

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE → XT STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism”

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

ALL THE TIME....EVERYWHERE

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.

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>

B. Our Duty

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

C. Our Direction

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

- ❖ All around us – including those we are prejudiced against, personally.
- ❖ Abroad = worldwide evangelism – Missions

Last week, we began looking at what the Bible teaches about personal/world evangelism. Personal evangelism is most often called “soul winning.” As we saw last week, Acts 1:9 labels it “witnessing.” According to Mt. 12:30, a believer cannot be neutral as a witness:

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

World evangelism is usually viewed as “missions.” As a church, collectively, and believers individually, we should be “ambassadors for Christ:”

2 Cor. 5:20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Prov. 13:17 A **wicked messenger** falleth into mischief: but **a faithful ambassador** is health.

- ❖ Once we understand that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be a faithful ambassador for Christ, then we must be committed to be a faithful witness for His glory.

II. THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION

ALL THE TIME.....EVERYWHERE

- ❖ A true commitment to the “mission” of the “Commission” will result in believers witnessing ALL THE TIME, EVERYWHERE.

A. The Decision

- ❖ A believer must decide if witnessing is an imperative from God.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and **preach** the gospel to every creature.

Mt. 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

Definition: to be a disciple, to make a disciple

Usage: I make a disciple of, train in discipleship; pass: I am trained, disciplined, instructed.

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.** <https://biblehub.com/greek/3100.htm>

- ❖ The mandate is clear = the Bible says that believers are to be faithful witnesses for Christ and make disciples.
- ❖ A believer must have conviction that witnessing is indicative of Scriptural discipleship.

Jn. 15:8 **Herein is my Father glorified**, that ye **bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

B. The Discipline

- ❖ A believer must be disciplined to develop and to implement a plan for witnessing.

1. Pray

Col. 4:3 Withal **praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ**, for which I am also in bonds:

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.**

2. Plan

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:

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, **sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost**, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*?

❖ Count the cost of selfish interest.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself**, so that **I might finish my course with joy**, and **the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**

❖ Count the cost of one's soul:

Mt. 16:26 what is a man profited, **if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?** or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

❖ Count the cost of being prepared and committed to be a faithful witness for Christ:

1 Cor. 9:19 For though I be free from all *men*, **yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.**

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, **that I might gain** the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, **that I might gain** them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) **that I might gain** them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, **that I might gain** the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, **that I might by all means save some.**

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, **that I might** be partaker thereof **with you.**

3. Participate

1 Cor. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.**

4. Perceive

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

❖ Perception includes knowing how and when to implement the plan.

Mark 7:18 And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? **Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;**

Mark 8:17 And when Jesus knew *it*, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? **perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?**

5. Present

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

❖ A fruitful believer must humbly submit himself to God, and then present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jn. 17:26 And **I have declared unto them thy name**, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Acts 13:32 And **we declare unto you glad tidings**, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

Acts 17:23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. **Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.**

Rom. 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, **to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**

26 **To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness:** that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

1 Jn. 1:3 **That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us:** and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ...

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6. Pray

1 Thess. 5:17 **Pray without ceasing.**

7. Praise

Luke 15:4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, **rejoicing.**

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, **Rejoice with me**; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

7 I say unto you, that likewise **joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. ...

10 Likewise, I say unto you, **there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.**

C. The Delight

- ❖ A believer must be knowledgeable of the ramifications of involvement in witnessing.

Prov. 11:18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but **to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.**

Prov. 24:14 So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* unto thy soul: when thou hast found *it*, then **there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.**

1 Cor. 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and **every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

1 Cor. 9:18 **What is my reward then?** *Verily* that, **when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.**

Conclusion

Eph. 6:18 **Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit**, and **watching thereunto with all perseverance** and supplication for all saints;

19 And for me, **that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,**

20 For which **I am an ambassador in bonds**: that therein **I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**