

Being Witnesses for Christ in facing Covid-19

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This is the 4th word of guidance that I received from our Lord Jesus when praying for His leading on the Covid-19 pandemic. Please read the previous words if you have not done so. The Spirit has prompted me to share these on the website of The Joshua Mission for the Mission members and for all the faithful in Christ on earth.

Being Witness at this Time

The most important thing for us in reaching out to the world around us is to be True Witnesses of Christ!

Luke 24:44-48 (bold emphasis mine) - ... “These are My words that I spoke to you, while I was still with you ...”. Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures **You are witnesses** of these things.

Acts 1:8 (bold emphasis mine) - But you shall receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will **be My witnesses** in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

We **ARE** Witnesses! We do not just Do witnessing. It is not just the task or project of doing evangelism and sharing the Gospel. It is living our lives, by deed, by conduct, by life style, by speech, in Christ-likeness to be His salt and light so that the world around us may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). Living by faith & obedience, as shared in the previous words, is central to our witness. In so doing, we do share the Gospel to invite all who would listen and respond to receive Christ as their Lord and God, in repentance of sin, for themselves. Without being salt and light, our evangelism is hollow and false.

We should not stop feeding the hungry, ministering to the sick, healing them in Christ's Name as He may so gift and enable us, to help the needy and the disadvantaged. For these are all concrete and valid ways of sharing the love of God for humankind. These are ways of being witnesses to the Gospel of Christ.

Yet none of these are as important as a person repenting of sin and receiving Christ as his or her Lord and God. For if a person receives all the earthly benefits of our earthly ministry and yet do not receive Christ, that person cannot enter into eternity in Christ. What that person loses is far beyond all the relief and benefits that we may give him on earth. If a person suffers all the deprivations of this life, even without relief, but receives Christ as Lord and God, that person enters into eternity in Christ. The benefit of which exceeds all the deprivations that one may suffer here on earth. This is not to reduce any earthly help that we can offer to express God's love for them. These are integral to our witness. This is to highlight the supreme priority of salvation in Christ, over and above any earthly benefit that anyone can receive here on earth.

This cannot be done by force, or by stealth, or by manipulation, or by bribe, or by lies. Doing any of these would immediately void our witness and contradict God's Word. We would incur His wrath against ourselves. It can only be done by living as His salt and light in how we relate with each other in Christ and how we relate with and treat those who do not know Christ. Salvation can only come by a person's voluntary surrender to Him from the heart in response to the biblical Gospel; not any counterfeit, truncation, or corruption of it. Therefore we can do no better than to be witnesses of Christ by life. The affirmation of truth, the conviction of sin to repent, the confession of Christ as Lord, are the work of the Holy Spirit. He works through our good witness. If we to try to do these ourselves, we will only interfere with His work.

May the Lord so lead and enable us as His faithful to do His bidding, according to this word of guidance. HALLELUJAH! AMEN!

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