

Chapter 3

Are You Qualified?

You must be Born Again

The first requirement to being an effective witness is that you must be born again. You have to know that Jesus is your Savior. If you aren't confident in your salvation, how are you ever going to talk to someone else about it?

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10

You need to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life, and believe that He died and was raised from the dead for you. By doing so, you commit your life to Him, and accept all that He has provided for you.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” II Corinthians 5:17-18

As a new creature in Christ, we are given the responsibility to spread the message. God has called us to bring all people into the kingdom of God. That is what the ministry of reconciliation is: helping others to be born again. When you are in Christ, He makes you an able minister. He makes you able to tell others about Jesus.

You must be filled with the Holy Spirit

Being born again gets you into the kingdom of God, but being filled with the Holy Spirit enables you to be a success here on earth. To be a powerful witness for God on this earth you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and regularly praying in other tongues.

“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.” Acts 1:8

You need to know without a shadow of a doubt that you have the power and that it is working in you. I Corinthians 14:14-15 says: “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.” As a laborer in his harvest, you are ministering to other people. You are witnessing. With these tasks you need all God has provided for you to be able to do the works of the ministry. You need the strength and power that only the Holy Spirit can give you.

Praying in tongues on a regular basis releases that power and enables you to be an effective witness (praying in tongues, speaking in tongues, praying in the Holy Ghost, and praying in the Spirit, all mean the same thing.) In addition to interceding for the lost and praying them into the kingdom of God, you edify or strengthen your inner man when you pray in tongues, (I Corinthians 14:4). Then, you are ready to release power of your innermost being.

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, who those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:38-39

Praying in the Holy Ghost has many benefits which will enable you to be a bold and effective witness. Study these benefits to know what they can do for you. Then you will be certain to pray in tongues regularly, and you will have the benefits manifested in your life. Listed below are seven benefits of praying in tongues.

- 1. Build up the inner man.** I Corinthians 14:4 “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.”
- 2. Intercede for the unknown.** Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
- 3. Pray the perfect will of God.** Romans 8:27 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

4. Builds you up on your faith. Jude 20 “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”

5. Brings rest and refreshing. Isaiah 28:11-12 “For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest,’ and, ‘This is the refreshing’; yet they would not hear.”

6. Gives thanks and magnifies God. Acts 10:46a “For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”

7. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers. I Corinthians 14:22a “Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers.”

A Leader of People

When you decide to be an effective witness, you are also deciding to be a leader. You are deciding to be the one who sets the example for those around you. As you minister to people, they will do the things you do, and they will say the things you say.

An effective witness is someone who has made the decision to stand up and be leader in the body of Christ. There are many people who come to church all the time, but they have never made a decision to be a leader. If you want to reach people and change their lives forever, you must take on the responsibility of being a leader through example.

Qualifications of a Leader

There are some specific attitudes and behaviors that leaders have. As you train yourself to minister to others, there are some attitudes and behaviors you should develop. These are:

A leader believes in themselves. The Bible does not tell us to think lowly of ourselves. The Bible tells us to be confident and strong in who we are as Christians. Jesus says, in Matthew 28:20 “...Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” He is telling us, “I live with you. I am with you” How dare we call ourselves anything less than what God calls us! How often do we call ourselves dumb, stupid, ugly, not worthy, not able, fearful, or unbelieving? How dare we say that about ourselves, when we have God living within us!

Almighty God Himself lives within us, and yet we talk negatively about ourselves. God says we are strong, creative, equipped, and able. We need to believe in ourselves the way God

believes in in us. God says in II Corinthians 3:5-6 that he has made us an able minister of the New Testament.

“But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.” Galatians 6:4

God’s way of thinking is not the same as the world’s way. We need to renew our minds from the world’s way to God’s way. The world’s way is to think badly of ourselves, and we are all trained in the world’s way. If you go any place in the world, regardless of what continent or country it is, the devil has trained us to think lowly of ourselves.

Even extremely successful people who have made millions of dollars often don’t believe in themselves the way God wants us tall to. If you could get inside their hearts and minds, most of them have very low self-image and self-confidence. Celebrity figures are not excluded. In the natural, they have every material thing they could ever want, and yet they are often miserable. They may believe in their physical appearance, or their talent, but they really don’t believe in themselves.

As a Christian, God lives inside of us! We are equipped with the best of all. One of the meanings of God’s name is “Emmanuel.” That literally means, “God in us, revealed in us.” You can believe in yourself because you do not have to do anything alone, God lives in you. Through His equipping and empowering, you are able to do the work of the ministry.

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” II Corinthians 3:5-6

This is a scripture that you should have underlined in your Bible, and have committed to your memory. I want you to especially note verse 6. This is the Holy Spirit directly speaking to you: “...who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant...” God has made you an able minister of the New Testament!

An effective witness is a person who has committed themselves to be a leader. They recognize the calling of God on their life, and believe in themselves the way the Bible teachers

them to. You are not supposed to think of yourself as nothing. You are not to think of yourself in a poor state of being. You must think of yourself the way God thinks and talks about you.

The Word says, “You are an able minister.” As an able minister, you can boldly, and without hesitation, minister to a person and get them born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. You can get them born again just by being a light, but when you are backed with the Word of God and the knowledge of exactly how to do it, you have an incredible strength support you. II Corinthians 5:17-18 says: ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”***

God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation or the task of resolving the gap between the lost and Christ. God has called us into the world to preach the gospel and reconcile the world unto Jesus Christ. Notice that we have been reconciled to Him, so now, we are to go out and reconcile others. We are to minister and we are to bring people into the kingdom of God. Verse 19 says: “...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” We have the ministry (calling) and we have the Word, what else could we need?

A leader is an ambassador. Many years ago while we were in the Philippines at the convention, Sir Lionel Luckoo opened the meeting. He was an ambassador for Uganda and had a very interesting job. Sir Lionel talked about himself as being an ambassador, as one who goes with authority and represents his own country in various countries. He knows full well the authority his country has given him, and he exercise that authority.

What about the spiritual calling we have as ambassadors for Christ? We are to go and do the work of the ministry. We are to represent our kingdom and our God with all power and authority, knowing the calling we have on our lives. II Corinthians 5:20 says: “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” As God’s ambassadors, you carry the authority to speak God’s Word. Let it come out of your mouth boldly, with power, and authority, knowing that God has give you that right.

Remember that we did not earn either salvation or the right to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We did not receive it based on our merit. God gave it to us as a free gift. We are saved because God gave us our salvation; not because we have earned anything. Do not think that there is anything you can do to make God love you more or less. If you have failed to do everything perfectly; saying, “I didn’t pray enough before U went to minister” or “I haven’t studied the Bible as much as I should have,” doesn’t mean you should cease to witness to others. You cannot “earn” the opportunity to minister. Yes, you need to pray. Yes, you need to study the Bible. Yes, you need to strive to do the right things as an example, but you must do it because the love in your heart and because you desire to be prepared.

God has given you the ministry of reconciliation, and He has said that He is your sufficiency. He has made you an able minister and an ambassador for Him. He does not give you the title as His ambassador one day, and revoke the title the next. God has called you as His ambassador, which is a statement of faith that He trusts you will be His voice and His example to those who need to see Him. Now, you are given the choice of what you will do with the title.

A leader is a giver. Leaders do not think of themselves first, they think of others and act selflessly towards people. Matthew 10:39 says: ***“He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.”***

When you are selfish and focus your attention on your needs and your desires, you cheapen your life mission. You lose the nest that God has for you due to greed and self-centeredness. When you lose yourself and focus on the needs of others above your own, you will find your life. It may seem like a contradiction, but when we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel, we are rewarded immeasurably. Being a giver is an attitude and a way of life, not a one time decision or action. Givers don't obsess about what they give and keep track of everything. They freely plant seed and their harvest is plenty. A giver is always looking for a need to fill and a creative way in which they can fill it. Those who often find that they are short on time or resources are probably selfish with what they do have. The Bible very clearly teaches in Luke 6:38, as you start to sow seed, you will begin to reap a harvest, when you give it is given back to you.

A leader is committed. How committed you are to helping people will determine how effective you are. If you are committed and will do whatever it take to see the harvest, you are ready to minister at any time. Being committed means being prepared when you are needed. You are committed to knowing the scriptures, and speaking up when the time is right.

If you are committed, you care enough to spend time in prayer interceding for the lost and building yourself up in the Spirit. You will be able to hear the leading of the Holy Spirit and minister correctly in any situation. The body of Christ needs committed leaders today - those spiritually prepared, and ready to get the work done.

A leader walks in love. The devil will always try to derail you before you even begin. He will give you countless opportunities to fight with your spouse or be angry towards someone about something. If you yield to that way of thinking, you will block the inclinations of the Holy Spirit and will hinder your ability to hear Him. When you have strife in you life, you cut off the flow of the Holy Spirit. It is as if a knot is in a hose and the water supply cannot get through.

Regarding gossip and complaining, I would like to make this point: be very careful how you talk about your church around your children. You are either bringing them into the church as productive members of the body of Christ, or you are forcing them out of the church and into the world. You are training them up in the way they should go by the things you do and say. Children will always grow up to do what you do, not what you say. Whether or not they make a conscious effort to do so, your children will act the way they see you act.

A leader speaks positively. As a leader it is essential that we maintain a positive approach to life. Gossiping and complaining will never bring effective change or beneficial results. There is always something to complain about if you give yourself permission. A mature Christian knows that the battle is not with people, but in the spirit realm; and is aware that complaining and a negative confession hinders rather than helps the situation. Rather than gripe and murmur, mature Christians are quick to intercede and believe for God's best in every situation.

If you murmur to yourself or to others, you have cut off your ability to hear from the Holy Spirit. You have cut off the anointing that will help you minister to people as needs arise. You might not like certain things at your church or in. Your job, but as a leader you realize your

authority to bring change and growth is through prayer and intercession. It is at that point alone that a leader is prepared and ready to bring suggestions or ideas to those in charge. It is essential to always start and finish with prayer, this way we keep our heart and mind focused on God and His will.

You ARE a leader

Think of yourself as a leader, which is the way God sees you. Put the thought in your mind that you are a man or woman of God who is a leader in this life. You are the redeeming factor in this whole earth and you can do something amazing for God. You must see yourself that way and believe in yourself the way God believes in you; then nothing will stop you. If you do not believe what God says about you, you will not be able to minister to others effectively. You'll find yourself intimidated by them or afraid of them for one reason or another. It may be their age, fashion sense, or any number of issues, but something about them will make you feel inadequate. You will focus on your inferiority rather than on what God says about you. As a result, you will not be able to effectively give them the Word of God about salvation or the Holy Spirit. You will not be able to be the minister that God has called you to be.

Cast down the insecurities and false imaginations that exalt themselves against the knowledge of Christ. Cast down the strongholds of what you think you are, and believe what God says you are. Step out on the strength of His Word, and He will see to it that His Word does not return to you void.

One time I was sitting next to a woman on an airplane who was about 85 years old. I asked her if she knew Jesus and she responded, "Oh I hope so." I stopped right there, I didn't ask another question the rest of the flight. After all, she is my senior, how could I tell her ranting she didn't already know? That is what I thought, but I see now that it was merely a lie of the devil to keep me from being the effective minister of the gospel, the ambassador for Christ, that God says I am.

You have to recognize who you are in Jesus Christ. You are His ambassador, His voice. What you do for a living, how much money you have, what type of education you have, or anything else does not matter at all. As a Christian you are called of God, therefore, He needs

you. He has given you the ministry of reconciliation and you have a high calling on your life. God is working through you. You are a leader.

Discussion

1. According to Treat, what are the signs that you are filled with the Holy Spirit? Do you agree or disagree”
2. Are there any persons or type of persons that you do not feel that you can minister to? Who & Why?
3. What do you feel qualifies you for ministry?