

“testimonies” and “witness” for God are doing the world no favor. They are not preaching the word of God—they are preaching their own subjective, emotional experiences. They are causing people to believe something other than the word of God, and that is NOT biblical faith.

Perhaps someone might say, “Well, the Holy Spirit is really the one who is witnessing.” No doubt, this is what many believe today who participate in this kind of thing. However, the Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion according to 1 Corinthians 14:33 and the Holy Spirit wrote Romans 10:17. Now is the Holy Spirit going to say that faith comes by hearing the word at one point in time and then turn around and say that faith comes by doing something OTHER than hearing the word at another point in time? For someone to say such would be indicting the Holy Spirit of a lie. Either faith comes by hearing the word of God or it does not. Either the Holy Spirit told the truth when He said that faith

Church of Christ
PO Box 458
Marshfield, MO 65706

comes by hearing the word of God or these people who are “witnessing” today are lying. I will stick with Paul, “Let God be true, but every man a liar” (Romans 3:4).

Why would Christians get caught up in such foolishness? Do they no longer believe that faith comes by hearing the word of God? Do they believe that their simple personal stories are more important than the story of the cross? Do they believe that God’s saving power lies within their own personal experience as opposed to the resurrection of the Son of God? Let us, as Christians, put away such speech from our vocabulary. Let’s believe what the Bible has to say about how faith comes and resolve to preach God’s word instead of exalting our own personal experience above the power of the gospel (Romans 1:16). Let us resolve not to know anything save Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). Let’s resolve to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).

Bulletin

December 31, 2017

Marshfield church of Christ
610 S. Marshall P.O. Box 458 Marshfield, MO 65706
(417) 468-4161

Eddie Watkins, Evangelist

eddiawatkins001@gmail.com
Office: 468-4161
Eddie’s Cell: 773-0464
Jen’s Cell: 463-9085
gewatkins.net

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM / 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Class: 9:30 AM

Sun. Morning Radio & TV KTXR 101.3 FM

Lifeline, 7:15 AM

Channel 10

Search, 7 AM

Living Word, 7:30 AM

Channel 33

Know Your Bible, 10:30 AM

“Witnessing” For Christ

By Kevin Cauley

More and more I hear of members of the church speaking about “witnessing” and less and less do I hear about members of the church speaking about teaching the Gospel. While the term “witness” is a biblical one and while many people speak of “witnessing” within the denominational world, perhaps we should wonder if the way the Bible uses the term and the way the denominations use the term coincide. Are we allowing the denominational world to change our ways or are we as Christians seeking to change the ways of denominations?

As I look at all the different ways in which the word “witness” is used in the scriptures, I don’t find a single solitary instance in which it is used in the same way that most religious people use the word today. We see that the apostles were eyewitnesses of the resurrection and so was the apostle Paul (Acts 1:22; 4:33; 22:15). The Holy Spirit was a witness to the Jews that the Gentiles were to receive the gospel message (Acts 15:8). God gave witness to the apostles and prophets through miraculous signs and wonders that what they said and taught was true (Hebrews 2:4). John writes that the record that God gave of His Son, Jesus, is the witness that is in us, if we believe that record (1

John 5:9,10). However, we never read of an apostle, prophet, or inspired teacher within the New Testament telling Christians to go out and “witness” for Christ. Where does this concept come from?

When a member of a denomination stands up and “witnesses” they usually tell of all the “great things” God has done for them in their life. Perhaps they will speak about how God saved them from drugs. Perhaps they will speak about how God helped them get over a financial crisis. Perhaps they will speak about how God helped them become a good father or mother. The witnessing is always “how God personally helped me.” The focus of these “testimonies” is upon the individual’s personal experience. From this, those who are listening to the speaker are supposed to conclude that God will work some kind of personal experience for them as well and that they are supposed to come to believe in God based upon this “testimony.” Notice, however, that the faith that is generated by these “testimonies” does not come from God’s word, but from someone’s personal, subjective experience. Herein lies the danger; the Bible says “faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Those who stand up and give personal

Privileged to Serve

Worship Coordinator: Roy Phillips

Announcements: Ron Peck

Sunday AM

Before Service Greeters: Bobby & Missy Lewis

After Services Greeters: John & Marci Marchand

Songleader: Ron Thompson

Lord's Table

*Steve Crews, David Doherty, Robert Comer, Alan Lamb

Opening Prayer: Travis Hampton

Closing Prayer: Daniel Hyder

Sermon: Eddie Watkins

Sunday PM

Before Services Greeters:

Nacho & Beverly Bram

After Services Greeters:

Mary Domby & Betty Sheppard

Songleader: John L. Sanders

Lord's Table: Terry McMasters

Opening Prayer: Thad Layne

Closing Prayer: Nacho Bram

Sermon: Eddie Watkins

Wed. Night

Before Services Greeters:

Kay Lewis & Ruth McMasters

After Services Greeters:

John & Tiffany Sanders

Devotional: John Marchand

Songleader: John Hopkins

Prayer: Daniel Hyder

News and Announcements

Please Silence Your Phones

Welcome visitors. Please leave a record of your visit by filling out a visitor's card and placing it in the collection plate. You'll find them in the pew back in front of you.

Dates to Remember:

- 1/14 **Budget Presentation.** We'll have our **Fellowship Meal** followed by the budget presentation along with a safety presentation by **John Marchand** and we'll close with a short devotional. No evening service that day.
- March 3-4 **Gospel Meeting** with Kyle Butt, here at Marshfield church of Christ.
- If you're not in the **current directory**, or need to update your listing, please see **Jennifer Watkins.**

Fair Haven Pantry Needs

Dry Goods/Cooking

Sugar
Flour
Cereal
Chocolate Syrup
Cocoa
Microwave Popcorn
Vanilla
Pam Spray
Chili Powder
Chocolate Chips

Condiments

Mayonnaise
Miracle Whip
Taco Sauce
Enchilada Sauce
Honey
Gravy Mixes

Fruits/Vegetables

Canned Pineapple
Green Olives
Green Peas
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Black Olives
Canned Peaches
Canned Fruit Cocktail

Canned Goods

Canned Chicken
Tuna
Refried Beans
Spam

Bathroom/Toilet

Bar Soap
Deodorant

Hair Conditioner

Kleenex
Toothpaste

Laundry/Dishes

Bleach
Dishwashing Liquid
Dishwashing Powder
Liquid Fabric Softener

Juice/Beverage

Canned Juices/Coffee

Miscellaneous

Aluminum Foil
Freezer Bags – Quart
Freezer Bags – Gallon
Plastic Wrap
Storage Bags - Quart

January Birthdays

Donna Demshar	1-2
Jim Cruise	1-6
Missy Lewis	1-13
Jerry Cruise	1-14
John Nash	1-16
Terry Cruise	1-23
Ruth McMasters	1-23
Ian Thompson	1-23
Patsy Layne	1-27
Taylor Page	1-27

Helen Marchand	1-31
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Jan. Anniversaries

Nacho & Beverly Bram	1-1
Bob & Kay Lewis	1-15
David & Debbie Doherty	1-25

Record for Dec. 31

Sunday AM	75
Sunday PM	40
Wed. PM	62
Total Contribution:	\$2046

Prayer List

Monty Farley is recovering at home.

Missy Lewis is having stomach problems

Debbie Doherty's daughter had a stroke.

Cade Hampton is doing well.

Terry Cruise is recovering from knee surgery

Caroleen Bright is in Mercy Hospital room 4025 recovering from internal bleeding.

Brock Henslee had an appointment with a specialist in St. Louis, Dec. 8.

Bobby Lewis has been diagnosed and referred to a local doctor for treatment.

Cole Matney is being treated with medication.

Cathy Craig, friend of Cathy & Ron Thompson is being treated for an aggressive form of breast cancer.

Jim Chittendon, friend of Ron and Cathy Thompson continues treatment for pancreatic cancer

Keith McHenry, Debbie Doherty's son has had recent difficulties with his wait for a transplant.

Beth Adams has completed radiation treatment for a brain tumor.

Maegan Sanders, David Page's niece, has a brain tumor and is receiving treatment.

Blanca Baize, Jan Sanders' niece, is struggling with cancer.

Bill Stanley, member of Mansfield church of Christ, has had 2 surgeries caused by a recent accident and is expecting more.

Bobby Banks has esophageal cancer

Ralph Hall of Hardy, AR was just diagnosed with a malignant tumor that cannot be removed from lower abdomen.

Don Gardner is home with a port. He has had his first chemo treatment..

Kenna Kammerer, granddaughter of Ernestine Sandoz is dealing with stage 4 cancer.

Sheila Daves, Suzi Doty's niece has had a double mastectomy.

Linda Lloyd, friend of Nicole & Travis Hampton, has a congestive heart.

Friends of the Brams, Dan Wampler (now in remission), Howard Dampier (battling cancer) and Joyce Parson (in recovery for recent surgery for her cancer).

Lisa Plunkett Martin has a recurring bacterial infection which can potentially destroy her kidneys.

Marcie Marchand's mother, Donna Plummer, has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Donna Daily (Jerry & Pat Cruise's neighbor) treatments are going well.

Micaiah Sedlacek (18) has kidney failure and is on dialysis and is waiting on a kidney replacement.

Jamie Westcomb, Nicole's friend, has stage 4 kidney and liver cancer.

Stephany Rogers, Dean Sitton's daughter has had a stroke.

Kevin Kumbier, friend of Connie Isis has cancer. Also her sister, Doris, is dealing with depression.

Daniel Henslee and family, Steve & Michelle's son-in-law.

Robert Comer's step-dad Ray is having problems with his blood.

Andy Novinger who is fighting Thyroid Cancer.

Remember the home bound

- Harry Price (with the Brights) would like visitors.
- Ernestine Sandoz
- Estelline Jones
- Ina Gillette (Colonial Springs in Buffalo)
- Pat Lamb (Marshfield Care Center)
- Judy Barrow (Webco Manor)
- Bonnie Doherty (Webco East)
- Zoe Lawless of Conway (Webco)
- Rosalie Rosenberger (Thad Layne's sister) is in a nursing home in Jax, FL.