

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS *(Student Copy)*

Part 4 – Christian Victory & Living (Renunciation of Sins, Church & HOMES and Witnessing)

CONTENT

1. Renunciation of Sins
 - 1.1 What is Renunciation of Sins and Why is it Important?
 - 1.2 How do I Renounce My Sins?
2. Church & HOMES
 - 2.1 What is the Church?
 - 2.2 What is the Purpose of the Church?
 - 2.3 Why is Attending and Rooting Down in a Church Important?
 - 2.4 What is Homes?
3. Witnessing
 - 3.1 What is Witnessing?
 - 3.2 Why is Witnessing Important?
 - 3.3 How do I Witness for the Lord?

1. RENUNCIATION OF SINS

Overview

1. The act of renunciation is the formal abandoning and rejections of one's association and connection to something or someone. As believers we renounce from things that has an ungodly and evil influence over us.
2. We have been made new in Christ and we want every believer to live freely as Christ has made them free. However, there are things and involvements in our lives that can continue to exert influence and power over us if we continue to allow and invite them in our lives (both willingly or unwillingly).
3. We can renounce our sins by going through
 - Renunciation Prayer
 - Statement of Truths
 - Destruction of any idols and objects of association
 - Prayer of blessings

1.1 What is Renunciation of Sins and Why is it Important?

The act of renunciation is the formal abandoning and rejections of one's association and connection to something or someone (status, practice, object, relationship and etc..). For example, when a person renounces his/her right as a Malaysian citizen, they officially surrender their rights as a Malaysian citizen whether to vote, to own properties and other citizenship benefits in the eyes of the government.

So what kind of association and connection do we as believers renounce from and why?

As believers we renounce from things that has an ungodly and evil influence over us. We have been made new in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) and we want every believer to live freely as Christ has made them free (Galatians 5:1). However, there are things and involvements in our lives that can continue to exert influence and power over us (causing sin, misery and bondage) if we continue to allow and invite them in our lives (both willingly or unwillingly).

These things and involvements typically include

- Idolatry
- Ancestral worship
- Witchcraft
- Occults
- Satanic worship
- Ancestral sins
- Personal sins (pride, selfishness, lust...etc.)
- Unhealed wounds and hurts (unforgiveness, disappointment, bitterness...etc.)
- Past experiences (abuse...etc.)

The Bible teaches us that we are engaged in a battle not just in the physical realm but more importantly in the spiritual and supernatural realm.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

These powers and influences will remain and stay with an individual unless it is broken, cast off and renounced. Hence, the purpose of renouncing one's sin is more than just feeling sorry and declaring that it's wrong. The purpose of renouncing is to sever and cut off any involvement and association with all ungodly relations by declaring a permanent separation and abandonment of it.

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 14:6

The end purpose of our renunciation of sins is to live freely as Christ has made us free.

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8: 1-2

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 8:34-36

1.2 How do I Renounce My Sins?

The process of renouncing sins includes these 4 stages

i. Renunciation Prayer

In this prayer, the believer will confess and renounce all ungodly and evil association and involvements (knowingly and unknowingly). The believer then commit and dedicate their lives as a new creation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for Renunciation Prayer example.

ii. Statements of Truth

These statements serve to proclaim and declare the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives. Believers are encouraged to read these statements out loud when they undergo the renunciation of their sins.

Please refer to [Appendix 2](#) for the statements of truth.

iii. Removal and Destroying of Any Idols or Objects of Association

In this process, the hosts are asked to expose, reveal and bring out "ALL" idols and objects of occultic worship including like books, talisman, charms, feng shui items, plaques or anything they may feel uncomfortable with. The believer is encouraged to expose all such belongings even though it may be sentimental because we do not want to allow the enemies to have any foothold in the space of the believer. All idols must be broken and destroyed.

Note: When destroying the idols, be sensitive to the family and also their neighbours. If possible, cover the idols in old newspapers before destroying them.

iv. Prayer of Blessings

After all the idols have been removed and destroyed, proceed to then pray a prayer of blessing for the believer and proclaiming a victorious future under the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

Summary

1. The act of renunciation is the formal abandoning and rejections of one's association and connection to something or someone. As believers we renounce from things that has an ungodly and evil influence over us.
2. We have been made new in Christ and we want every believer to live freely as Christ has made them free However, there are things and involvements in our lives that can continue to exert influence and power over us if we continue to allow and invite them in our lives (both willingly or unwillingly).
3. We can renounce our sins by going through
 - Renunciation Prayer
 - Statement of Truths
 - Destruction of any idols and objects of association
 - Prayer of blessings

2. CHURCH & HOMES

Reflections

1. What do you think the church is and what is it made up of?
2. Why do you think it's important for believers to come to church on a regular basis?

Overview

1. The church is not a building. It is an invisible living body composed of all believers in Christ saved from all countries, cultures and generations. The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.
2. The purpose of the church is 3-fold, to minister to God, to the church members and to the world.
3. Believers must not give up on the habit of coming together in church and meeting in Homes to worship God corporately and to minister to one another.

2.1 What is the Church?

When you think of a church, what the first thing that comes into your mind?

A building?
A preacher?
The choir?

The word “church” is Greek is translated as “ekklesia”, which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” The root meaning of church is not that of a building, but of people. It is ironic that when you ask people what church they attend, they usually identify a building. Romans 16:5 says, “Greet the church that is in their house.” Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

The church is not a building. It is an invisible living body composed of all believers in Christ saved from all countries, cultures and generations.

The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.

²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1:22-23

Biblically, we may regard the church in two ways.

a) The **universal** church

- Consists of everyone, everywhere, who has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink”

1 Corinthians 12:13

- This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence. All those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ comprise the universal church.
- The church is the church even when it is not holding an official meeting. In Acts 8:3, one can see that the church is still the church even when its members are at home.

b) The **local** church

- A local church is normally defined as a local assembly of all who profess faith and allegiance to Christ. Most often, the Greek word *ekklesia* is used in reference to the local assembly (1 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 11:8).

*“Paul, an apostle . . . and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia.”
Galatians 1:1–2*

- Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches—they had a localized ministry and were scattered throughout the province. There is not just one specific local church in any one area, necessarily. There are many local churches in larger cities.

2.2 What is the Purpose of the Church?

Exercise: Ask the participants to read from Acts 2:41-47 and ask for their thoughts on what does the church look like in the early years?

*41 Then those who gladly received his word were **baptized**; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' **doctrine** and **fellowship**, in the **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and **had all things in common**, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

*46 So continuing daily with one accord in the **temple**, and breaking bread from **house to house**, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and **having favor with all the people**. And the Lord **added to the church** daily those who were being saved.*

Acts 2:41-47

Acts 2:41-47 can be considered a universal purpose statement for the church. It includes studying the word of God, fellowship, communion, prayer, sharing, worshiping and sharing of the gospel. In it, the purpose of the church is typically recognized as 3 fold.

I. Ministry to **God** (Worship, Prayer, Communion)

a. Worship

- i. The church is a place where the body of believers are gathered together with the same mind to worship God corporately. Although worship can be experienced personally, there is great anointing power that comes along in corporate worship. Corporate worship is able to
 1. Teach, guide and encourage each other (Colossians 3:16, Ephesian 5:19).
 2. Promote unity, love and awareness of other's needs (Hebrews 10:24-15).

b. Prayer and seeking God

- i. The church is to be a place that promotes prayer, teaches prayer, and practices prayer. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us, ***“Do not be anxious***

about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

- ii. Acts 2:42, Luke 4:8; John 4:23; Rev. 4:10

II. Ministry to **believers** (Word, Prayer, Baptism, Fellowship)

a. Word (Equipping of the saints).

- i. The church is to teach biblical doctrine so we can be grounded in our faith on the truth of God (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:6). Ephesians 4:14 tells us,

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.”

b. Fellowship and prayer for needs.

- i. The church is to be a place of fellowship, where Christians can be devoted to one another and honor one another (Romans 12:10), instruct one another (Romans 15:14), be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11), and most importantly, love one another (1 John 3:11).

c. Baptism

- i. This is covered in the prior topic under baptism.

III. Ministry to the **world** (Prayer, Evangelism, Mercy)

a. Evangelism

- i. Another commission given to the church is proclaiming the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Acts 1:8](#)). The church is called to be faithful in sharing the gospel through word and deed. The church is to be a “lighthouse” in the community, pointing people toward our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church is to both promote the gospel and prepare its members to proclaim the gospel ([1 Peter 3:15](#)).

b. Mercy ministry

- i. Some final purposes of the church are given in [James 1:27](#): “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” The church is to be about the business of ministering to those in need. This includes not only sharing the gospel, but also providing for physical needs (food, clothing, shelter) as necessary and appropriate.

In Acts Church we frame it under 5Ws which are:

- i. Word
- ii. Worship
- iii. Warmth
- iv. Works
- v. Witness

Most churches also follow 2 main ordinances according to the instruction of the Bible which is **The Lord's Supper** and **Water Baptism**. Please refer to [Appendix 3](#) for more details and explanations about the Lord's Supper.

2.3 Why is Attending and Rooting Down in a Church Important?

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Hebrews 10:25

Exercise: Get your participants to take turn to read the story below. Take turns to share what they caught from the story.

The Lonely Ember



A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going.

After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail."

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

by Dr. John MacArthur

Nowadays, many people have become so busy that church has now become an “option” and no longer a priority. Maybe

- We have an important event during the weekend
- We're physically tired and stressed out maybe
- We're needed at work
- We feel it's sufficient and more convenient “receive” the Word of God and worship God in comfort of our own home and preference.
- We're not comfortable with certain people, groups and arrangements in a particular church

Whatever the cause maybe, there have been many embers that have been taken away from the fire and many embers have grown cold as a result. Many believers have grown cold, faithless and distant because the practise of coming together to church has been neglected. Remember, the church is made up of a community of believers and it represents the body of Christ, but if people are not in the habit of meeting together and being united, the community becomes scattered and the body of Christ becomes broken.

The truth is, every believer and every part matters, and we're all made to connect with and affect one another whether it'd be for good or for worse. Here are a few more compelling reasons why it's not only important for us to attend a church but we also need to be rooted down in a church

- I. It is God's will for the community of believers (Hebrews 10:25)
- II. It's a natural spiritual desire (to be part of a believing community) every new believer (Acts 2:41-46)
- III. There is power when we gather together to pray and to worship God (Matthew 18:20, 1 Cor 5:4)
- IV. Being in church gives us the opportunity to love one another (1 John 4:12), encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13), “spur” one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24), serve one another (Galatians 5:13), instruct one another (Romans 15:14), honor one another (Romans 12:10), and be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32).
- V. Being in the presence of more mature believers will sharpen our faith (Proverbs 27:17)
- VI. The Church needs and relies on every member to function. (1 Cor 12:14-20)
- VII. Bless and be blessed by the ministry of the gifts of Holy Spirit to the church (See 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12:6).
- VIII. Guide us into discipleship and accountability
- IX. To help bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Jesus is the Cornerstone of the Church (1 Peter 2:6), and we are “like living stones . . . being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). As the building materials of God's “spiritual house,” we naturally have a connection with one another, and that connection is evident every time the Church “goes to church.”

Excerpt from www.gotquestions.org

2.4 What is Homes?

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people.

Acts 2:46-47

Homes in Acts Church are small groups that come and meet together in one of the Homes of Acts Partners every fortnightly. It is the extension of our church where we come together to

- Fellowship
- Have meals
- Worship and praise God
- Partake in communion together
- Share testimonies
- Learn the Word of God
- Pray for each another's need

Homes is a core platform for Acts Church because we believe

- Everyone matters and everyone counts
- Everyone should have the opportunity to get connected at a deeper and more intimate level
- Homes is a place where many more believer's time, talent and treasure can be used to bless others.
- Homes is where believers can go deeper into the Word of God and have discussions and reflections.
- Homes is actually a version of the church – a mini church in a home setting
- Homes is a powerful and effective platform to reach more unbelievers
- Homes is a place where effective discipleship can take place and happen
- Homes is able to extend and reach communities in places further than the church physically can't.

How Can I Be Part of a Homes?

Everyone in Acts are highly encouraged to be part of a Homes, and we have approximately 70+ registered Homes currently just within the Klang Valley, and more in other church plants.

If you are new and would like to find out more about the various Homes available, please contact us at info@actschurch.org, or get in touch with anyone of our official Acts Church leaders. In the meantime you could use check out more information at our website at www.actchurch.org/homes.

Summary

1. The church is not a building. It is an invisible living body composed of all believers in Christ saved from all countries, cultures and generations. The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head.
2. The purpose of the church is 3-fold, to minister to God, to the church members and to the world.
3. Believers must not give up on the habit of coming together in church and meeting in Homes to worship God corporately and to minister to one another.

3. WITNESSING

Reflections

1. What do you think witnessing is and why it is important?
2. What do you is the most effective way for you to witness for God?

Overview

1. To witness for Jesus means to testify and to share about the love and power of Jesus Christ in our lives.
2. All believers are called to take up the great commission given our Lord Jesus Christ to share the Gospel. Sharing the Gospel is one the greatest act of love we can display for the people around us.
3. To witness for God we need to
 - Get right with God
 - Equip ourselves with the Word of God
 - Depend on the Holy Spirit
 - Love people

3.1 What is Witnessing?

A witness is someone that attest to the facts surrounding an event such as an accident, a crime, a wedding, a game and etc. To witness for Jesus means to testify and to share about the love and power of Jesus Christ in our lives. All believers that have experienced the love and forgiveness of Jesus are witnesses and all of us has been given an amazing privilege to share our unique and personal story of our Savior.

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. ”

Acts 1:8

The Greek word used for “witness” in the Bible is translated as *martus*, which literally means a “martyr”. A martyr is one who is killed (or suffers persecution) because of his or her religious beliefs. Such persons champions a belief and cause even to the grave because they are completely convinced and transformed by what they’ve witnessed.

24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

39 And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. 40 Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Acts 10:39-41

3.2 Why is Witnessing Important?

3.2.1 It is the Great Commission from Jesus Himself

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, His last instructions to His disciples were in relation to witnessing. He commissioned them to make disciples, teach them, baptize them and He promised that the Holy Spirit will always be with them.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Matthew 28:18 – 20



This amazing final commandment from Jesus highlights one very important point for us as believers, that we are put on this earth by Jesus for a **mission**. This mission is not reserved just for evangelists, or pastors, or full-time workers. It was given to **everyone**. This mission of witnessing and evangelizing should be at the core of our earthly focus, to reach as many people with the gospel for the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Christian, our mission in life is to be a witness for Jesus – a spokesperson to persuade others into a deep and genuine relationship with Christ. We start by telling people our story: how Jesus has transformed our lives. And by doing that, we get a chance to tell them about His story: what He has done for them as well.

It is the heartbeat of all that we are called to be and do. It is the Great Commission given to the church, which gives meaning to all else that is undertaken in the name of Christ.

Excerpt from the Actsperience Book

3.2.2 Witnessing is Love.

The heart of witnessing is all about **love**.

We love God because He first loved us and redeemed us while we were still sinners (1 John 4:19). He forgave us and paid the penalty for our sins through His Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross.

And now since we have been reconciled with God, God also shares with His children His heart and love for those who are yet to be saved. God's desire is for none to perish and for all to know His saving grace and love (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4).

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10

Jesus illustrates His heart for the lost in an entire chapter of the Bible (Luke 19) where He shared not one, but 3 parables about seeking the lost.

Exercise: Take turns to read the entire Chapter of Luke 19. Share among yourselves what you caught from the summary of these 3 parables.



Source: www.faithfulman.org

When we draw closer to God, our love for God and for people will naturally grow stronger and deeper. **The greatest gift of love that we can give to anyone is the gift of sharing the Gospel. In it (the Gospel), contains the power to eternal life for everyone who believes.**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,

Romans 1:16

3.3 How do I Witness for the Lord?

For many of us, witnessing can be a very nervous and intimidating experience akin to public speaking. Reasons for experience is generally due to our fear of

- Rejection or humiliation by our audience (friends and family)
- Perceived inability to articulate one's faith and testimony
- Perceived lack of knowledge of the Bible
- Perceived lack of faith and trust in God.

Though these feelings may be real, we are also encouraged in the Bible (Ephesians 6:19) to be bold in our faith to share the Gospel because in it contains the mystery and power of God.

Here we will explore a few key principals we can apply to strengthen our courage and help us to be prepared for every good work and to share the Gospel (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

i. Get Right with God

If we're not walking right with God, we will not be able to witness for Christ effectively. If there are sins in our lives and we are not living authentically and consistently to the call of God, we will become poor examples and representatives for God. People will first look and believe through our lifestyles before they believe through our words.

In Matthew 5:13-16, Jesus talks about believers being called to be salt and light of the world, and as such we are called to be blessings and Godly examples for the world to follow.

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

Exercise: Ask the participants to read the verse above and ask for their thoughts on what it means to be salt and light of the world.

When our lives are not right with God and sin and guilt is welling in our conscience, we will face many stumbling blocks when we try to witness to people. We will lack confidence; our faiths will be shaken, and our inconsistent lifestyles will cast a doubt over those who are hearing our testimonies.

It's of utmost importance for all believers to continually reflect our lives in alignment with God and reflect

- Have I been far from God?
- Have I been rebelling and sinning against God?
- Have I been depending on my strengths and less on God's?

As we reflect, we need to humble ourselves and seek the Lord for revelation, grace, love and forgiveness to right the wrong in us. God has promised to be gracious to forgive us and lead us to a renewal (Psalms 32:5).

ii. Equip and Encourage Yourself with the Word of God

You do not need to be a Bible expert or scholar to be an effective witness for God. Witnessing and conversion is never through persuasive words or knowledge alone but through the power of God. One of the greatest apostles Paul put this very clearly in his testimony to the Corinthians church

2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ²For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. ⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2 Corinthians 2:1-4

However, the Bible also encourages us to always be ready to give a defence and explanation about the gospel when we're called to

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

1 Peter 3:15

The reason why every believer should strive to read and study the Bible consistently is not that we can boast or dominate a conversation, but it is;

- To increase our **faith** and trust in God: to know with certain the faith and hope that we believe in. (Romans 10:17, James 1:21)
- To increase our **courage**, through God's truths and wisdom that we will not be easily intimidated and shaken by the world (1 Cor 16:13, Philippians 1:12-14, Deut 31:6)
- To allow God's word to **renew our minds, guide us** and give us **wisdom** to discern people and the different seasons (John 17:17, 2 Tim 3:15-17, Psalms 119:105)

- To help us to be ready to **guide** and point people to the Word of God when called to. (Acts 17:11, Hebrews 4:12)

iii. Depend on the Holy Spirit

When Jesus commissioned us to become witnesses for Him, He promised us a Helper. That Helper is the Holy Spirit. The role of the Holy in witnessing is two-fold:

- I. To work in and through us as witnesses
 - To give us boldness (Acts 4:8, Acts 4:31)
 - To empower us (1 Cor 2:4, Acts 1:8)
 - To give us gifts: demonstration of God's love and power (1 Cor 12:8-10, Acts 8:5-7)
 - To help know what to say (John 14:26, 2 Cor 2:1-4)
- II. To work in the heart of the unbeliever
 - To convict (John 16:8)
 - To convert (John 6:44, 1 Cor 3:6-7, John 3:5-6)

It is very important for every believer to know that it is **not** our responsibility to "convert" unbelievers. The Holy Spirit is the one that is responsible for softening hearts and convicting people of their sins and their need for a saviour. Furthermore, it is also the Holy Spirit's responsibility to give you the words to defend the gospel and to convince others. We are merely instruments chosen to be used by God to demonstrate His power and to draw men unto Him.

So don't be disheartened if your words or persuasion are not yielding any fruits in witnessing. Even the apostle Paul understood that (2 Cor 2:1-4). We just need to listen and be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, and witness faithfully. Every acts of obedience however small and trivial it may be, is sowing a seed and investment that will yield it's due fruit according to God's perfect timing.

iv. Love People

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

4 Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:1- 7

Exercise: Ask the participants to read the verse above. Ask the question, why is love so important in witnessing for God?

Perhaps nothing is more important in witnessing than to love the people that we are sharing to. The reason we say this is because a person is more likely to remember how you cared for them, than what you preached to them about God.

When researchers asked new converts, "What was the major influence in leading you to Christ and the Church?", they responded:

- Church advertising 2%
- The preacher 6%
- Organized evangelism programs 6%
- Friends and relatives 86%

*Adapted from "Evangelism: The Why and How"
by Elmer L. Towns*

The apostle Paul understood this very well, that love is the greatest power we have in our disposal to change and touch lives around us.

So what does loving the people look like. Here's a few example of how love is displayed. Loving them means

- Being available
- Being authentic and personal
- Being a great friend (trustworthy, reliable and caring)
- Being more ready to listen rather than to talk
- Being patient and slow to anger
- Being generous with your time, talent and treasure
- Letting your acts of kindness speak louder than your words
- Always being ready to offer prayer for their needs
- Sharing your testimony about how had God touched and changed your life

One of the most effective of witnessing is the use of our God given testimonies. Please refer to [Appendix 4](#) for a guide how to prepare and share your testimony.

Summary

1. To witness for Jesus means to testify and to share about the love and power of Jesus Christ in our lives.
2. All believers are called to take up the great commission given our Lord Jesus Christ to share the Gospel. Sharing the Gospel is one the greatest act of love we can display for the people around us.
3. To witness for God we need to
 - Get right with God
 - Equip ourselves with the Word of God
 - Depend on the Holy Spirit
 - Love people

APPENDIX 1

RENUNCIATION PRAYER

You are a new person in Christ when you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and saviour (2 Corinthians 5:17). Before you come to know Jesus, you may have consciously or unknowingly been involved in activities that are against God. Hence the prayer list below is a good guide to help you identify some areas of your past involvement(s) which you may want to renounce.

Read Deuteronomy 5:7-21; Proverbs 28:13.

You may pray the following:

1. In Jesus' Name, I renounce all satanic, occultic and demonic contacts, dominion and influence in my life.
2. In Jesus' Name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, I renounce and destroy the power and control of satan in my spirit, body, soul, health, happiness, and well-being. I claim complete and total deliverance.
3. In Jesus' Name, I renounce all the consequences of my ancestors' sin. In Jesus' Name, I renounce idolatry, ancestor-worship, witchcraft, black magic, incantation, sorcery, and spells in my life. In Jesus' Name, I renounce all the food that I have taken that has been offered to idols. I release myself from all the effects of evil consumption in my life in Jesus Name. In Jesus name, I release myself from ancestral contamination and pollution up to 10 generations on both sides of my parents' families. In Jesus' Name, I cancel all agreements between my ancestors and the devil and I claim back every inch of ground given over to the devil by my ancestors. In Jesus' Name I renounce all my sexual sins and ancestor' sexual sins. In Jesus' Name, I release myself from all unprofitable soul-ties with past sexual partners.
4. In Jesus Name' by the power of God's Holy Spirit, I renounce and destroy the seed and root of all curses, bondages, destruction, death, hell infirmity, diseases and inheritances in my life. In Jesus' Name, I renounce the seed and the root of poverty, lack of self-esteem, hindrances, oppression, depression, obsession, confusion, deception, fear, doubt, and unbelief in my life. In Jesus' Name, I renounce the seed and root of the spirit of fear of death, rejection, loneliness and suicide in my life.
5. In Jesus' Name, I renounce the seed and root of pride, arrogance, unteachableness, selfishness, self-centeredness in my life. In Jesus' Name, I renounce the religious spirit, the critical spirit, and the judgmental spirit in me.
6. In Jesus' Name, I renounce unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, frustration, disappointment, anger, vindictiveness and despair in my life.
7. In Jesus' Name, I choose to forgive every person who has ever sinned against me, bless them lord. In Jesus' Name, I choose to forgive I release them and myself from the bondage of guilt, condemnation, self-pity, inferiority, a sense of failure and low self-esteem.
8. Heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, completely erase, dislodge and remove from my mind, my memory and my emotions, 'the sting of bad memories'. Take away all my hurts, pains, bruises, bitterness, hatred, resentment, desperation, anger, sorrows, grief and frustrations. I don't want any of them, I don't want to remember my past anymore. Anything that should not be me, take it away Lord and fill me right now with your Peace, your Joy and your Love. Heal my memories. Heal my broken heart and bind up my broken spirit Lord.
9. Take over my entire life completely and change me to be more like you Lord.

In Jesus' Name I dedicate my life to you. Amen.

APPENDIX 2

STATEMENTS OF TRUTH

1. I recognize that there is only one true and living God who exists as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is worthy of all honour, praise and glory as the One who made all things and holds all things together (see Exodus 20:2,3; Colossians 1:16-17).
2. I recognize that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. I believe that He came to destroy the works of the devil, and that He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public display of them, having triumphed over them (see John 1: 1,14; Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8).
3. I believe that God demonstrated His own love for me in that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me. I believe that He has delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me to His kingdom, and in Him I have redemption and the forgiveness of sins (see Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14).
4. I believe that I am now a child of God and that I am seated with Christ in the heavenlies. I believe that I was saved by the grace of God through faith, and that it was a gift and not a result of any works from my part (see Ephesians 2:6,8,9; 1 John 3:1-3).
5. I choose to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. I put no confidence in the flesh, for the weapons of warfare are not of the flesh but are divinely powerful for the destruction of strongholds. I put on the full armour of God. I resolve to stand firm in my faith and resist the evil one (see 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-20; Philippians 3:3).
6. I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing, so I declare my complete dependence on Him. I choose to abide in Christ in order to bear much fruit and glorify my Father. I announce to Satan that Jesus is my Lord. I reject any and all counterfeit gifts or works of Satan in my life (see John 15:5,8; 1 Corinthians 12:3).
7. I believe that the truth will set me free and that Jesus is the truth. If He sets me free, I will be free indeed. I recognize that walking in the light is the only path of true fellowship with God and man. Therefore, I stand against all of Satan's deception by taking every thought captive in obedience to Christ. I declare that the Bible is the only authoritative standard for truth and life (see John 8:32,36; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 John 1:3-7).
8. I choose to present my body to God as a living and holy sacrifice, and the members of my body as instruments of righteousness. I choose to renew my mind by the living Word of God in order that I may prove that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect. I put off the old self with its evil practices and put on the new self. I declare myself to be a new creation in Christ (see Romans 6:13; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:9,10, NIV).
9. By faith, I choose to be filled with the Spirit so that I can be guided into all truth. I choose to walk by the Spirit so that I will not carry out the desires of the flesh (see John 16:13; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18).
10. I renounce all selfish goals and choose the ultimate goal of love. I choose to obey the two greatest commandments: to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love my neighbour as myself (see Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-39; 1 Timothy 1:5).
11. I believe that the Lord Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, and He is the head over all rule and authority. I am complete in Him. I believe that Satan and his demons are subject to me in Christ since I am a member of Christ's body. Therefore, I obey the command to submit to God and resist the devil, and I command Satan in the name of Jesus Christ to leave my presence (see Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 2:10; James 4:7).

APPENDIX 3

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT?

Source: www.GotQuestion.org

A study of the Lord's Supper is a soul-stirring experience because of the depth of meaning it contains. It was during the age-old celebration of the Passover on the eve of His death that Jesus instituted a significant new fellowship meal that we observe to this day. It is an integral part of Christian worship. It causes us to remember our Lord's death and resurrection and to look for His glorious return in the future.

The Passover was the most sacred feast of the Jewish religious year. It commemorated the final plague on Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared because of the blood of a lamb that was sprinkled on their doorposts. The lamb was then roasted and eaten with unleavened bread. God's command was that throughout the generations to come the feast would be celebrated. The story is recorded in Exodus 12.

During the Last Supper—a Passover celebration—Jesus took a loaf of bread and gave thanks to God. As He broke it and gave it to His disciples, He said, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:19-21). He concluded the feast by singing a hymn (Matthew 26:30), and they went out into the night to the Mount of Olives. It was there that, as predicted, Jesus was betrayed by Judas. The following day Jesus was crucified.

The accounts of the Lord's Supper are found in the Gospels (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:7-22; and John 13:21-30). The apostle Paul wrote concerning the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-29. Paul includes a statement not found in the Gospels: “Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). We may ask what it means to partake of the bread and the cup “in an unworthy manner.” It may mean to disregard the true meaning of the bread and cup and to forget the tremendous price our Savior paid for our salvation. Or it may mean to allow the ceremony to become a dead and formal ritual or to come to the Lord's Supper with unconfessed sin. In keeping with Paul's instruction, we should examine ourselves before eating the bread and drinking the cup.

Another statement Paul made that is not included in the gospel accounts is “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). This places a time limit on the ceremony—until our Lord's return. From these brief accounts we learn how Jesus used two of the frailest of elements as symbols of His body and blood and established them as a monument to His death. It was not a monument of carved marble or molded brass, but of bread and wine.

He declared that the bread spoke of His body which would be broken. There was not a broken bone, but His body was so badly tortured that it was hardly recognizable (Psalm 22:12-17; Isaiah 53:4-7). The wine spoke of His blood, indicating the terrible death He would soon experience. He, the perfect Son of God, became the fulfillment of the countless Old Testament prophecies concerning a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15; Psalm 22; Isaiah 53). When He said, “Do this in remembrance of me,” He indicated this was a ceremony that must be continued in the future. It indicated also that the Passover, which required the death of a lamb and looked forward to the coming of the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world, was fulfilled in the Lord's Supper. The New Covenant replaced the Old Covenant when Christ, the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), was sacrificed (Hebrews 8:8-13). The sacrificial system was no longer needed (Hebrews 9:25-28). The Lord's Supper/Christian Communion is a remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice.

APPENDIX 4

How to Prepare Your Testimony: from www.cru.org

Your Story is His Story

Every time we tell our story (our testimony) we give honor and glory to God, and He is pleased with that.

Your story — regardless of how “spectacular” or “ordinary” you think it is — is a story about God’s character. It is your eyewitness account of how God rescued you from sin and death through Christ, and changed your life as a result.

When we share our story with others we help them get to know what God is like and what He can do.

Be Ready

Whether you are in line at the grocery store, sitting with a family member or standing in front of a group of people, the Bible calls us to “always be ready” to explain our hope in Christ with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15-16, NLT).

Sometimes we like to think that because it’s our story, we don’t have to do anything to be ready to tell it. After all, we were there when it happened, and we’re living it now.

Yet we can get nervous, become side-tracked or forget things when sharing our testimonies, which can be confusing or distracting for those listening. This is why a little preparation and practice can be so valuable.

Put it Together

Let’s take a look at how to put your story together, section by section. **There are five basic parts to your story:** the opening, your life before Christ, how you came to Christ, your life after Christ, and the closing.

1. **The Opening.** Identify a theme you can use to frame your story. What did your life revolve around (e.g. relationships, your reputation, money) that God used to help bring you to Him? Briefly illustrate how that influenced your life.
2. **Your Life Before Christ.** Paint a picture of what your life was like before you came to Christ. Don’t dwell too much on, or brag about, past sin struggles. Share only the details that relate to your theme — just enough to show your need for Christ.
3. **How You Came to Christ.** Give the details about why and how you became a Christian. Communicate in such a way that the person you are talking with, and anyone who overhears you, can understand how they can become a Christian, too. Even if your listeners are not ready for that, God could use your story and explanation of the gospel to draw them to Himself in the future.
4. **Your Life After Coming to Christ.** Share some of the changes that Christ has made in your life as they relate to your theme. Emphasize the changes in your character, attitude or perspective, not just mere changes in behavior. Be realistic. We still struggle as Christians. Life is far from perfect, but what’s different about your life now?
5. **The Closing.** End with a statement that summarizes your story and connects everything back to your theme. If you want, close with a Bible verse that relates to your experience.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Pray before you write out and share your story.
- Write the way you speak.
- Don't be overly negative or positive. Be honest.
- Don't criticize or name any church, denomination, organization, etc.
- Think about your listener(s). Avoid overly-religious terms.
- Keep it short. Aim to tell your story in three to five minutes.
- Practice telling your story until it becomes natural.