

Ultimate Aim

COJOURNERS № 1.1 | MOTIVATION

Love compels witness—a love for God and a love for others. Those who love God, pursue his glory. Those who love others, seek their good. Seeking God’s glory and others’ good are both accomplished as we share the gospel.

We glorify God when we make him known. When we genuinely love God, we want others to know him so that he will be honored and glorified by them. The other side of the coin is that nothing could be better for a person than to know God. So God’s glory and others’ greatest good come together when we make God known. That is why love compels witness.

Discuss John 17:1-5:

- What was Jesus’ ultimate aim in life?
- How did he accomplish it?
- Examine a simple presentation of the gospel, such as, *The Four Spiritual Laws* or *Would You Like to Know God Personally?* What attributes of God are revealed through the gospel presentation?

Action Plan

Each day this week, pray that God gives you the desire to glorify him by sharing the gospel with others.

Summary

God’s glory and other’s good are both accomplished by making God known.



Love in Action

COJOURNERS № 1.2 | MOTIVATION

Compassion is true love focused on real need. It is always found at the intersection of love and need. Both must be present to experience compassion.

We may have genuine love in our hearts, but if we aren’t exposed to need, there is no reason for compassion. On the other hand, if we are exposed to genuine need, but do not love, we will fall short of compassion. We may feel sorry, or even be sympathetic, but we will not demonstrate Christ-like compassion.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he experienced compassion for them because “they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36). Individuals whose spiritual journeys have failed to lead to Christ have a genuine need—a need so great that the eternal Son of God would

leave his riches in heaven to come on a search and rescue mission (Luke 19:10; Romans 5:8). Do you exhibit the same compassion? Being a witness is a Christ-like expression of true compassion.

Discuss

- What evidence shows your peers are “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd”?
- Why do we fail to recognize the real needs in others’ lives?

Action Plan

Each day this week, ask God to show you the real needs of others, especially their need for the Shepherd.

Summary

Compassion is love focused on a lost person’s need.



Unstoppable

COJOURNERS № 1.3 | MOTIVATION

The Great Commission begins with these words from Jesus: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:18, 19).

The early believers understood the implications of Jesus having “all authority.” They were unstoppable. When the local authorities commanded them to quit talking about Jesus, they replied, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19, 20).

To be accurate, history reveals one way the lower authorities did stop those acting under Jesus’ command. They killed them. First it was Stephen (Acts 7:57-60). Then it was James (Acts 12:2). They were followed by countless others

who were killed because of their faith in Christ. It became so common that *martus*, the Greek word for witness, began to bear the meaning of one who would give his life for what he believed and testified to. *Martus* is the root from which we get the English word martyr.

Discuss

- What stops us from witnessing today? Why?
- How easy is it to stop you?

Action Plan

Re-read the passages above. Each day this week, ask God to make you unstoppable in your witness.

Summary

Understanding Christ’s authority makes us unstoppable in witness.



Inner Strength

COJOURNERS № 1.4 | MOTIVATION

Is it dangerous to be a witness for Christ? Is there risk involved?

It varies from situation to situation and from culture to culture. But in many lands, believers expose themselves to ostracism, punishment, imprisonment, and even death by their witness.

There are risks even in societies where there is freedom of religion and the free exchange of ideas. Social pressures and cultural norms create emotional and relational risks for the believer who shares the gospel with others.

How do we overcome our fears?

Sound teaching and practical training can help, but God has done something more. He has given us his Spirit, and with his Spirit comes power and boldness. Jesus’ last words to his followers were, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on

you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV).

Discuss

- Read Acts 4:31. What is the relationship between the filling of the Spirit and boldness?
- Why do we need boldness to be God’s witnesses today?

Action Plan

Obtain a copy of the booklet *Satisfied?* from a Campus Crusade staff member. Make sure you understand and are experiencing the filling of the Spirit as explained in the booklet. Each day this week, ask God to fill you with his Spirit, making you a bold witness for Christ.

Summary

The power of the Spirit gives us the inner strength to witness.

