

3 Taking The Initiative

Series: Live Life

Matthew 5:16 August 20, 2017

On several occasions I have Illustrated the way many Churches approach ministry when we Think About It, Talk About It, Pray About it, but rarely get around to Doing Something About It!

Let's see what this process looks like!

Think About It	–	Send to Committee
Talk About It	–	Seek Wise Counsel
Pray About It	–	Seek God's Will

The Good Word without The Good Walk is not a Good Witness at all! You must Do Good Works before the world as you Live Life every day!

To Witness for Jesus You Must Take The Initiative (16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Oxford Dictionary: Initiative - Noun

1. The ability to assess and initiate things independently
2. *in singular* The power or opportunity to act or take charge before others do. (**Innovator**)
3. An act or strategy intended to resolve a difficulty or improve a situation; a fresh approach to something.

When applied to the Christian Life you will incorporate all three meanings. Which looks like this!

Putting **all three definitions** together!

As a Witness for Jesus **YOU** have the ability to **assess and initiate** things independently through the power and opportunity to **act or take charge** before others do as an act or strategy intended to **resolve** a difficulty or **improve** a situation; a **fresh approach** to something.

I. **You take the Initiative** when You put Your **Belief into Practice (16)** In the same way, **let your light shine** before others,

When I was in California visiting where Veanna was raised, we went to 29 Palms and stayed at her brother. He lived five miles into the Mohave Desert. There were no street lights just stars in the sky. But if you looked on the horizon you could see the lights of Los Vegas to the East, lights of Los Angeles and San Diego to the West.

Light can only be impeded by other light or if you cover it up or just don't ever turn it on!

A. **You have The Power** to Let your Light Shine! **Acts 1:8** But you **will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- B. **You have the Potential** to Let Your Light Shine! **Romans 15:14** My brothers, I myself am convinced about you that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and **able to instruct** one another.
- C. **You have Permission** to Let Your Light Shine **(16)** In the same way, **let your light shine** before others
- D. **You have Protection** to Let Your Light Shine **Matthew 28:19** Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, **I am with you always, to the end of the age.**"

II. **Taking The Initiative** Makes You **Perceivable** **(16)** so that they may see your **good works**

To be **Seen** Christians must **let their Lights Shine** in such a way that the entire world can **see them** and Praise God.

So what are these Good Works that Jesus is talking about? These Good Works are most naturally fruit mentioned in **Matthew 3:8** Therefore **produce fruit consistent with repentance.**

Repentance is the changing of one's mind for the good. Our fruit then should be consistent with living out a better life that before we changed our mind!

You cannot stay the same as you were before!

No Jesus – No Change. No Change – No Jesus

This has a great deal to do with both Your Attitude and Your Action.

Your **Attitude Toward** Sin!

Your **Action Toward** not Committing Sin!

Having a Right Relationship to God brings a Right Relationship toward fellow human beings. Those who claim to know Christ, who claim to be born again, will demonstrate a new way of living that corresponds to the new birth.

In other words True Repentance will have Corresponding Genuine Good Works.

III. By Taking The Initiative You Fulfill Your Purpose (16) and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- A. **You Fulfill God's Purpose** through **Your Conduct** **1 Peter 2:12** Keep **your conduct** among the Gentiles **honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may **see your good deeds** and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- B. **You Fulfill God's Purpose** through **Your Choices** **1 Corinthians 6:20** for you were bought with a price. So **glorify God in your body**.

We are to Glorify God which mean to ascribe to Him all Praise, Honor and Worship. For He alone is worthy!

Is it alright to lift up our hands in worship?

Psalm 28:2 Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I **lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.**

Question for Today!

Are you **Inciting** or **Inviting**?

Are you Looking for a **Fight**?

Or Are you Looking to **Share your Faith**?

It's been said that you catch more fly's with Honey than you do with Vinegar!

Are you Honey or Vinegar?

2 Timothy 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but **must be kind to everyone**, able to teach, not resentful.

John 12:46 I have come as a **light** into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me would **not remain in darkness.**

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk** as children of light--

When you walk into a dark room you turn on the Light. When you walk into a **Dark World** you should **Turn on Your Light!** **Titus 3:1-2** Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, **to obey**, to be ready for every good work, ² to slander no one, to **avoid fighting**, and to **be kind**, always showing **gentleness** to all people.

Praise Team Takes The Platform