

BEING A WITNESS REACHING THE LOST OF EDMONTON

PRECEPT

EPHESIANS 4:11-13

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

LUKE 24:46-48

⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

PROMISE

We're all called to be a witness; to reach others and to give God glory by sharing what He's doing in our lives and what we see God doing. A witness is someone who gives testimony of a fact or event; one that gives evidence; someone asked to be present to observe an event; and one who has a personal knowledge of something. In Acts and other books of the Bible, the Greek word *martus* was used to describe a witness. Occasionally, it was also used to describe a martyr; one who gives their life. In our lives, we are a witness of the work of God in our everyday journey and the lives of His people. This includes situations like a family member being healed through prayers.

A witness is different from being an evangelist. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that God appointed specific people to be evangelists, but He commands everyone to be a witness, not just the pastors or church leaders. An evangelist is one who is a bringer of good news in words while a witness is a more personal bringer of testimony in words and actions.

Examples of Being a Witness:

Luke 24:46-48 - ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

Acts 1:8 - ⁸ But 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.

1 Peter 2:9 - ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

John 13:35 - ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Being a witness and having a vibrant, fresh witness requires intimacy with God. Being a witness also means living our lives for Him, experiencing His love, and sharing it to others. There are plenty of people that we can witness to, but it should start with our own family and our circles of influence namely friends, co-workers, shared interests, and neighbours. Sometimes, being a witness calls us to stretch beyond our immediate area. The nations are coming to our city and let us pray that we can begin building relationships in these areas.

Truly, intimacy with God leads to a vibrant witness, one that will enable us to fulfil the Great Commission and the mission of our church; to love God and others, imitate Christ at all times, focus on the family, and experience the joy in serving, all these while seeing the lost of Edmonton reached with the Gospel.

PRACTICE

1. Intimacy with God. How is your intimacy with God? How does our intimacy with God affect how we witness to others?

2. Becoming a Witness. Who are we called to witness? What are some practical ways that you can begin this? How can you be effective in doing so?

PRAYER

I. Nations

- Pray for all nations and its leaders; that there will be a spiritual revival across the globe.

II. Government

- Pray that our government leaders will be true servants of the people and be protected from greed.

III. Provision

- Pray for God's provision for all His children in all aspects of our lives; spiritually, financially, etc.

IV. Health

- Pray for a strong and vigorous body so we can do the tasks God appointed us. Pray also that we will be freed from any anxiety and fear.

V. Joy

- May the Lord bless us with pure joy in His presence and a heart of contentment.

VI. Peace

- Ask that the Lord may give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. May we also be instruments of peace.

VII. Love

- Pray that we will love as God loves; that we will show patience, kindness, care, and love to all.