



Every Believer a Witness
Selected Scripture
February 19, 2017

Apathy / ap-a-thy ~ lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern.

Motivation / mo-ti-vate ~ provide (someone with) a motive for doing something.

- Ninety five percent (95%) of all Christians will never in their life lead ONE person to faith in Jesus Christ.
- Ninety percent (90%) will NEVER even try!

2 Corinthians 5:11a (NKJV) Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...

It is my desire to be used of God to spiritually motivate everyone on all three campuses at Clements, to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. I want to be responsible for carrying as many people to heaven with me as I possibly can.

Narcissistic / Nar-cis-sis-tic ~ having an excessive or erotic interest in oneself and one's physical appearance.

Time magazine reported in 2016 that “Narcissistic Personality Disorder” (NPD) is nearly three times as high for people in their twenties as for the generation that is now 65 or older. 58% more college students scored higher on a narcissism scale in 2016 than in 1982.

As the West has become more narcissistic, so have the people in our churches. We see it on social media. We hear it over coffee. We see it when young people break away from living and breathing social groups to snap a selfie.

We also see it in our evangelism. A decade or two ago our evangelism still pointed outward. We spoke of the existence of God, objective truth, and the historical reliability of the resurrection. Now, the majority of churches have moved on to leading with personal testimonies all about themselves. Unless your testimony magnifies Jesus more than it magnifies you, it is a narcissistic testimony.

I. Why Aren't We Motivated?

1. Some Christians ignore or misunderstand Jesus' commands.

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- Go means go in every language!
- Some believers are evangelists.

Ephesians 4:11 (NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

- All believers are witnesses.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- It is important to understand the why of witnessing.

Romans 16:25-26b (NKJV) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began ²⁶but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations...

- God's desire is that all people should worship Him through Jesus Christ.

John Piper:

"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exist because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity."

2. Many Christians have misplaced priorities.

Mark 4:19 (NKJV) And the cares/worries of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- The worries of life
- The deceitfulness of wealth
- The desire for other things

3. Most Christians forget about the fate of lost people.

- Hell is real

Luke 16:19-31 (NKJV) There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²²So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

³⁰And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

- Everyone is going to die.

Matthew 23:33 (NKJV) Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

- Hell is real.
- There are no second chances in hell.
- God uses the gospel not miracles to save people.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If you bring your family and friends to any one of the three campuses at Clements, I assure you that they will hear the gospel. However, 95% of all your friends are never going to come through the doors of our church. That means that the best chance they have to hear about Jesus is for you to tell them.

II. What Now?

James 1:22 (NKJV) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

1. Decide to obey the Lord in witnessing.

John 17:4 (NKJV) I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work, which You have given Me to do.

2. Ask God to give you a burden for lost people.

The effectiveness of Clements Church will be measured horizontally, not vertically. It used to be that we measured effectiveness by how many times we could get people to come back to the church. We even measured maturity this way. I had the idea that if a person came to church Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, Monday night visitation, and Wednesday night choir practice they must be mature. However, that was a wrong assessment on my part. Some of the meanest people I've ever pastored never missed a service! The best way we can measure the effectiveness of our church is, "how many people do we have in our ministry that are consistently sharing their salvation story?"

Our prayer:

Lord, I want to obey you in witnessing. Help me care about my co-workers, classmates, friends, neighbors, and relatives the way you care about them. Please forgive me for my apathy. In Jesus name, amen.