

A Living Witness

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1 A *Living Witness* in today's spiritually dark world is someone whose words, and ways, and walk is a *light* and acts as *salt* to others.

2 The ultimate Example is Jesus AV John 1:4 "*In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*" *His Spirit* enables us to be light—showing love, respect, and kindness to everyone.

3 The *life* Jesus gives us includes the *light* within us that enables us to *walk* and *talk*; *act* and *react* as a witness for the Lord.

4 This Christlike *attitude* shows the world a much *Different* way from the prevailing *Darkness* of the world.

5 NLT John 8:12 "*I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness—you will have the light.*"

6 Light and salt makes us a *light-bearer* for Jesus. *That* is our calling and a very important one it is!

7 AV Colossians 3:15 "*Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called*"—and a high-calling it is indeed!

8 A *Living Witness* responds differently; *forgives* sooner; *listens* quicker; *helps* anyone; and *prays* before doing anything.

9 This attitude is a *continuous calling*—NIV Colossians 3:12 "*As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*"

10 *From Dark to Different* we *put on* six things: 1 *Compassion* if someone is hurt; 2 *Kindness* when others ignore; 3 *Humility* when pride tempts; 4 *Gentleness* when someone is callous; 5 *Patience* if delayed; 6 *Loving* when no one else is.

11 The world is *reading our life* of trust on God as we interact with people. Our attitude says *volumes* about who we are a *witness for*. Jesus does not want us to *blend in with* the world but to *stand out from* the world.

12 God can *reshape* our heart and *change* our attitudes if we ask Him. That change of heart God gives is how we influence our friends.

13 We are called to not only believe the gospel but be a *living witness to it*. Our life is to present *visible evidence* that Jesus not only *changed our direction* He also *changed our desires, attitudes, and purpose* in life as we point always to Him.

14 The world *expects* a believer to *talk differently* but when we actually *live differently*—that can have a big impact.

15 Multitudes do not open a Bible, but they will open their eyes to *see* how a believer responds to insults or they will *listen* to how the believer replies to mean or harsh treatment.

16 A *Living Witness* is a changed life—one that *preserves* the truth and shines the *light* for those with them. If salt is the same as the food, it is of no use; if light behaves like the dark it disappears! Our life is to maintain a *visible distinction*.

17 Our values and priorities are to be aligned with the One we are following. A *Living Witness* acts in a way that is easily *recognized* as different.

18 Our life should portray *Peace* during contention; *Integrity* if tempted; *Kindness* in conflict; and *Faithfulness* under pressure.

19 The *Character of the Called* produces a life that reflects *godly* attitudes; *humility* in success; *patience* when annoyed, and *Mercy* toward everyone. These virtues are learned over time as we remain committed and as God continues to work in us to perfect them.

20 When people observe *humility* in a proud world; when they see *forgiveness* in a culture of bitterness; When they see *faith* in God as the world fears the worst—they see a picture of the Lord Jesus in us.

21 The world is moving toward a divine appointment. We do not *set dates* but *watch signs!* Staying alert spiritually changes our priorities—it controls what we value; how we spend time; and the way we treat people.

22 When we know that Jesus could return in *an instant*, we live for Him *every second*—remaining watchful, alert, and looking for Him.

23 A *Living Witness goes Beyond Surface Faith*—actually trusting God by faith in the Atonement sacrifice of His Son Jesus to remove and erase our sins and to cleanse our hearts.

24 This close relationship we have with the Father and the Son becomes visible in our attitudes and speech. Our *hidden life* with God sustains a *public witness* to the world. A follower of Christ never draws attention to themselves but always draws attention to the Lord.

25 *A Living Witness* has a different mindset—they have given *their life* to the Lord—so they have *no desire* to showcase anything *they* have accomplished, but only what God has accomplished *in* or *through* them.

26 When people see *patience* where anger once ruled; when they see *hope* where despair had lived; when they see *faith* where fear once controlled—we become a *witness* to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

27 *A Living Witness* for Christ should ask: What do we *value*? What do we *treasure*? Treasures reveal priorities—they are what we love, and *they* will influence the direction of our life.

28 *God calls us* to live as a visible testimony to His transforming power—in the way we *talk*; the way we *walk*; the clothes we *wear*; the books we *read*; and the songs we *sing*. Each of those things become *A Living Witness* for either *the Lord* or *the World*.

29 The Gift of the Spirit guides us in *making* scriptural decisions; *talking* in a respectful way; and *treating* people as if we loved them.

30 Jesus told us: be *Different on Purpose* and follow the *Word on purpose*. AV Colossians 3:16 “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*”

Matthew 7:12 “*Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them.*”

31 Listening to His *words* and following His *advice* is a very important issue. No one can expect to enter the kingdom if they are not following the only One who can let them in! Jesus is the *way, the truth, and the life*. “*No one can come to the Father except through Him.*” NLT John 14.

32 Jesus told us to NKJV Matthew 7:13 “*Enter by the narrow gate,*” but the *narrow gate* means a *different way* from the world.

33 Unbelievers want *convenience; comfort; and popularity* in the world; but the believer chooses *faithfulness; integrity; and obedience* while in the world.

34 Over 8 *billion* people in the world are heading in the wrong direction to an unthinkable and tragic end—that is why our being *A Living Witness* for others is desperately needed in the world today.

35 To *change* the *direction* of those in the world, they need to first change the Book they read—the Book God wrote for them.

36 WEY 2 Timothy 3:16 “*Every Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for convincing, for correction of error, and for instruction in right doing.*”

37 Love binds it all together and God proved His love *for us*. AV Romans 5:8 “*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” Jesus gave *His* life to give us this *new* life—a life that *chooses* to *love* and *forgive* no matter *what* someone did; *who* did

the wrong; *when* it took place; or how serious it was.

38 Jesus’ own people chose to be *rebellious on purpose*—so they joined the dark and shunned the *very One* who could save them. NIV John 3:19 “*This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*”

39 How many today have that same rebellious attitude? How many still *choose* the dark and *reject* the light? How many still *resent* and *retain* anger in their heart? NKJV 1 John 3:15 “*Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*”

40 How many replace God with an idol of some shape or form—a person, entertainment, or money? Knowing that we will all stand before God to face judgment or justification, and maybe soon—we would think there would be *more* looking for a solution and a Savior—*many* more!

41 We must glorify God every day and thank Jesus every moment—for the eternal *gift* of eternal *life* with Him at no cost to us.

42 We just need to meet the requirement: *repent, confess, and believe* that Jesus *is* who He *says* He is—our Lord and Master and Savior.

43 The Gift of His Spirit enables us to be *Different on Purpose* and *A Living Witness* in an ever-darkening world.