

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 1



### How to Get Involved in Missions

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Scripture reading Acts 11:1-5a

*“And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them. But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, I was in the city of Joppa praying.”*

Peter was a committed Jewish disciple of Jesus Christ. Jesus gave him a command not just to reach Jewish people but to go throughout the world and preach the Gospel. Peter had been traveling from place to place in the land of Canaan giving the Gospel to Jewish people. When he was invited to Caesarea to share the Gospel with a Gentile, he did so. The Gentiles got saved but after sometime, rumors had trickled back to Jerusalem and Jewish believers were shocked that Peter had entered into the house of a Gentile. Though Peter was doing exactly what God wanted him to do, he was confronted with contention about his actions. Peter had given himself totally to God and God had used him in a miraculous way, but found himself having to explain what he did to his Christian critics back in Jerusalem. When he talked to them, Peter explained that **it all began with prayer**.

When I was in Bible college, Jerry Falwell used to say that “Nothing of eternal significance is ever accomplished apart from prayer.” I believe that with my whole heart. When God’s people begin to pray, God begins to move. That is true nationally, in your family, and in your personal life. If you want to learn to give by faith, you need to start with a prayer life. You need to ask God, what does He want you to give? Where does He want you to go? What does He want you to do? 1 Timothy 2 tells us we are to pray for all men everywhere to be saved, because God would have all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. Let me encourage you this week to seek God’s face. Ask God what He wants you to do in the area of witnessing and giving by faith for world missions. If you want to reach the lost, you need to start praying for them. When you pray as God wants you to pray, you will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 2



### Surrender Yourself to the Holy Spirit of God

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Scripture reading Acts 11:12

*“And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:”*

If I want God to use me to reach other people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ here and around the world, I must not only become a man of prayer, but also be someone who is surrendered to the Holy Spirit of God. Paul said, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service”* (Romans 12:1). The believer that is going to be used of God to reach the world, must be surrendered to whatever God wants him to do. When he went to Caesarea, Peter had to surrender his reputation, friendships, credibility, and would even have to violate his conscience in obedience to the commandment of Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Giving by faith to missions requires total surrender. Paul told the Corinthian believers about a group of believers in Macedonia who were in a great trial of affliction and yet they gave greatly to the ministry, because they first gave themselves to God (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). God wants to use you to reach others around the world, but He cannot do that unless you are willing to surrender to His direction and go where He wants you to go. Peter had to surrender to the Holy Spirit and do something he thought he would never do. When you choose to surrender to God and follow the direction of the Spirit of God in your life, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 3



### Determine to Speak God's Word

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Scripture reading Acts 11:1 & 14

*“And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the WORD OF GOD. Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.”*

It is the Word of God, not your great intellect or ability, that will lead people to Jesus Christ. It is therefore important that you know and believe the Word of God as you are seeking His direction. It is also very essential that when you share the Gospel with others, that you share His Word.

Peter was led by God to Caesarea. However, that was not the first place he witnessed. On the day of Pentecost, he shared the Gospel in Jerusalem. Later in Jerusalem, he was in prison for preaching the Gospel. He then went to Lyda and preached the Gospel. From there he went to Joppa and preached the Gospel. Peter did not try to come up with a new, clever message, he simply shared the Word of God.

*“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Romans 10:17). When I first began to witness, I got a New Testament and marked all the verses that I would use in order to share the Gospel. Since I was unfamiliar with the verses, I had them marked so I could use the Word of God to share the truth of God's Word.

It is not possible for one person to go everywhere and share the Gospel and that is why God established missions. I should witness to everybody I can, but I should also help to send people where I cannot go. As a believer, you should determine to share God's Word here and around the world. Since you cannot be everywhere, get involved in faith promise missions. Pray about it. Surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit's leading. Determine that you will share the Gospel by giving to missions so missionaries can go where you cannot be. When you determine to share the Word, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 4



### Pray for Results

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Scripture reading Acts 11:15-16

*“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.”*

When Peter preached the Word of God, in surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God, he saw great results. If I understand this week’s passage correctly, every person that was in the house of the Centurion that heard the Gospel, believed the Gospel and received Christ as their Saviour. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and His presence was manifest through them speaking in other languages that they had not previously learned. Several years ago, I learned how important it is, after I had been obedient to the Holy Spirit, to pray for results.

On September 1, 2020, I gave a gospel tract to Tim in Walmart. After I gave him the tract and as he walked away, I prayed for him to be saved. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to give a gospel tract to a lady at the credit union. When I did, I prayed for her to be saved. I have learned that I need to pray for those that I witness to and I need to pray for our missionaries on foreign fields. When I give my tithe and faith promise, I always take time to thank God for allowing me to be able to give back to Him. It is important to pray that God will use what I am giving to see souls saved and Christians grow.

This past year, we saw over 30,000 people trust Jesus Christ as Saviour through our faith promise giving. That is eternal. Everything else I gave money to this year, will burn up and be gone. However, that which goes to the work of God will reap eternal results and we need to pray for those results. When you learn to pray for results, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 5



### Be Willing to Step Out in Faith

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Scripture reading Acts 11:17

*“Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”*

Talk about being stretched. Peter had been totally and completely out of his comfort zone. When the Jewish converts heard about the conversion of Gentiles, they could not believe their ears. However, it was true. God was opening the door to worldwide evangelism, inviting everyone who believed to be part of His family and citizens of His eternal kingdom. Humanly speaking this would not have happened if Peter was not willing to step out in faith. Peter had to be willing to be stretched by God. He had to throw away old traditions and trust the direction and leadership of the Saviour.

Witnessing is a discipline we must master. If I want to witness to somebody every day, I must determine that I am going to carry tracts. I must make an effort to have those tracts available with me. I must get over the fear of rejection. It is a discipline. If I am going to give to missions, I must determine to believe what God says. Jesus said, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you”* (Luke 6:38). Am I going to believe that? Giving is a faith discipline that has great benefits. I must be willing to step out on faith and give if I want to be part of God’s great commission and if I want to see God’s financial blessing in my life. When my wife and I first started giving by faith, I had no idea how God would provide for us and the great provision that we would have throughout our lives because of that step of faith.

I encourage you to follow the example of Peter. Step out in faith. Ask God to help you to be the witness He wants you to be. Ask Him what He would have you give on a regular basis to support missionaries who are reaching the world. When you do this, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

# SHINE Devotional

## Week 37 – Lesson 6



### Rejoice in What Jesus Does

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Scripture reading Acts 11:18

*“When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”*

Since the beginning of the school year at Liberty Baptist Academy, we have seen four young people trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Two weeks ago, I received a note from Navi Bola, our missionary in the Fiji Islands, which is on the other side of the world. He told us that within a two-week period, fifteen young people have trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through their ministry. Week after week, I hear reports from First Choice Pregnancy Center, one of our many missions projects, of young women who are about to abort their children but instead trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and determined to allow their child to live. This past Sunday, we heard from Bill Patterson about many men and women in different parts of the world who trusted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior because of our missions’ outreach. All of this causes us to rejoice, because these decisions are eternal decisions.

When the Jewish believers in Jerusalem heard about the conversion of Gentiles, some were confused. Others contented with Peter and were offended because He went into the home of an uncircumcised man and ate with Gentiles (Acts 11:2-3). Once they heard Peter’s explanation and saw that God had led him to do what he had done, the Bible says, *“they held their peace”* (Acts 11:18). That means they gave it much thought and they glorified God. They accepted God’s plan and rejoiced over what God was doing to reach around the world with the Gospel.

When you follow the example of Peter, you begin to pray for missionaries and lost souls to get saved. When you surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit of God, you will determine to share His Word here and around the world. When you pray for results and step out on faith, witness, and give to others so that they can witness in other parts of the world, you will wind up rejoicing as you observe what God does through you. When you do these things, you, as a believer, will SHINE.