

The Bible Speaks To Me About My Witness

Session 12: Part 2 – Finally: A Decision

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Session 12

Finally: A Decision 2

Session Overview

The Importance of Nurture in a New Believer's Life
The Math of Salvation Multiplication
Application
Exam
Discussion Guide for Mentor and Participant

Learner Objectives

At the end of this session, you should:

- joyfully realize just how far your influence might spread.
- learn about biblical examples of influencers.
- be able to explain why nurture is so important for a new believer.

Introduction

Imagine that you win two people to Christ this year. And then those two people win two more and then those four win eight more and on and on. See how far your influence might reach. When we develop soul-winning eyes, this is what we'll see in our future as the Holy Spirit empowers us and works.



Finally: A Decision

Notes

Follow-up and Nurture

Once a person has come to accept Christ, he or she should start on a program of Bible study such as *Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians*. The convert should be assigned a spiritual adoptive parent who will care for him or her and will guide the person in early Christian life. The support of Christian friends is so important that it is almost a mathematical equation: If the pressure of the world is not equaled by the support of Christians the convert will be lost.

The whole first year of the new convert's life is critical for establishment. The issue of follow-up is vastly important and needs much attention. Once again, it is beyond the scope of this book to deal extensively with that issue. I have written on the subject in the book *Conserve the Converts*.

A Church Decides for Witness

Jesus invested most of His ministry time in twelve men. Someday He would leave, and these twelve would carry on His work. Jesus even prayed "for those who will believe in me through their message" (John 17:20). He taught, "A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher" (Luke 6:40). He trained a core of witnesses that would be like Him and would win others.

Paul had a passion to get the gospel out to people every chance he had, and because of that, he targeted potential leaders who in turn would influence others. The result was that the message spread more quickly. Paul invested heavily in Timothy. Then he spoke to Timothy about his future influence: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Tim. 2:2).

How often we discover Paul reaching potential leaders: "He met a Jew named Aquila" (Acts 18:2), "a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth" (16:14), "Crispus, the synagogue ruler" (18:8), and "leaders of the Jews" (28:17). Paul influenced Priscilla and Aquila, who disciplined Apollos,



who went to Achaia to minister (18:26–27). This is multiplication in action. When Paul explained the place of the ministry gifts, he said, “It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up” (Eph. 4:11–12).

Notice that the professional ministry is to prepare or equip all God’s people (the laity) for service. No wonder James Kennedy wrote, “It is more important to train a soul-winner than to win a soul. It is because winning a person to Christ is so important that training someone to win 10 or 100 or 1,000 people to Christ is so much more important.”

Paul had a Barnabas, a Silas, a Timothy, and a Luke. Where is your Timothy? Are you showing someone else how to witness? Robert Coleman said, “Winning disciples who will win others and train them in discipleship is the basic strategy of evangelism.”

Imagine yourself committed to a witnessing and training ministry. Assume you would win two people to Christ and train those two to win others to Christ in a six-month period. Assume each one trained would follow the same pattern each six months, and all would continue faithfully for four years. I have put this idea in what I call the “Spiritual Multiplication Chart.” Could you see yourself in it?

1 win and train	2=	3 in 6 months
3 win and train	6=	9 in 12 months
9 win and train	18=	27 in 18 months
27 win and train	54=	81 in 24 months
81 win and train	162=	243 in 30 months
243 win and train	486=	729 in 36 months
729 win and train	1,458=	2,187 in 42 months
2,187 win and train	4,374=	6,561 in 48 months



Not only do we need to personally become witnesses, we need to strategically position ourselves to reach as many as possible. It means local churches will develop a research-based, Spirit-led strategy to reach people with the good news and to build them in the faith. Here are some examples of intentional strategies to reach people for Christ I have seen work.

1. A Sunday school class organized with 5 people in 1975, geared to conduct class in language new people could understand. At the time of this writing, four other classes have been born from it. The original class is averaging 75 a Sunday, and 20 to 30 people join the church each year from the class.

2. A group of young adults decided to reach out to the young adults on the fringes of the church. Instead of spending all their social time with their best Christian friends in the church, these young adults began to invite the fringe young adults to dinner once a month. Before long, new young adults were being converted.

3. In the Antipolo church in the Philippines, a representative of the church will approach the “barangay” captain. This person is the political leader for a certain geographical area. The captain is asked for permission to start a new church in the new area. Often permission is gained to use the “barangay” hall. This means the church begins with the favor of the authorities. One such new church runs more than 100 in attendance each Sunday.

4. A church develops a preschool program with the intentional purpose of reaching families for Christ.

5. A Korean boy, whose father was a high priest in Confucianism, wanted education in a Christian school. The school intentionally set this requirement: each student must attend a Christian church and pass in a church bulletin. As a result, the Korean boy visited a Church of the Nazarene. Two years later, while attending a special prayer meeting, the boy came to know Christ as Savior. That boy became academic dean of Korea Nazarene Theological College, Dr. Shin Min Gyoo.

6. A church decides to sponsor a “Living Scenes of Christmas” outdoor Nativity display to bear witness to the community. The hope is that new people of the community will be attracted to the church. In the first three



nights of “Living Scenes,” 2,500 people visit the church property.

7. Rev. Kim, Shi-Chul has led an intentional strategy by Korean pastors and others to plant 70 new churches in Greater Seoul, Korea, within a five-year period.

8. In South America, former Regional Director Louie Bustle promoted this plan to be accomplished on a yearly basis:

- a. Each Christian win one (new person to Christ).
- b. Each pastor train one (person to become a pastor).
- c. Each church start one (new church).

South America experienced a new surge of growth.

To win a person to Christ never crosses the mind of some professing Christians. Others become deeply burdened for others and regularly share Christ with them. Others not only witness but also develop intentional strategies to reach others. We just looked at some of them. Have you ever prayed, “O God, what do You want me to do in this place to win people to Jesus?” What strategies is your church developing? Where is your Timothy?

My Decision to Be a Witness

This is a chapter on decision. We examined the need to extend our witness to a call for the unsaved person to make a decision for Christ. But there is another decision—it’s your decision to be a witness. Will you make that decision?

There is “rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:7). What makes Jesus happy should make us happy. Forty-two times John’s Gospel tells us that God sent Jesus. Then, Jesus sends us: “As the Father has sent me, I am sending you” (John 20:21). It is no aimless sending of Jesus or us. “You are witnesses,” said Jesus (Luke 24:48).

This witnessing will mean a servant role—it is costly business. Yet, we are reminded of Jesus’ words: “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). In turn, the Savior tells us, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (28:19). He longs for His house to be full (Luke 14:23). We shall only do it



by God's power —the power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16) and the power of the Spirit (Acts 1:8). The stakes are so high that Jesus proclaims, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36).

Every Christian should desire to witness. Yet it should always be witness with the goal of winning. As ambassadors we implore, "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). As fishers of men, we seek what all true fishermen seek: There is never full satisfaction until the fish is caught and landed.

We desire to be faithful to the call of Christ—to be the men and women that God can trust (Matthew 24:45–46). When fear attacks, I remember Paul again: "The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, 'Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome'" (Acts 23:11).

We will pray for souls and for the workers to reach them (Romans 10:1; Matthew 9:38). We will be possessed with a passion for souls—an inner consuming urge to find the lost. We will feel this way in loving gratitude for what Jesus has done for us. If we do not know the best method for reaching that unsaved person, we keep seeking for the way. If we want it badly, we will find the way.

Years ago, my friend Margie was at the low point in her life. She heard the name "Jesus" on a radio broadcast. She prayed, "If You are who You say You are, then give me the peace You promised."

Instantly peace came! She got on the phone and called her mother to say, "Jesus is real!" Twice more she called her mom with the same message the same night. She was burdened to witness to her family.

Eventually, ten of her family members accepted Jesus. We may not see them come to Jesus as quickly as Margie did, or find as one prayed, "a speedy salvation." But we must remember we are in this for the long run: "At the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9). We are part of a great stream of witnesses—over the centuries, over the years—to the present day. We shall continue the stream. There are others who need Christ.

In doing my part, I extended the stream to Roy. He was a Harvard Ph.D. and a professor of accounting. Because others had prepared the way, on a September 15 evening, I could go to Roy and his wife. He reports:



I'm a product of a broken home. I never really knew my mother and lived with my grandparents. Over the years, I got involved with the wrong crowds, and by the time I was 16, I had a police record as long as my arm. I ended up joining the navy. I knew about sailors' reputations and tried to live up to them. It was as if I went through a list of sins every morning to choose one for the day.

Over the years, I mellowed. I considered myself a friendly agnostic. Several things happened that could have turned my attention to the Lord. For instance, at one point I had cancer, but in spite of the emotional upheaval, I didn't turn to God.

Years later I had a heart attack, and the next year I was divorced, but I still didn't turn to God. I decided to give up drinking alcohol and then smoking tobacco. But again, I had not accepted the Lord. Nobody had ever shared the gospel with me.

About four years ago, a member of Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, invited my wife and me to the spring hand bell concert. Everybody was so friendly that we decided to go back for a morning service and have been attending ever since.

However, being an "intellectual," I was hesitant to accept Christ. I talked to the pastor at church, and he offered to come over and explain Nazarene theology to me. He and two other people came to our house one evening and, after visiting awhile, the pastor asked, "Roy, if you died tonight, would you go up to heaven?" That got my attention. I really didn't know. The pastor presented the gospel to us and everything became clear—Jesus died for me.

He's done marvelous things since I received Him into my life.

Recently, I've had the opportunity to counsel my students about problems, and the Lord has given me wisdom, although I'm not trained in psychology. I have a reputation around the campus now: "If you've got a problem, go to Roy. It stops at his door." I believe this is the road to which the Lord has been leading me.

When I was five years old, I began to hunger for God. For fifteen years, I attended Sunday school and church faithfully, but I never found Jesus. The preaching at my church was never clear on how to find Jesus. Finally, when I



was 20, Peter told me how he had found Jesus and how I could too. The next day, I attended the Church of the Nazarene with him, and under Rev. Ralph Ferrioli's evangelistic preaching, I met Jesus.

My friend Peter's testimony had given me the lead I needed. He was a witness, but neither of us knew what to call it. Since that November 20 evening, my life has been about "care, prayer, and share."

Even with feelings of fear, I receive God's power and witness. I remember the radio speaker: "You are a witness when you are more concerned about what people think of Jesus than you are of what people think of you." There is an urgency. Amy Carmichael said, "We have all eternity to celebrate the victories but only a few hours before sunset to win them."

So the Bible has been speaking to me about my witness. Now I need to speak to the Lord about what I will do about my witness. I determine, with God's help, that I will be a witness for Jesus. Remember, someone you know needs Jesus now.

Consuelo was a Filipino woman who helped missionaries at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary. Consuelo had hungered to find God, and when she was younger, would sometimes come into her church and get on her knees and crawl from the back to the altar, hoping to find peace. At Easter time she participated in the Virgin Mary parades each night of the Easter week as participants went to different houses and prayed.

Consuelo never found peace; she never found joy. Then one day, somebody with soul-winning eyes invited her to a Bible study. At that Bible study, she heard that Jesus was real, and that her sins could be forgiven. She came to a place where she confessed her sins and accepted Jesus. She said, "I found peace, I found forgiveness, and I found strength to live life." She told her husband, and he accepted Jesus. The next year, they began attending the Church of the Nazarene.

The following year, their third child was born. Six weeks after the child was born, Consuelo woke up one morning. She heard a noise from her husband lying next to her in bed. She turned to him, and realized he had suddenly died. He was 30 years old.

Her brother said to her, "Oh, your husband died because you changed churches."



She said, "I knew that wasn't the reason. I knew my husband had gone to be with the Lord." And she said to God, "I know You have a plan for my life now; You lead me."

Her neighbors watched her. Her neighbors watched the church, and they saw how the church supported her in the death of her husband. She said, "I felt more love here than I'd ever felt anyplace before in my life."

She has been raising her three girls in a wonderful way. It's very expensive to send your children to high school in the Philippines. When her children were young, Consuelo earned 400 to 500 pesos a week; that's \$17.00 per week. Imagine having no second income in the home and having three children to send to high school on \$17.00 a week!

"Oh," she said, "I set my tithes aside first. My mother-in-law said to me, 'You are always so happy, and you never ask us for money; how come?'" Consuelo said, "I ask God for money. He makes a way."

This is the smiling woman of the Philippines. She is so happy. She has found Jesus. She follows Him every day. Jesus is helping her raise her children. God has made her a witness. She goes out into homes. She is leading other people to Jesus. She led her mother to Jesus. She has led others to Jesus. She is guiding new Christians through Basic Bible Studies. This is all because somebody saw Consuelo with soul-winning eyes.

I wonder, will we see others that way? Jesus said, "Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). There are some Consuelos where you live. Could God use you to see them with your soul-winning eyes and win them to Christ?



Application

Will you make this decision? God helping me, I will endeavor *to have a part* in winning at least one person to Christ within one year.

If that's your promise, sign here.

Signature _____

Date _____



EXAM – Session 12

1. The "follow-up" of a new convert is so important _____
 - a) that it is almost a mathematical equation: "If the pressure of the world is not equaled by the support of Christians, the convert will be lost."
 - b) that to urge the new Christian to study the Gospel of John on his own will be completely effective.
 - c) that to guide him through his first three months will be more than enough to guarantee the convert's spiritual success.
 - d) that to use a specific Bible study like Basic Bible Studies must be avoided as too artificial.

2. The principle of entrusting spiritual truth and practice to others who will be qualified to teach others (II Timothy 2:2) is evidenced in all but which one of the following: _____
 - a) Paul reached potential leaders like "Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth," "Crispus, the synagogue ruler," and "leaders of the Jews."
 - b) Jesus prayed "for those who will believe in me through their message" (the disciples' message).
 - c) The professional ministry is to equip the laity for service (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - d) James Kennedy says winning a single soul to Christ is the greatest thing you can do.



3. In the "Spiritual Multiplication" in which each Christian would win two and train two, and each one won and trained would be faithful to repeat this pattern every 6 months, at the end of 42 months you would have _____

- a) 81 Christians.
- b) 243 Christians.
- c) 729 Christians.
- d) 2,187 Christians.

4. As I am coming to an ending of this course on witnessing, I sense there are many reasons why I should witness to others and endeavor to lead them to Christ. These reasons include: _____

- a) There is "rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:7).
- b) "As the Father is sending me, I am sending you" (John 20:21, Jesus).
- c) Amy Carmichael, "We have all eternity to celebrate the victories but only a few hours before sunset to win them."
- d) All of them



Discussion Guide for Mentor and Participant

1. Tell your mentor of two or three people you know who need Christ and might be open to your witness.
2. Endeavor to arrange another witness/soul-winning call together.
3. Dream some dreams together. What will happen if you become a soul-winner? What will happen to your church if 5-10 catch this vision and put it in practice?