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Sermon Series:

Living My Blessed Life

**Topic: The Foundational Principles of Witnessing
- Pastor Alton Trimble**

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020

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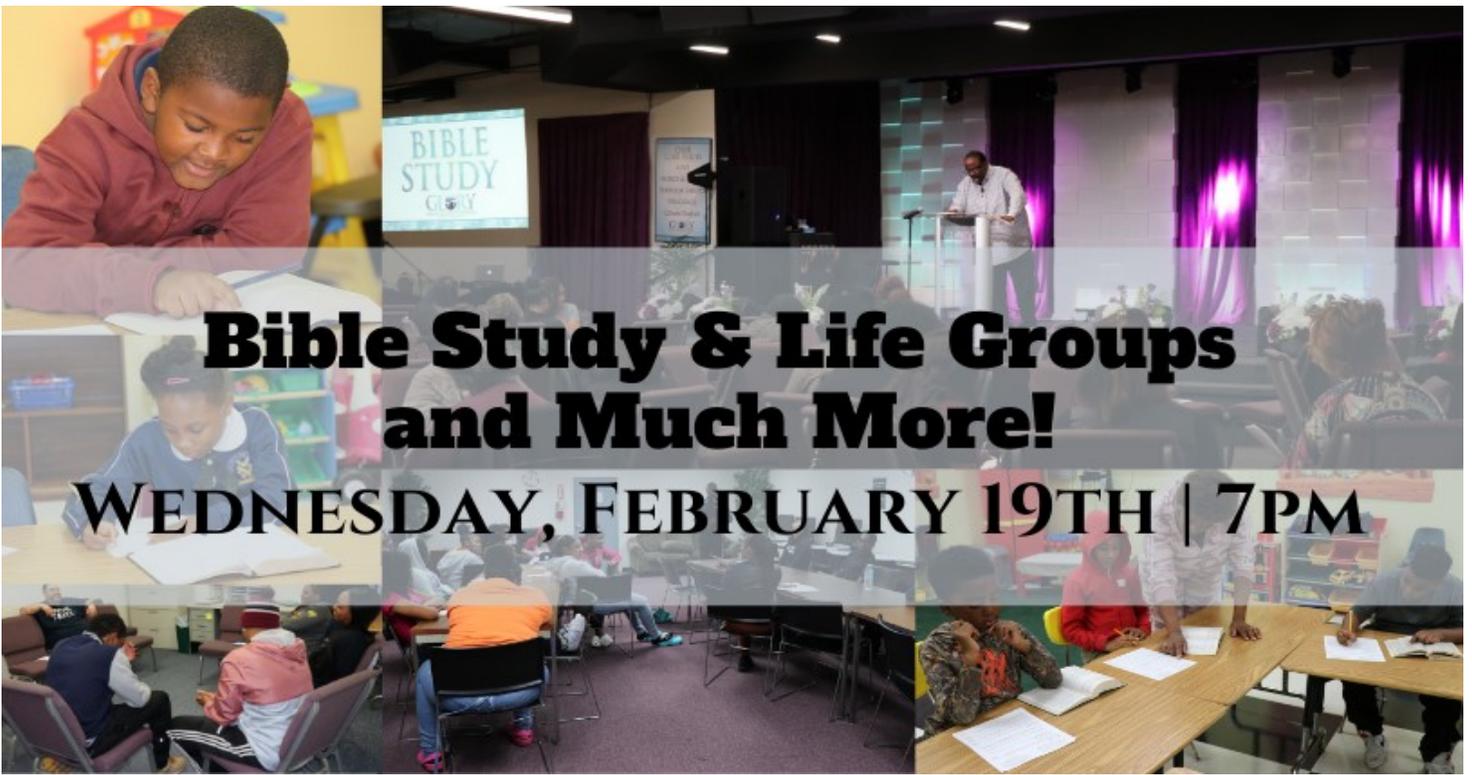
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SERIES: LIVING MY BLESSED LIFE

TOPIC: THE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES OF WITNESSING – Pastor Alton Trimble
Sunday, February 16, 2020

MATTHEW 5:13 (NLT)

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

MATTHEW 28:18-20 (NLT)

¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF THE IMPERATIVE.

- A. Jesus, the great commission and the disciples of Christ.
- B. The sent that never went.

2. THE PRINCIPLE OF DIVINE EVIDENCE.

- A. Your belief is evidence of your capacity to witness:

II CORINTHIANS 4:13 (NLT)

But we continue to preach because we have the same kind of faith the psalmist had when he said, “I believed in God, so I spoke.”

PSALMS 107:2 (NLT)

Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out! Tell others he has redeemed you from your enemies.

PSALMS 107:2 (NKJV)

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

JOHN 3:11 (NLT)

I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen...

JOHN 9 (NKJV)

- B. Remember what’s at stake, life and death.

PROVERBS 14:25 (NLT)

A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is a traitor.

PROVERBS 14:25 (NKJV)

A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies.

ACTS 26 (NKJV)

JAMES 5:20 (NLT)

You can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.

C. Not experiencing Christ and not witnessing Christ yield similar results.

EZEKIEL 3:17-19 (NLT)

“Son of man, I have appointed you as a watchman for Israel. Whenever you receive a message from me, warn people immediately. ¹⁸ If I warn the wicked, saying, ‘You are under the penalty of death,’ but you fail to deliver the warning, they will die in their sins. And I will hold you responsible for their deaths. ¹⁹ If you warn them and they refuse to repent and keep on sinning, they will die in their sins. But you will have saved yourself because you obeyed me.”

ACTS 20:26-27 (NLT)

I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, ²⁷ for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

MARK 8:38 (NLT)

If anyone is ashamed of me and my message in these adulterous and sinful days, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

LUKE 12:8-9 (NLT)

“I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. ⁹ But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:16 (NLT)

Yet preaching the Good News is not something I can boast about. I am compelled by God to do it. How terrible for me if I didn’t preach the Good News!

2 CORINTHIANS 4:3 (NLT)

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing.

JOHN 1:1-17 (NLT)

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was

created, and his life brought light to everyone. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. ⁶ God sent a man, John the Baptist, ⁷ to tell about the light so that everyone might believe because of his testimony. ⁸ John himself was not the light; he was simply a witness to tell about the light. ⁹ The one who is the true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. ¹⁴ So the Word became human^[d] and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son. ¹⁵ John testified about him when he shouted to the crowds, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Someone is coming after me who is far greater than I am, for he existed long before me.'" ¹⁶ From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, but God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.

3. THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIONSHIP.

A. Must first be in a relationship with God.

1. EXODUS 33:11-23 *God called him friend.*
2. PSALMS 25:14 - *Sharing our deepest secrets is a mark of true friendship.*

(NLT)

¹⁴ *The LORD is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.*

(NKJV)

¹⁴ *The secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.*

3. You will not relate well with people for God, if you do not relate well with God.

B. True friendship is commitment.

PROVERBS 17:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ *A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.*

PROVERBS 17:17 (NKJV)

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

1 SAMUEL 18:1-4 (NLT)

After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. ² From that day on Saul

kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. ³ And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. ⁴ Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt.

I SAMUEL 18:1-4 (NKJV)

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. ² Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father's house anymore. ³ Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. ⁴ And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

1. Fleeting versus lasting (trouble reveals).
 2. Commitment is the glue that bonds a friendship.
 3. External circumstances can't break that bond.
- C. Watch for or eliminate hindrances to the development and maintenance of friendships.
1. Jealousy and envy turn quickly into anger and bitterness resulting in division.

I SAMUEL 18:5-13

2. Unforgiveness.

GENESIS 50:14-21

MATTHEW 18:21-22 (NKJV)

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

MATTHEW 18:21-22 (NLT)

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" ²² "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven!

LUKE 6:37 (NKJV)

"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

MATTHEW 6:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ *“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. ¹⁶ “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.*

MARK 11:25 (NLT)

²⁵ *But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.*

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NKJV)

³² *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

I JOHN 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

3. Lack of respect and appreciation.

PSALMS 41:9 (NLT)

⁹ *Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me.*

- D. What if I’m having trouble making friends?

1. Everyone has seasons of loneliness.

JOB 19:19 (NKJV)

All my close friends abhor me, and those whom I love have turned against me.

JOHN 5:7 (NLT)

“I can’t, sir,” the sick man said, “for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me.”

JOHN 5:7 (NKJV)

The sick man answered Him, “Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

2. Remember our primary relationship with God.

JOHN 15:15 (NLT)

I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.

HEBREWS 13:5 (NLT)

⁵ Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."

- E. Kindness and generosity attracts, anger and selfishness repels.

EPHESIANS 4:32 (NKJV)

³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- F. What do I do to maintain friendship?
1. Become a good listener, desire to understand before being understood.
 2. Practice being empathetic with friends.
 3. Relationships must be managed.
 4. Be honest and open
 5. Be proactive versus reactive.
 6. Maintain a positive attitude.