

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE $\rightarrow$ XT  
STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism”



Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

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.

### Review

What are the issues facing us in our day? How is a Christian to be prepared to properly face and respond to the constant bombardment of ideas, philosophies, that affect our lives? Should a believer be expected to have a Scriptural perspective or viewpoint regarding politics, lifestyles, and other various issues? Note the following Scriptural perspective:

1 Chron. 12:32 “...**which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...**”

Est. 1:13 “...the wise men, **which knew the times...**”

Eccl. 8:5 “...and **a wise man's heart discerneth** both time and judgment.”



Tonight, we look at one of the most pressing issues for Christianity today – “The Issue of Evangelism.”

Consider the article from Barna.com:

***Almost Half of Practicing Christian Millennials Say  
Evangelism Is Wrong***

February 5, 2019

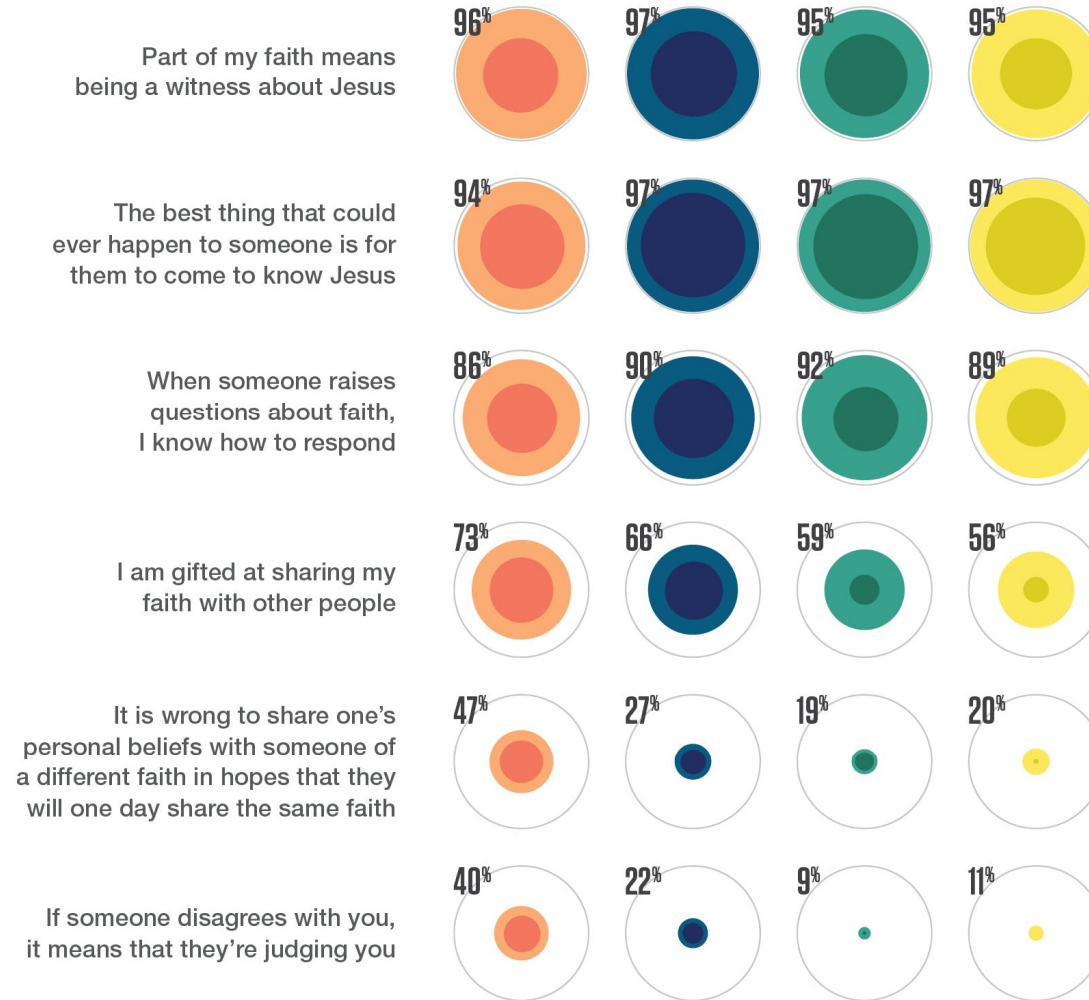
# GENERATIONAL DIFFERENCES ON FAITH-SHARING

Barna

% strongly + somewhat agree among US practicing Christians

● Dark = Strongly agree  
● Light = Somewhat agree

● Millennials ● Gen X ● Boomers ● Elders



n=992 US practicing Christians 18 and older, May 2018.

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Most everyone that has been in a Baptist church for any amount of time has heard about the “Great Commission,” and the need for *world evangelism*. Immediately after the Resurrection, Jesus told the first church His concern and commission for their lives:

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

Just before His ascension up to heaven, the last recorded words of Jesus are found in Acts 1:8:

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.

With this as a backdrop, let's consider “*The Issue of Evangelism.*”



## I. THE CAPABILITY FOR THE MISSION

Acts 1:8a “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...”

### A. Our Dependence

**Original Word:** δύναμις

**Transliteration:** dunamis

**Definition:** **(miraculous) power, might, strength**

**Usage:** (a) physical power, force, might, ability, efficacy, energy, meaning  
(b) plur: powerful deeds, deeds showing (physical) power, marvelous works.

*dýnamis* (from *dýnamai*, "able, having ability") – **properly, "ability to perform" (L-N); for the believer, power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities. "Power through God's ability" (dýnamis) is needed in every scene of life to really grow in sanctification and prepare for heaven (glorification).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/1411.htm>



❖ In order to engage in “spiritual” work, we must be endued with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation **to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

Gal. 5:16 *This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ...***

25 **If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

❖ Every born-again person has the enabling power of the Holy Spirit:



1 Jn. 2:20 But **ye have an unction from the Holy One**, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ...

27 But **the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you**, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

❖ The Holy Spirit **MUST** be involved in the conviction and conversion of a lost sinner.

Jn. 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit. ...

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is **born of the Spirit**.



Titus 3:4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

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;**

- ❖ In order to be effective witnesses, for the glory of God, we must rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us for His service.

## B. Our Duty

Acts 1:8b "...and **ye shall be witnesses unto me...**"

- ❖ Our responsibility is to be witnesses unto the Lord Jesus Christ.



witness *noun*

an individual who, being present, personally sees or perceives a thing; a beholder,

spectator, or eyewitness.

a person or thing that affords evidence.

a person who gives testimony, as in a court of law.

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/witness?s=t>

**Original Word:** μάρτυς

**Transliteration:** martus

**Usage:** a witness; an eye- or ear-witness.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3144.htm>

❖ There are two kinds of witnesses = a faithful witness and/or false witness:

Prov. 6:19 A **false witness** *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.



Prov. 12:17 *He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.*

Prov. 14:5 **A faithful witness** will not lie: but **a false witness** will utter lies. ...

25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful *witness* speaketh lies.

Prov. 19:5 **A false witness shall not be unpunished**, and *he that speaketh lies* shall not escape.

9 **A false witness shall not be unpunished**, and *he that speaketh lies* shall perish.

28 **An ungodly witness scorneth judgment**: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

Prov. 21:28 **A false witness shall perish**: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.



❖ False witnessing is a manifestation of a person's heart:

Mt. 15:19 **For out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, **false witness**, blasphemies:

❖ Consider the witness of John the Baptist:

Jn. 1:7 **The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light**, that all *men* through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but *was* **sent to bear witness of that Light**. ...

15 **John bare witness of** him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.



❖ Consider the witness of God the Father and His Son:

Jn. 5:36 But **I have greater witness than *that of John***: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

37 And **the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me**. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Jn. 8:18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and **the Father that sent me beareth witness of me**.

Jn. 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: **the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me**.

❖ Consider the witness of the first church:

Acts 4:33 And **with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus**: and great grace was upon them all.



Acts 22:15 For **thou shalt be his witness unto all men** of what thou hast seen and heard.

Acts 23:11 And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, **so must thou bear witness** also at Rome.

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: **for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness** both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Acts 26:22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, **witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:**



❖ Consider the witnesses in Heaven:

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore **seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

❖ Jesus declared that witnessing is an either/or situation:

Mt. 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and **he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.**

❖ In order to “gather” souls to Christ, we follow this formula:

Psa. 126:5 They that **sow in tears shall reap in joy.**

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, **bearing precious seed**, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, **bringing his sheaves with him.**



## C. Our Direction

Acts 1:8c “...**both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- ❖ This command places the emphasis in two areas of witnessing: 1) around us, and 2) abroad.

ALL THE TIME.....EVERYWHERE

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

- ❖ When we witness for the Lord, according to His will, with His power, we will bear much fruit, for His glory!



## Conclusion

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.