

# Elemental Teachings: Witness

## Introduction

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Dad on Herbalife. Lost weight. Became a distributor. Slogan - "Lose weight now. Ask me how." Break this down. There was a change in the nature of the individual. The change was visible for others to see, such that he could testify to others, "I lost weight." So impacted that he became an evangelist, sharing the good news of weight loss for others to experience.

Let's transpose that to your life with Jesus. Does your life with Jesus resonate with that story? Has your nature and the nature of your life changed since you have become His follower? For those who knew you before, is the change visible to them? For those who didn't, does your life stand in contrast to those around you who don't know Jesus, like a skinny person in a room full of fat people? Has the experience of having Him in your life so impacted you that you want to share the good news of new life in Jesus Christ with others?

## Ingression

Today is another installment of our between-series series, "Elemental Teachings." The basic things about being a disciple of Jesus that often get lost in the mix, yet are essential building blocks, like elements, to what it means to be His follower.

We are going to talk about what it means to be a witness and what it means to evangelize.

## Have you changed, been saved?

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### Ideation

If you consider yourself a Christian, there is the assumption that you understood that something about you needed to change and has changed. Opening stanza of Amazing Grace. You are one because you recognized the need to be saved.

**[2]** Saved? [John 3:16-17](#). Apart from Jesus, everyone is in the ocean, in shark infested waters and surrounded by chum. Death is imminent. You need to be rescued, saved. Your condition needs to change from in peril to no longer in peril. Not talking about shopping for a belief system that suits your fancy. Talking about a rescue operation, a matter of eternal life and death. Jesus dove into and pulled you out.

**[3]** How do you get saved? [Romans 10:9-10](#). Savior and Lord.

**[4]** [2 Corinthians 5:17](#). Changed.

### Interconnection

So, you're saved, you're changed. Now what? [Matthew 28:19-20](#). Are you crazy? What feelings do the words, "witness," "testify," and "evangelism" bring up? FEAR! Why? Doesn't make sense. You would tell people about your weight loss, you would tell people about being saved from shark/chum waters, why not about Jesus saving you?

Marriage. One moment you aren't married, the next moment you are. Do you tell people about your spouse, or the things your spouse does for you? That's witnessing, being a witness, testifying. "You mean, I have to tell people that I'm married? I have to tell them about my husband/wife?" Why wouldn't you want to? You married someone your friends and family (the world) don't like, in fact hate. At the same time you might be so in love that you will want to tell the world anyway. How? The HS.

## Witness

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## Ideation

[5] Greek word for witness - courtroom context. You know about something because you experienced it and can share your information about it. Or you might be an expert about something.

[6] Acts 1:8. When the HS comes upon you, you shall receive power and with that power you will be witnessed about me. It is the power of the HS that enables the boldness to testify of Jesus.

Immediate context, all those who literally saw, heard, experienced something with Jesus. Acts 2:23, 3:14-15, 5:30-32, 10:36-43, 2 Peter 1:16-18, 1 John 1:1-4. These were all witnesses to the facts. They were witnesses to Jesus.

One can also be a witness to the meaning of the facts, a witness for Jesus. Like an expert on Abraham Lincoln. Acts 13:29-39, 22:15, 26:16. This is our calling, emphasis, what God has done in/through/for us. My testimony used to be that of my family growing up. Now it's my own.

It is the power of the HS that enables the boldness to live out a daily witness for Jesus. Acts 2:46-47, 4:23-31.

## Interconnection

[7] What about you? If you were called to testify in court about Jesus, what would you say? Would you be afraid or ashamed? Would you simply regurgitate facts, or would you also be able to share with joy what Jesus has done in your life? That is what it is to be a witness, to testify. That is what we are all called to, not out of obligation, but because we love Him and we have His love for others. That's from the HS.

## Evangelism

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### Ideation

This is the one that seems to scare most people. The truth is, while we all should naturally be witnesses, not everyone is gifted to be an evangelist.

[7] Evangelist (noun), evangelize (verb), evangel (noun, gospel). To declare, deliver, good news as a messenger. One who announced the arrival of the king, victory in a battle, a favorable prediction for the harvest, it's dinner time.

[8] Ephesians 4:11 listed as a gift, but not all have all gifts. Phillip referred to as the evangelist. Paul tells Timothy to do the work of an evangelist. Declare the good news, preach the gospel. Many people throughout history have had this gift. Billy Graham and Greg Laurie come to mind.

### The Story

Let me share with you a tool you can use to help you go beyond being a witness and being an evangelist as God gifts, equips, and gives opportunities.

[9-16] Eight slides for The Story.

## Wrap-up

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"Get saved now. Ask me how." Not a glib marketing phrase for people who are shopping around. It's a plea to people who are drowning in shark infested waters while surrounded by chum! Are they shopping for a means of salvation that best fits their style? Some are because they don't really consider themselves as drowning.

Making the switch from belief system shopping to "I need to be saved" is a work of the HS.

Witnessing is "I was in the water about to die, now I'm on the boat." Evangelism is "You are in the water about to die, let me tell you how to be saved from the situation you are in." 2 Corinthians

5:17-21.

You want to be a joyful witness? You want to be an evangelist for Jesus? You have to work both sides of the fence with prayer. Pray for people you encounter, that God would be working on their hearts to see their need to be saved/rescued. Pray for yourself, that God fill you afresh with His HS like in Acts 1:8. And the Lord will build His church, He will add to the church daily those who are being saved.