



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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CALLED TO BE A WITNESS

By Vince C. Dorazio

Every day all over the world, many people are called to be a witness, whether it be in a civil matter or in a criminal matter. They are called to give witness to what they know, and what they have seen. They give their personal testimony of what they believe to be true. In our courts in America, they are asked, **"Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, so help you God,"** If you were called to be a witness and were asked this question, how would you answer? I venture to say that everyone will answer with an affirmative, "Yes." And then you will begin your personal testimony of what you know to be the truth. You will become a witness to everyone who doesn't know what you know.

Have you been called to be a witness? I would say that everyone who is reading this article has to answer with an affirmative "yes". As a believer in Jesus as Lord and Savior, it is your duty as a Christian to tell what you know and believe to be the truth about Jesus as Lord and Savior! Your personal testimony is required and necessary, so that others may also know what you know.

Jesus made it perfectly clear that we are called to be a witness for Him. As St Luke writes in Acts, Jesus said, **"You**

will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you, then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes, even to the ends of the earth."
(Acts: 1:8)

When the Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, wrote their personal account of what they had seen and heard, they were giving their personal witness about Jesus as Lord and Savior. Even though St. Luke was not one of the original Apostles, here is how he begins his personal testimony.

"Many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events which have been fulfilled in our midst, precisely as those events were transmitted to us by the original eyewitnesses and ministers of the word. I too have carefully traced the whole sequence of events from the beginning and have decided to set it in writing for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may see how reliable the instruction was that you received."

St. Luke was giving his personal testimony about what he found out about Jesus and also confirming what was already written about Jesus as Lord and Savior.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Because of our busy schedules in our Jobs, families, and daily activities we so often miss opportunities to be a witness to our renewed faith in Jesus. We miss the opportunity to tell of our personal testimony of how we came to accept Jesus as our personal Savior, and how we have received the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We sometimes miss telling of our involvement in the Charismatic Renewal, and of our weekly prayer meetings.

One of the ways that I have found to help me remember to be a witness is by saying this brief prayer each morning before I venture out. **"Lord, put those people in my path that you want me to witness to today."** I have found this to be very helpful, for I never know who I will meet that day. And many times, the other person usually asks or starts the conversation about religion. Suddenly, it seems that God has opened the door, and without hesitation, there I am telling my testimony of how I accepted Jesus and about my involvement in the Charismatic Renewal.

Another way that helps me to witness to others is by wearing a Christian symbol, such as a cross or a lapel pin. I had a small lapel pin in the shape of a dove. When anyone asked me what that represented, I told them it was the **descending dove of the Holy Spirit** and immediately the opportunity to witness was opened.

I'm sure you can recall the many times that you missed out about witnessing your testimony. Well, it's never too late to start anew. Give your testimony as often as possible to as many as will listen. Become like St. Paul. Once he was converted, he continued to

After Jesus heals the man who was blind from birth, the man was taken to the Pharisees to be questioned about how he can now see. (See John chapter 9) The man tells them that Jesus opened his eyes. Questioning him a second time the man says, **"I know this much; I was blind before, but now I see."** When the Pharisees persist in their questioning, the man replied, **"I have told you once, but you would not listen to me. Why do you want to hear it all over again? Don't tell me that you want to become one of His disciples too?"** The man tells his personal witness about how Jesus healed him and then follows it up with a question of his own, asking the Pharisees if they want to become Jesus' disciples.

Sometimes, as Christians we have to follow up our witnessing with a direct question, asking the other person if they too would want to know Jesus in a personal way. I remember before I had renewed my life in Jesus, some people would ask me if I was a Christian. I thought *'what a strange question to ask?'* After all, I was born and raised a Catholic. It wasn't until after I was born-again and had made a personal commitment to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior that I understood the question.

Besides the Apostles, there were many others who told of their personal testimony about Jesus. Consider the woman at the well. (See John 4)

Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So, when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers.

tell his testimony to everyone. (See Acts, chapter 9 and following)

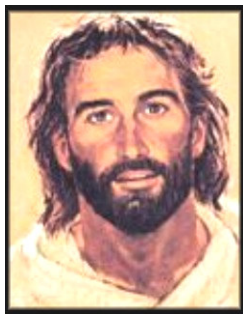
When I accepted Jesus back in 1972, a Christian client of mine had been telling me about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. One day as I was driving along the highway to a business meeting, I turned to God and said, **"God, if you are real, show me!"** I lifted my hands and I felt the hand of Jesus pull me out of the car. I could see the car going down the freeway with me in it, but I was not in it; I was in the hand of the Lord. Then I heard Jesus say, **"Go back and tell everyone that I am real!"** Suddenly, I was in the parking lot in front of the building where my business meeting was taking place.

Your testimony of your conversion and receiving the Holy Spirit is exciting and uplifting, especially to those who know you personally. This is your Golden Opportunity to become a star witness for Jesus, just as He instructed.



YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COME DOWN ON YOU; THEN YOU ARE TO BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, THROUGHOUT JUDEA AND SAMARIA, YES, EVEN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

(Acts 1:8)



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I like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who sent us your cards and donations last month. Thank you for helping us to bring New Life Renewal to everyone who asks.

If you know of anyone who currently does not receive this newsletter and would like to receive NEW LIFE, please let us know and we will add their name to our mailing list.

For those who would like to make a donation, on the next page is a donation form for your convenience to cut out and return to New Life Renewal. This will help us to continue our outreach ministry to tell everyone that **JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**

We thank you in advance for your continued prayers and financial support in making this ministry possible.

Prayer Requests

If you need prayer for yourself, family or a friend please mail us your requests. These will be included in our next newsletter. In your prayers remember all who are in need.

**The primary purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim that
JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!**



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THURSDAYS 7:30 PM

St Albert's Catholic Church
29th Street & 32nd Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN.
(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)

Call ahead for Handicap
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