

# ***CHRISTIANS***



## ***TO OTHERS!***

*Booklet 5*

*"Effective Christian Living" Series.*

*By*

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*THE BIG QUESTION!*

*# 5*

*"CHRISTIANS WITNESS TO OTHERS!"*

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1.

*CAN I MAKE ANY  
DIFFERENCE IN MY WORLD?"*

*You are only one person! Do not underestimate your influence as one person! Unite with other redemptive persons and become an instrument of healing in society!*

*Many Social ills are not healed because, NO one personally feels responsible for the problem. Collective irresponsibility — "Everybody's job is nobody's job."*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Many social ills are not healed because no one personally feels responsible for the problem. Collective irresponsibility - "Everybody's job is nobody's job."*

*Some are hindered in any meaningful involvement in social concerns, for they feel insignificant as an individual. "I am only one person, what can I do?" comes from the lips of many. It is time to realize that good actions on the part of enough good people can help change the course of history!*

*We must recognize that Christians can exercise a powerful influence on society even though they may be a small minority. The prayer of one godly person has great power to change 'things'!*

*Always remember the famous words of Edward Hale: "I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Dearest Heavenly Father, help me to accept both my personal strengths and my personal weaknesses. Help me not to be depressed by feelings of self-contempt on one hand (thinking I can do nothing), nor to be inflated with feelings of self-conceit on the other hand (thinking I can do everything). Help me to lose myself, in order to find myself in service to others! Help me to know that I am neither a 'worm' (of no value), nor am I a 'wonder' (of self-inflated value)! I am just a converted person, deeply loved by my Savior, and called to a life of compassionate service—and called to leave all the results of my*

*involvement with people to my Lord—the accurate Evaluator of all things! You are both just and merciful. Thank you! Amen!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Do not allow the complacency of corporate irresponsibility, to rob you of your proper concern for your own personal accountability to your loving God!*

2.

*"AS A CHRISTIAN, AM I CALLED TO  
BECOME A DISCIPLE-MAKER?"*

*Every Christian has received the mandate to witness with the purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ!*

*But Jesus does not give such a strong mandate without providing the resources of strength and power. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the driving motivation for carrying out Jesus' mandate.*

*God has entrusted a special message—a saving message—to all believers, and it is the creative Holy Spirit who shows the creative believer the manners and the methods in spreading this important message.*

#### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The disciples whom Jesus chose were ordinary men. They had no formal college education or special social distinction.*

*It was to these men that Jesus commanded, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the*

***Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". (Matthew 28:19)***

*This is Jesus' mandate to the Church! A mandate is a command, an edict, a statute, a commission.*

*The 'Great Commission' has become the 'Great Omission' of the Church too often! But the 'Great Commission' is not an option; it is a mandate to every Christian!*

*Notes Trueblood: "The ministry of Christ must be universal. It must be universal in three specific ways.*

- 1. It must involve all places.*
- 2. It must involve all times.*
- 3. It must involve all Christian persons, male and female, lay and clerical, old and young.*

*He further says, "The non-witnessing follower of Christ is a contradiction in terms".*

***TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!***

*"O God, I am a person under orders! I gladly accept your mandate. Never allow the 'Great Commission' to become the 'Great Omission' in my life. Help me to go to people as a shepherd goes after his lost*

*sheep. If I remain in my Church and wait for sinners to come to church, it is like 'chaining Christ to the pulpit' (as once noted by Bishop Donald Bastian)!"*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*One respected person once said, "The non-witnessing follower of Christ, is a contradiction in terms". Because Jesus has rescued you from sin, you have a desire that Jesus rescue your friends and family (and even strangers) from Sin! It is not difficult to share God's love with others, when you yourself have a deepening relationship with God. What He has done for you, you want Him to do for others! When you have discovered life's great Treasure (Jesus Christ, and a close relationship with Him), the 'natural' thing for you to do is to tell others that they too can have that Treasure!*

3.

*"CAN MY POSITIVE INFLUENCE MAKE  
ANY DIFFERENCE?"*

*You teach your children by precept and example either to love righteousness or to love sin!*

*You mold your children to become either objects of judgment or objects of mercy! God lovers, or God haters! What kind of grandchildren do you wish to have?*

*The life you live will help determine the outcome of your grandchildren! You are helping to shape future generations! Your influence - for good or for evil - is stronger than you think!*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The Truth Is This: Every person motivates or influences others for either good or bad. Every person consciously or unconsciously persuades others to think a certain way or to take a certain course of action.*

*Influence is a mighty weapon for either God or Satan. Even after you are dead, your influence lives on! The intangible force of influence is great! Your life will influence future generations! **"Put yourselves in God's Hands as weapons of good for His own purposes."** (Romans 6:13)*

*One of the greatest weapons that you can put into the Hands of God is your influence, which your godly life exercises in a hurting and godless world. When Sinners think of you, may they say; "There is a true and authentic Christian, imperfect but honest and real. If I ever become a Christian, I want to be like that person." Remember: "You are the best Christian that Someone Knows!"*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God help me to be a strong link in the long chain of life. Help me to live responsibly, knowing that with every decision I make, I am either helping or hindering future generations. Help me to pay the high price for the richest of all gifts - the gift of a godly example lovingly offered to future generations!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Have a 'faith, sane estimate' of your own abilities and gifts. Do not despise yourself or elevate yourself.*

*Simply and humbly, thank God for your place in His great Body. See yourself as 'one cell' among many cells in the Body of Christ, and accept God's call to you to exercise all of your gifts to influence as many as possible for the growth of God's Kingdom. Determine to always exercise a positive influence, in such a way that someday your grandchildren will praise You!*

4.

*"CAN I HAVE A PART IN BRINGING  
OTHERS TO CHRIST?"*

*The existence of a kingdom depends upon two factors: "Reign of a king and a realm with subjects!" "God is the King!"*

*Christians are the subjects that compose the King's realm. Christ is very interested in the realm of God's Kingdom being increased and expanded. This expansion comes when Christ receives the loyalty of another human heart.*

*As Christians, we are given the ministry of reconciliation — influencing people to give their lives to Christ.*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*To change the analogy, we are given the opportunity to be harvesters in the Lord's vineyard. When we go forth, we are going forth for an ultimate purpose—To Harvest Souls for Christ. We will not see this accomplished every time we go forth. Sometimes we will sow the seed of God's Word. Sometimes we will "Water the Seed" with inner tears of intercessory prayer.*

*Sometimes we will warm the soil of men's hearts through acts of thoughtful friendship. Sometimes we have the "...doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing His sheaves with Him." (Psalms 126:6) In other words, Soul-Winning!*

#### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER*

*"Father, just as there was 'great joy' in the city of Samaria when Phillip led people to Christ. "And there was much joy in that city." (Acts 8:8) So there will be 'joy unspeakable' when people find you as Savior through my witness! 'Take my life and let it be, consecrated Lord to thee'. Then people who find You will rejoice exceedingly!"*

#### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Christ is not looking for 'perfect' persons to witness for Him, only sincere persons who desire to live a Spirit-led and loving life. Such persons are winsome, attractive, radiant, approachable, kind, patient, and understanding!*

*Persons with no desire to be 'pushy', 'dogmatic', or 'close-minded' to serious questions from honest seekers. Never forcing anyone to accept Christ! 'The*

*spiritual fruit' ripens at different 'rates' and in different ways. Simply witnessing in love, and leaving the results with Christ! Being 'in step' with the convicting and the convincing Holy Spirit.*

5.

*"WHY SHOULD CHRIST BE THE  
FOCUS IN ALL MY WITNESSING?"*

*Witnessing that is not Christ-centered is off-centered! If Christ came from God; If Christ lived a sacrificial life; If Christ died a substitutionary death; and If Christ arose from the dead and ascended to the Father's right hand where He experiences glory and honor; If all of these assertions are true, then should we not seek to persuade all persons everywhere to bow their knees to Christ and to confess with their lips that Jesus is Lord!*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*Christ surrendered the glories of heaven to live a selfless life for mankind, through which He might inaugurate the new age of grace. Christ laid down His own life on His own accord, in order that He might become the perfect sacrifice for sin. Christ broke the bars of death through His resurrection in order to show His power over sin and Satan, and to demonstrate His power to make mankind victorious over sin. Jesus is the focal point of 'salvation history', through which all men can find life.*

*TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I realize that your 'LIGHT OF TRUTH' was gradually coming into the world throughout the many centuries of human history. You enlightened men in all generations. But your truth (regarding your personhood and your saving intentions) was quite limited and very partial. Yes, you were faithful to 'honest hearts', and to 'open minds' in every age of mankind. Some men received some 'light of truth' through the wonders of nature, others through the 'dictates' of their partially-enlightened conscience, some through the observation of providentially-guided events, some through the exhortations of gifted prophets, and still others through the moral teachings of formalized religions!*

*Yes, O God, I thank thee that you did not leave your world without a witness to your truth—in some manner and in various degrees of enlightenment. But, most of all, I thank you for your 'consummating and perfect Light' - the coming of Jesus! Jesus 'absorbs' all the lesser lights of history, and Jesus shows that He is the altogether 'unique' Light of all lights. No greater light than Jesus! For Jesus came directly from*

*the 'Father of all Lights'! Jesus said He is the Light of World! Unique!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*Jesus' matchless Teachings, Jesus' astounding Miracles, Jesus' Sinless Lifestyle, Jesus' Substitutionary death, Jesus' glorious Resurrection, Jesus' transforming Grace—UNIQUE!*

6.

*"AS A CHRISTIAN, WHAT IS MY MOTIVATION FOR WITNESSING TO UNBELIEVERS?"*

*The disciples who waited were filled with the Spirit. The Results? Great power in witnessing and in preaching. Peter, the very one who earlier had denied Jesus, was now 'Peter The Bold', preaching to the very ones who were responsible for Jesus' crucifixion.*

*For the result of his preaching, look again at Acts 2:38-41! Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*What is the motivation for heeding the mandate (command) of Christ to make disciples? Our motivation is the Holy Spirit who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts: "...and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us." (Romans 5:5).*

*Without that special love – a divine-like love – we will not have the desire or the power to witness.*

*Said Jesus, shortly before He ascended, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit...You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:4-5, 8)*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Father, you have commanded me to witness; now, empower me to witness. Open my mouth to speak boldly and unashamedly*

*for you and for your cause. Motivate me with your kind of love."*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*You may not be a Preacher, or an Evangelist, or a Missionary—but you are a 'Follower of Christ', a 'Disciple of Christ', and a 'Witness for Christ'. As long as you have a mind with which to think, and a mouth with which to speak, and a heart with which to feel, you are able to 'Share' the Good News of Christ's Salvation with many who are 'lost in their sins'. You are the 'best Christian someone knows' - so be bold (regardless of your 'natural temperament') and 'point' as many as you can to the One who desires to Save everyone! Never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ—for all need the Gospel!"*

*Booklet Titles Of  
"Effective Christian Living" Series."*

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