

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES – SUMMER 2024

4. Witnessing

Witnessing, or evangelism, is a natural by-product of our worship, as well as all the other spiritual disciplines. Five times in the first five books of the New Testament, Jesus issued some form of His Great Commission. Paul answered God's call to be a *light for the Gentiles* (Acts 13:47). Gentiles include everyone who is not Jewish. Jesus calls every one of His disciples to be salt and light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16). Paul referenced the salt motif when he encouraged the Colossian church to lead a life of witnessing: *Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone* (Colossians 4:5–6).

We will spend time this fall learning how to share our faith, but for now, let's just brainstorm a few simple ideas. For example, when you go to a restaurant, ask your server how you can pray for him or her. When a coworker approaches you on Monday morning and asks you how your weekend was, share the specifics of that Sunday's sermon and how it spoke to you. While your child is practicing with his or her sports team, take it upon yourself to get to know the other parents.

The bottom line is that we are to be on the lookout for every opportunity that God may place in our paths. Witnessing is simply bearing testimony to our new life in Christ. Too many in the world are under the false impression that Christianity is boring or restrictive, but the more Christians exercise the spiritual discipline of witnessing, the more the world will learn about the fulfillment and purpose that results from a life devoted to Christ.

Here are some questions for further reflection:

1. On a scale from 1-10, how would you rate yourself on this Spiritual Discipline?
2. What specific actions will you take to develop this Spiritual Discipline further?
3. Read the passages surrounding the verses referenced above and meditate on the Scriptural truths present in those passages.
4. Choose a verse to memorize this week.