. When this conviction is put into practice, however, the numbers shift downward. Only half (52%) of born again Christians say they actually did share the Gospel at least once this past year to someone with different beliefs, in the hope that they might accept Jesus Christ as their Savior.

<https://www.barna.com/research/is-evangelism-going-out-of-style/>

Why should a believer have a personal responsibility to share their faith?



I. DISCIPLESHIP IS COMMANDED BY CHRIST

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Original Word: μαθητεύω

Transliteration: mathéteuó

Short Definition: I make disciples, make into disciples

mathēteúō (from *mathētēs*, "disciple") – to disciple, i.e. helping someone to *progressively learn* the Word of God to become a matured, growing *disciple* (literally, "a learner," a true Christ-follower); to train (develop) in the truths of Scripture *and* the *lifestyle* required, i.e. helping a believer *learn* to be a disciple of Christ *in belief and practice*. <http://biblehub.com/greek/3100.htm>

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

A. Churches are to Evangelize – “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

B. Churches are to Edify – “...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

C. Churches are to Educate – “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”

Why is the church commanded to do these three things?

Jn. 3:16 For **God so loved the world**, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 19:10 For **the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**



II. DISCIPLESHIP IS CONNECTED TO CHRIST

Jn. 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that **beareth fruit**, he purgeth it, **that it may bring forth more fruit.**

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine**; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit**; so shall ye **be my disciples.**

A. The Source of Fruitfulness is Christ – “I am the vine, ye are the branches...”

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

B. The Strength of Faithfulness is Commitment

- A believer's commitment is solely to Christ as one must be attached to the vine in order to bring forth fruit.
- In order to bear fruit, one must stay attached to the vine = meet qualifications.
- Personal holiness is an imperative for fellowship (abiding) – Amos 3:3

Lev. 20:7 **Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy:** for I am the LORD your God.

1 Pet. 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, **so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;**

16 Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy.**

1 Pet. 3:15 But **sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man** that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

- In order to be prepared to answer every man, we need to wield properly the “sword of the Spirit – the Word of God.
- At a minimum, we need to memorize the following verses:

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isa. 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Rom. 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ...

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Conclusion

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.

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, **but by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts.

Many will have read about "layman Edward Kimball who gathered the nerve to witness and win the soul of a young shoe salesman named D.L. Moody to Christ. D.L. Moody went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in his day. But, do you know the rest of the story? D.L. Moody went to England and worked a profound change in the ministry of F.B. Meyer. F.B. Meyer, with his new evangelistic fervor, influenced J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman helped in the ministry of converted baseball player Billy Sunday, who had a profound impact upon Mordacai Ham. And Mordacai Ham, holding a revival in North Carolina, led Billy Graham to Christ. And the man who started it all was a layman, Edward Kimball, who took seriously Christ's commission to be a witness in his world."

<http://www.actsworld.org/articles/article.php?i=1143&d=2&c=2>