

AFRAID TO WITNESS?

Acts 9:10-24

Introduction: Many Christians are in an uncomfortable situation in that they know that God wants them to witness, to share their faith with those who do not know Jesus as savior but they are uncomfortable even in thinking about trying to witness to someone. They just cannot bring themselves around to actually facing someone and sharing their faith with that person. For those who may have forgotten there was a Christian man long ago who felt the same way but finally did what God wanted him to do, witness. That man's name was Ananias and the person God wanted him to talk to was Saul, later known as Paul.

I. BEING AFRAID TO WITNESS IS "NORMAL"

1. Ananias was afraid. Who wouldn't be to go witness to a man like Saul?
2. It doesn't have to be another Saul to cause fear, it can be loving relatives, gracious neighbors, fellow class members, work associates, close friends.
3. Attending evangelism (soul winning) classes go well until it's time to go try out what you've learned, then fear, hesitation, excuses. Why?
 - Not really a Christian yourself? Lack of commitment? Need more motivation? Or FEAR?
4. It's easy to talk to anybody about anything except the soul. Why?
 - Normal conversations don't involve opening up one's inner self, the heart, the soul.
 - Imagined ideas of how somebody might respond when you try to witness.
 - Have the wrong idea of what "successful" witnessing is.

II. DON'T KNOW OR FORGOT THAT GOD HAS ALREADY BEEN WORKING

1. Ananias had no idea that God had already been working on Saul and Saul was "ready."
 - He really had no reason to be anxious, **if** he had realized what God had been doing.
2. Remember, as we go witness, we will never encounter a single person that God hasn't already been working with and preparing for us to witness to.
3. God has more people ready to be witnessed to than He has people ready to witness.
4. The person ready for Jesus isn't going to be going through the yellow pages.
 - Often "church" or a Christian to talk to isn't even thought of. It is horoscopes, palm readers or some guru, things and people not even associated with Jesus.

III. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

1. Knowing who Saul was and what he was doing to Christians, who would ever have thought that some day Saul of Tarsus would one day write over one half of the New Testament?
 - Saul was trouble in Ananias's mind.

- Saul was a messenger, missionary, preacher, and. writer in God's mind.
- 2. Take a look around you at your Sunday School class, your neighbors, your friends.
 - You have no idea what God could do through them or wants to do through them.
- 3. What if all the world's great men/women had know Jesus Christ as their savior?
- 4. Who are the world's leader of tomorrow?
 - Children, youth, young adults.
 - What if God has the opportunity to work His will and plan in their lives?
 - So, who is supposed to tell them about Jesus Christ?
- 5. It is not for us to know what God intends to do with each life.
 - It is enough to know that for us, we are to witness, tell the good news to the "whosoever."

CONCLUSION:

1. If you are hesitant, fearful, shy, afraid to witness, you are not the first, nor will you be the last.
2. Remember that God has already been at work in the life of every person you will ever meet and God has somebody He wants YOU to talk to for Him about Jesus.
3. "Success" in witnessing is being obedient to witness. Everything else is up to God.
4. Christian, do it!