

DISCIPLING THE UNBELIEVER II

wit-ness

Etymology: Middle English *witnesse*, from Old English *witnes* knowledge, testimony, witness, from ²wit

1 : attestation of a fact or event : **TESTIMONY**

2 : one that gives evidence; *specifically* : one who testifies in a cause or before a judicial tribunal

4 : one who has personal knowledge of something¹

tes-ti-mo-ny

Etymology: Middle English, from Late Latin & Latin; Late Latin *testimonium* Decalogue, from Latin, evidence, witness

1 a (1) : the tablets inscribed with the Mosaic law (2) : the ark containing the tablets **b** : a divine decree attested in the Scriptures

2 a : firsthand authentication of a fact : **EVIDENCE b** : an outward sign **c** : a solemn declaration usually made orally by a witness under oath in response to interrogation by a lawyer or authorized public official

3 a : an open acknowledgment **b** : a public profession of religious experience¹

Called to be witnesses

Acts 1:8 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."

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Being a great witness – Our calling as Christians

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 2:8-12

So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Bible is a record of God's interaction with man: past, present, and future.

- **Historical facts**
- **Moral guidelines**
- **Prophetic aspects demonstrate that God is God.**

If God is interacting with His world now, how do we know it?

- **We read/hear about what He is doing from others.**
- **We see it with our own eyes, because we are apart of what He is doing.**

Being a part

The best witnesses are the ones that had the best and most complete perspective on the events. Christians that are actively engaged in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ will be a part of the things He is accomplishing. They will be a first person witness to Him, His work, and His truths. The more a Christian knows about the Bible, the better they understand the moral truths, the more they allow Jesus to work in their life, the better witness they'll be, the more powerful their testimony will be, and most importantly, the closer relationship they'll have with Jesus. When we interact with unbelievers, Jesus is expecting us to provide the best witness possible. Our best witness occurs when we have our eyes focused on Him and the things He cares about.

Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.

¹ <http://www.m-w.com/dictionary.htm>