

# **Ye Shall Be Witnesses**



**B. Kirkland**

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*“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).*

## **The First Word In The Great Commission Is “Go!”**

### **Matthew 28:19-20,**

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

William Carey accepted God's command as found in the Scripture above. He wanted to go to the Polynesian Islands, but God instead directed him to India. It was another man by the name of Henry Nott, that God wanted to send to these far away islands. He was a brick mason, who surrendered his life to Christ's will and when God burdened him, he followed God's call and arrived in Tahiti after a six month voyage in 1797. It was a barbarous place of worst of the vilest of sins.



**Henry Nott**

Tahiti was ruled by an evil King name Pomare. He was estimated to have killed 2000 people and sacrificed them to his idols. His wife was a member of a class of people called the *"are- ois."* They blackened their bodies with charcoal and painted their faces red. Their only occupation was dancing, wrestling, boxing, and acts of behavior that were ridiculous but amusing to onlookers. Many murdered their children as soon as they were born. Pomares' wife killed three of their children. The island was in a constant state of war. They burned their defeated enemies homes and killed all in the village. Hundreds were sacrificed on pagan altars to ensure victory in battle.

**Children were sacrifice by throwing them alive to the sharks in the sea or into the fiery craters of volcanoes.** Old people and those with handicaps would be taken to the seashore under the pretense of being given a bath. They would be thrown alive into a hole in the sand, covered with stones and sand then tramped down with their feet. They would then go away and divide up their personal belongings.

**These were the people to whom God sent Henry Nott.** Two of Knott's fellow missionaries were murdered, causing others to abandon their missions work leaving Henry Nott alone.

**It would be twenty two years before he would see the first person saved.** Pomare's son became king and after many years, finally received Christ as his Savior. On May 19, 1819, Nott baptized Pomare II. In a short time laws were passed that forbid all the cruel murders. The islands were at peace.

**Adoniram Judson** (1788-1850) sweated out Burma's heat for eighteen years without a furlough and six years without a convert. Enduring torture and imprisonment, he admitted that he never saw a ship sail without wanting to jump on board and go home. When his wife's health broke and he put her on a homebound vessel with the knowledge he would not see her for two full years he wrote in his diary, "*Life is short. Millions of Burmese are perishing. I am almost the only person on earth who has attained their language to communicate salvation.*"



**Adoniram Judson**

### **The Great Commission or The Great Omission?**

An omission is "...the action of excluding or leaving out something." In **Acts 1:8** we read the final command of our Lord. He said, "...ye shall be witnesses."

### **We Talk About The Things We Really Believe**

Paul said, "*I believed, and therefore have I spoken*" (Second Corinthians 4:13). When we believe something strongly enough we talk to others about it. We could talk all day about our personal interests, vacation trips, fishing stories, etc. etc.

### **Why Don't We Witness About Our Saviour?**

It has been estimated that ninety-five percent of all Christians never win anyone to Christ in their entire lifetime. If that is true, why is it true? What is our problem when it comes to witnessing?

### **Who Is In Control?**

In **Acts 1:8** Jesus promised that we would, "...receive **power**, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." *If we are not witnessing for Him it is obvious that the Holy Spirit is not in charge.*

## The Problem of Fear

Our fearfulness also stems from the fact concerning whom is in control. Consider the following verses...

- **Second Timothy 1:7**, “*God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of **power**, and of love, and of a sound mind.*”
- **Ephesians 3:16**, “*...be strengthened with might by his Spirit...*”  
**Romans 15:13**, “*...that ye may abound...through the **power** of the Holy Ghost.*”  
**Romans 15:19**, “*...by the **power** of the Spirit of God.*”  
**First Corinthians 2:4**, “*And my speech and my preaching...in demonstration of the Spirit and of **power**.*”  
**First Corinthians 2:5**, “*That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the **power** of God.*”
- **Second Corinthians 2:5**, “*...that...the **power** may be of God, and not of us.*”
- **Second Corinthians 13:10**, “*...according to the **power** which the Lord hath given me.*”

Let's be honest, if we are using the excuse of fear we have, “...a form of godliness, but denying the **power** thereof...” (Second Timothy 3:5).

## A Lack of Love For Christ

- **John 14:21**, Jesus said, “*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.*”  
**John 14:23**, Jesus said, “*If a man love me, he will keep my words.*”

If we truly love someone, we want to do all we can to please them. It is the goal of all who genuinely love the Lord, “*...that he may please him...*” (Second Timothy 2:4).

Jesus said, “*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...*” (John 15:8).

The purpose in winning the lost is to glorify God. The Bible says, “*And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Philippians 2:11).

**First Corinthians 10:31** says, “*...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

## Refusing To Follow Christ Matthew 4:19...

“*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” The promise is for all of us, if we follow we will fish. These unlearned Galilean fishermen followed and were transformed into some of the greatest “*...fishers of men*” that ever lived!

Christ wants to take us, just like we are with all our faults, failures and rough edges and He wants to transform us into fishers of men.

## **No Choice But To Choose**

- **Matthew 4:19**, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*
- **Matthew 8:22**, *“Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.”*
- **Matthew 9:9**, *“Follow me...and he...followed him.”*
- **Matthew 16:24**, *“...take up his cross, and follow me.”*
- **Matthew 19:21**, *“...come and follow me.”*
- **Mark 2:14**, *“Follow me...he arose and followed him.*
- **Mark 8:34**, *“...come after me...deny himself...and follow me.”*
- **Luke 5:27**, *“...he said unto him, Follow me.”*
- **Luke 9:23**, *“...come after me...deny himself... follow me.”*
- **Luke 9:59**, *“And he said unto another, Follow me.”*
- **Luke 18:22**, *“...come, follow me.”*
- **John 1:43**, *“Philip... Follow me.”*
- **John 10:27**, *“My sheep hear my voice...they follow me.”*
- **John 12:26**, *“If any man serve me, let him follow me.”*
- **John 13:36**, *Peter...thou shalt follow me...”*
- **John 21:19**, *“He saith unto him, Follow me.”*

The word follow in these verses means to follow the example of someone. First **Peter 2:21** says, *“For even hereunto were ye called...that ye should follow his steps.”* Over thirty times we read in the Gospels, *“...they followed Him.”*

## **Jesus Witnessed To Everyone**

He witnessed to the Samaritan woman at the well and the people of Samaria. (John 4) He witnessed to lepers, (Mark 1) the demon possessed, (Mark 5) and immoral people. (John 8). If we are going to follow the example of our Saviour, we are going to witness to everyone. If these disciples had followed most of us around, would they have learned that we need to witness to people?

- **Second Peter 3:9**, *“The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*
- **Luke 19:10**, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*
- **Mark 2:17**, *“I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*
- **Mark 16:15**, *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*
- **Matthew 28:19-20**, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Jesus said...

*“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Matthew 4:19).

## **Refusing To Abide In Christ**

**John 15:4-5,**

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”*

## **Fruit Bearing Is A Natural Process**

**John 15:5,**

Jesus said, *“He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit.”* Final words are important words. If we are going to leave our children home alone for a period of time, we will give them some very important pertinent instructions. Jesus was about to leave them and return to His heavenly Father. He left His instructions for us.

**We are the branches and our purpose is to bear fruit.** The command is to abide in Christ and then bearing fruit will be a natural process. We are to maintain a close fellowship with Him. This can only be realized through prayer, studying the Word, denying self and drawing nigh to God. As a result we will become more like Christ.

- **Philippians 1:11,** *“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.”*
- **Colossians 1:10,** *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”*
- **Romans 6:22,** *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”*

A loss of fellowship leads to a withered branch that bears no fruit.

## **Ashamed of Christ**

To be ashamed of Christ is to be embarrassed or humiliated to be associated with Him.

**Mark 8:38** Jesus said, *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

**Second Timothy 1:8,** *“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”*

**Romans 1:14**, *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...”*

## **“Give Them Warning From Me”**

**Ezekiel 3:17-18**,

*“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. 18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”*

A watchman was a trained person with a responsibility to watch the city and protect it from enemy attack. He had a trained eye for danger and he had a trained ear capable of hearing things that suggested danger was imminent. He was to do two basic things. He was to *watch* and he was to *warn* people of danger.

**James 5:20**, *“...he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”*

**Second Timothy 4:2** , *“...be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”*

**Luke 6:46**,

*“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

**Matthew 28:19-20**,

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”*



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