

IT IS GOD WHO DOES THE SAVING

1 Corinthians 3:6

Introduction: Of course Jesus showed His disciples how to witness and of course Jesus taught them how and even sent them out on more than one occasion to witness. In Matthew Jesus tells all who believe in Him to go out and witness. Therefore there is no doubt that Jesus intends for EVERY believer to witness. What if every Christian was obedient to Jesus' command to go out and witness, why the entire world would hear the gospel in a very short time.

Why are believers so disobedient, hesitant in witnessing? Perhaps they believe that everything depends on them. What if the farmer believed that about his crops? That is pushing God off His throne when a person thinks like that. Or perhaps it is lack of faith in the power of the gospel that causes believers not to witness. It is not the anxiety of the farmer that causes his crops to grow. Do Christians really believe that the Word of God is power for Salvation? Do Christians really believe that the Word of God is a two-edged sword?

I. CHRISTIANS FORGET THAT NOT EVERYONE DOES THE SAME WORK

1. Paul said that he planted. He started Churches but others came behind him and "watered" and continued the work he started.
 - God does not expect the same ministry from every Christian.
 - There is NO fixed image or form every Christian must fit.
2. Paul was unique and made his own contribution to God's Kingdom in his own way. Apollos was also unique in making his contribution to God's Kingdom. Each was different, but each was essential.
 - Perhaps some are not witnessing because they are looking for a service exactly like that of Paul or Appolo.
 - The important thing to remember about witnessing is each person has his/her own manner. Contributing what each is capable of in his/her own personal way.

II. CHRISTIANS FORGET THAT PLANTING AND WATERING ARE BOTH NECESSARY

1. Farmers do indeed plant the seeds, but they also have to water what has been planted. If he does not, nothing will happen and there will be no crop.
2. Often Christians focus only on the harvest and not on the planting and watering process. Who ever heard of a farmer plowing, planting, watering and harvesting on the same day? It takes time for that which has been planted to be harvested.
3. Most who do not witness or have become discouraged about witnessing see it all as a one effort project. Results are expected immediately. If no results, then one has failed, so they think.
 - That just isn't how witnessing works. Someone plants the seed of God's Word, another comes along and reinforces what has been planted, and eventually someone wins that same person to Jesus. God has been the one who has actually done the harvesting.

4. In the legal system of our country, decisions of the court are seldom based upon a single testimony. The same is true in witnessing for the Lord. If/when you are the one who actually leads someone to Jesus, in all probability, you are not the first one that they hear about Jesus from. Someone has been to them before you. You have done YOUR part in witnessing to that person.

III. CHRISTIANS MUST REMEMBER THAT IT IS ALWAYS GOD WHO DOES THE SAVING

1. If farmers did not have faith in powers and things beside themselves, they would never get a seed planted. First of all, the seed must be good, then the soil just right and the sun and rain in just the right sequence. That is the way it works in farming. That is the way it works in soul winning. More than just one are always involved in someone being saved.
2. God and God alone is the one who brings conviction and the awareness of the need of Jesus. The power of the Word of God does that. The Holy Spirit brings to life the Word of God, not the person witnessing. Only God can impart new life! Not the one witnessing.

CONCLUSION:

1. When the Christian realizes that witnessing results are left up to God and that he/she is expected by God to be only him/herself, then witnessing will take on a whole new purpose and vision.
2. When the Christian leaves the convicting, the persuading, the explaining, the life saving to God, then it will be a joy to witness.
3. Christian! Witness as you are commanded to, but do only what God expects of you and then you leave the rest to God. You have not failed if that person doesn't accept Jesus after your witness to him/her.