

“To Bear Witness of the Light”

HOW TO BE A WITNESS FOR JESUS CHRIST

Lessons About Winning Souls From the Book of John

LESSON 6: GUIDING A CONVERT

(Chapters 8 through 12)

The winning of souls to Jesus Christ is supposed to be an on-going process! When an individual trusts in Christ for salvation, he is supposed to be instructed in discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20). As he learns to follow Jesus in discipleship, he becomes a soul-winner himself (Mark 1:16-18). One way to witness for Christ is to help a new Christian in the direction of becoming a witness. Time spent with new converts is always time well spent. In this section of the Book of John, the Lord Jesus gives much good instruction for believers that we can all pass on to the new Christians among us.

1. **“Sin no more”** (Chapter 8).

The Lord comforted and challenged the woman He spared from the punishment for adultery with these words:

“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (verse 11)

The command *“sin no more”* was also given to the man healed in John 5 (verse 14). By this Jesus meant that a Christian should no longer regard sin (disobedience to God) as an option in any situation of life. It is not that Christians never sin; it is that they ought not to sin, and ought not to consider disobeying God’s command as an acceptable choice. This admonition should be given to all new believers (See Romans 6 and I John 2:1-3). Verse 31 tells them to continue in God’s Word and become true disciples of Jesus. Verses 32 through 36 tells them that the Truth and the Son will set them free from the shackles (power) of sin. A newly saved person needs to be challenged to turn his back on sin, and to follow the Lord fully. Will you get close enough to a babe in Christ to tell him this?

2. **“Dost thou believe?”** (Chapter 9).

In the next chapter, the Lord heals a man born blind. The story about what happens next is fascinating and revealing. The poor man was rejected by the leaders of his religion, but Jesus found him and asked,

“Dost thou believe on the Son of God?” (verse 35)

The man asked Him Who the Son of God would be. Jesus replied, *“It is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”* (vs. 36-37). Everyone who professes to have been saved needs to be led to an *assurance* of his salvation. People are saved by *faith* in Jesus Christ, but they must be *taught* that their faith has saved them (Luke 7:48-50). Study I John 5:9-13 and see how a convert receives this assurance. There is the *“witness”* of God’s written Word (vs. 11-13).

There is also the “*witness*” of God’s indwelling Spirit (vs. 9-10). Start with the *objective* testimony of God’s Word—find a verse that promises salvation to those who believe on Jesus (I John 5:1, 13). Then point to the *subjective* testimony of God’s Spirit, Who bears witness to our new birth when we are obeying God (I John 3:24, 4:13). Do you know a young believer you could help have *assurance*?

3. **“Eternal life”** (Chapter 10).

John 10 includes many verses that would help a person know how to be saved or that would help a newly saved person follow the Lord. However, verses 27 through 30 are especially helpful because they emphasize the fact that salvation is *eternal*! The only way God saves a soul is forever! This doesn’t mean that everyone who ever said he was saved, or submitted to baptism, is guaranteed that he will go to Heaven. Remember Judas (John 6:70-71)? What this does mean is that getting us to Heaven is God’s work and not ours, and that for a true believer in Jesus to be lost again would require that *God failed* (and that will never be)! Inward assurance of salvation is experienced when we *follow* Jesus, but actually eternal salvation is the free gift of God, and it is never taken back. What new Christian needs your help in learning this?

4. **“The glory of God”** (Chapter 11).

This chapter tells us the tremendous story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. It is also the story of the faith of his sisters, and how it was tried. When Jesus and the disciples were told that Lazarus was seriously ill, Jesus promised,

“This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.” (verse 4)

When Lazarus did die, Jesus said,

“I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.” (verse 15)

Somehow Jesus letting his friend die was going to help His followers “*believe*.” Their

faith was going to be strengthened by a trial. Read what I Peter 1:3-8 says. New Christians need to know about this. Their faith will be tried and tested, but if they will keep on believing and obeying God, their faith will be strengthened and God will be glorified.

“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?” (verse 40)

That’s just what happened in John 11.

5. **“Children of light”** (Chapter 12)

The Lord has some wonderful things in store for those who believe in Him. See what He said in John 12:36.

“While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light.”

Again the passover had come, and many wanted to see Jesus during their visit to Jerusalem. Some of the seekers were “*Greeks*,” who were, of course, not Jewish (verses 12-22). When they were brought to Jesus, He told them and others who listened about His coming sacrifice and resurrection (verses 23-33). He used symbolic and spiritual terminology, but we can see in the record of His words the Gospel message that saves the soul! Then He spoke of what those who believe in Him would become (verses 34-36). He is the Light of the World (See John 1:4-9, 8:12, and 12:46). He said that we are the light of the world as we reflect His Light (Matthew 5:14-16). He also said, “*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” (John 9:5). Now that He has left the world, we are the ones who must give light to the world. When we believed in the Light (Jesus), we became “*the children of light*” (v. 36). As children of light, we reflect His Light by living the way He lived! Look up Ephesians 5, and read verses 8 through 14. We should not walk in darkness any more, neither should we “*fellowship*” (condone) the works of darkness nor even “*speak of those things.*” We should live holy lives, separated clearly from the sin of this world. New converts need to be told about this, too!