

*You've Lost it. Get it Back.*  
*Restoring Your Witness for Christ*  
Troy Knight

**TALK IT OVER**

Key Scripture:

**Romans 1:16 (NLT)**

*16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)**

*18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

**John 10:10 (NLT)**

*10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*

**John 8:32 (NLT)**

*32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

**Romans 6:23 (NLT)**

*23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)**

*9 If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.*

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- If you knew with certainty that Jesus was coming back next week, how would you live your life differently? Is there anyone you would share the gospel with?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- **Read Romans 1:16.** Have you ever been ashamed of the Gospel? What does it look like to live unashamed of the Gospel? What's the result of boldly proclaiming the Gospel?
- How comfortable do you feel sharing your story of faith? Time permitting, have a couple of group members share their story. Include your life before Christ, the moment you met Jesus and your life since becoming a Christian.
- **Read Matthew 28:18-20.** Why did Jesus begin the great commission with a statement about his authority? Why did Jesus end the great commission with a statement about his presence? What do his authority and presence have to do with making disciples of all nations?
- What are the 3 things Jesus commands us to do in the great commission? Have you personally done all of these things? Are you helping others do them?
- Pastor Troy said that every Sunday we are trying to create an environment at Generations Church that is life giving, truthful, and user friendly. How are we doing? What are you doing to help us create that environment? When is the last time you invited someone to church?
- If you were starting a church from scratch, is there another attribute you would add to the list?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- This week, identify someone in your life who is not yet a believer and share the gospel with them.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray that every member of your group is emboldened and unashamed to be a witness to the saving grace of Jesus Christ, sharing the gospel with unbelievers, and living out the great commission everywhere they go.

**Question: "How can I be an effective witness for Christ in a lost world?"**

**Answer:** A “witness” is someone who attests to a fact, so in order to be an effective witness for Christ, one must have firsthand knowledge of Him. John the Apostle speaks of this in 1 John 1:1-3, when he says, “That . . . which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of Life.” Today, we who have experienced new life in Christ give an account of His love and forgiveness, both verbally and in the way we live our lives. This is witnessing. To be effective in our witness, we should remember several basic things:

1) the **THEME** of our witness is Jesus Christ. Paul defined the gospel as the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). If we aren’t explaining the sacrifice of Christ, then we’re not really sharing the gospel. (See also 1 Corinthians 2:2 and Romans 10:9-10.) An important part of this theme is the fact that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, not just one of many ways. “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

2) the **POWER** of our witness is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who transforms a life (Titus 3:5), and a transformed life is evident to all. As we witness, we should spend much time in prayer, appropriating the Spirit’s power so that we are enabled to let our light shine in such a way that others will recognize the power of God in us (Matthew 5:16).

3) the **VALIDITY** of our witness will be shown in how we live our lives. Philippians 2:15 sets this goal for us: “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.” The effective Christian witness will live his/her life above reproach in the power of the Holy Spirit, whose fruit we exhibit when we remain in Christ (John 15:1-8; Galatians 5:22-23).

Perhaps most importantly, we must be familiar enough with the Scriptures to be able to accurately and coherently present the gospel to others. “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). Always being prepared means diligent Bible study, memorizing Scripture, and praying for God-given opportunities to share with those whose hearts have been prepared by the Lord to hear His message of salvation.

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