

How to Approach Friends & Family with the Truth

1. What does Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit will do for us? John 15:26; John 14:26; John 16:13.

He will testify of Jesus, teach us all things, bring to our remembrance the words of Christ, and guide us into all truth.

2. After testifying of Christ and guiding us into the truth, what does the Holy Spirit make us? John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8. – *Witnesses!*

3. What does it mean to be a witness? Luke 2:20; Acts 22:15; 1 John 1:1-3; John 3:32.

When we see and hear something, we become a witness to that event or experience. Having firsthand knowledge, we are called upon to testify to the truth.

4. Since most of us haven't seen Jesus with our eyes or heard His voice with our ears, how can we be witnesses? 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17; Ephesians 6:17.

We may not have seen Jesus with our physical eyes, but we have seen Him with eyes of faith! And we may not have heard His voice in our ears, but we have heard the voice of His Spirit speaking to our hearts and minds. Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. He also says that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Jesus promised that the Spirit would guide us into all truth – and what is truth? “Your Word is truth.” John 17:17. We are witnesses, then, of the truth that the Spirit of God has caused us to see and hear in the Bible!

5. When we come to see and hear the truth of God's Word, and appreciate its worth, can we keep it to ourselves? Acts 4:13-20; Matthew 10:27-33; Jeremiah 20:9.

In the face of threats, the Apostles bore witness to what they had seen and heard. Jesus tells us not to fear what others may say or do, but to confess Him openly. And Jeremiah said that even when he thought to hold back the truth, it was like a fire in his bones and he had to share it!

6. What can we learn from the life of Jesus about sharing the truth with others?
 - a. John 18:37; John 20:21 – Jesus came to this earth to bear witness to the truth. This should be our purpose in life, too!
 - b. John 16:12-13; John 7:1-10; Matthew 7:6 – Too much truth all at once can be more than a person can bear! Jesus used wisdom and discretion in revealing truth to others.

- c. Matthew 7:6 – We should show discretion in choosing with whom to share a full disclosure of the truth. Labouring to convince someone of the truth before they value the truth can sometimes make matters worse. They may turn and tear you to pieces!
- d. John 4:7-9 – Jesus bestowed trust in the Samaritan woman by asking a favour of her. Bestowing trust is a good way to bring down defenses and open someone up to the truth.
- e. Matthew 9:36-38 – Jesus used agriculture to describe the process of leading others to accept Him and His truth. This process includes: (1) Prepare; (2) Plant; (3) Cultivate; (4) Reap; (5) Preserve. And through it all, PRAY! – Colossians 1:9.
- f. Matthew 10:32-39 – We should never cause division by rude or insensitive words. However, simply following the truth can sometimes upset our relationships with others. And if we are to be worthy of Christ, He says we must follow Him even if it creates a division with family or friends. But the promise is given that He who “loses his life for My sake will find it.” Even with strife around us, there is peace in following God’s Word!