

Be a Star!

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[0:00] Be a star. My heart is to show you how you can shine. Daniel 12, verse 3.

! How you can be a star. Now, you're not going to get to go to Hollywood from today's learning. But how to be a real star. How to be a star.

An eternal star. How you can shine. Daniel 12, verse 3 says this. Daniel 12, verse 3.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, as the heavens. And they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

Amen? You can shine as a star forever and ever. Amen? Do you believe that? The Bible says you can.

[1:11] You can shine brightly like the heavens filled with stars. And it tells us how. How you can.

By pointing others to the Saviour. By showing others God's saving power and grace. I'm going to give you Peter's formula from 1 Peter 3.15.

1 Peter 3.15. The formula of Peter for how you can shine. How you can be a star. 1 Peter 3.15.

It says, First it starts with getting your own heart right with God.

Are you saved? It's about your heart. That's where it starts. Do you know Jesus personally? Do you know him?

[2:17] Whom to know is life eternal? Do you know Jesus in your heart? That he died for you in your place. For your sin. You've received him. And he's saving as your Lord and Master.

Your Saviour. Your precious Lord. May your devotion be to him. Set apart your heart. Sanctify the Lord. May your heart be set apart.

That you sanctify the Lord God in your hearts. You know him as Lord. As Master. You know him as God. In your heart. That's really the beginning point.

But we'll go through some of Peter's steps here. To find out. We're talking about witnessing of course. We're talking about sharing your faith. And here's some of the steps that Peter tells us. Firstly he tells us when. When should we witness? Some people think they've got to have some goose bumpy kind of warm fuzzy.

[3:20] Some light. Some audible voice. Some special sign. When should we witness?

Peter says this. Always. When should you witness? Always. Be ready.

Always. Always. The best time to witness is any time. Be unstoppable for the kingdom of God. Unstoppable. You have a mission. And it's a search and rescue mission. Someone who's responsible for the lighthouse.

They've got to be always ready. The surf lifesavers down at the beach. Always ready. I was talking with an ex-military man. They had to always be ready.

[4:19] Always ready. Ready to run. Ready to scramble. Ready to launch. And you are part of the search and rescue party.

The call goes out. Someone's lost. We need all hands on deck to go and find them. Always ready. The mission. This mission. Your mission.

Your mission. It's ongoing. It's always. It starts the day you trust Christ for yourself. That's when it starts.

That's when you start witnessing the day you're saved. You're a witness then. And it continues when? Until eternity. Until he comes.

That's when the work is done. When is it harvest time? When do I get to shine? John 4.35 says this.

[5:16] Our Lord's talking about these fields white around them. And he says, Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest. He says, don't put it off.

Don't say, oh, four months' time will get to the work. Well, just ease off and sit back. Say not four months, and then cometh harvest.

Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already unto harvest. They are white already to harvest.

Lift up your eyes and look. Do we have eyes like that? Eyes open. Eyes to see the harvest. The fields are ripe. Adelaide is ripe.

The fields are ready. Are you? Are you? Are you? I am ready.

[6:16] Say it. I am ready. I am ready. Oh, I hope he's got a bit more responsiveness than that by the end of this sermon.

I am ready. I am ready. Prepare your heart. The fields are ready. Are you ready? Be ready. Always. Get to grips with some key Bible verses. That's the way you can prepare. That's the way you can prepare. You might think, preacher, I don't know what to do, what to say. Two or three Bible verses can be enough for you to get the message over.

Verse 9. We touched on it. We had a witnessing lesson lately. Get to grips with some key Bible verses. And don't go off on red herrings talking about all these side issues.

Nail it with the one, two, three. A, B, C. Accept Jesus as your... Accept your sin. A. Believe on Jesus. He died on the cross for your sin.

[7:22] C. Confess him as your Lord and Saviour. A, B, C. It's very short, shiny, simple. Really, the message is clear and concise.

Prepare for the harvest. And always, the harvest is always... Say not four months, Jesus says. This message is a priority.

It's urgent. There's an urgency. This is a priority. The message must be delivered. You know, it's not like Australia Post.

How long have they got to deliver your lessons now? They're probably going to get longer and longer as the time goes by. The message must be delivered. And the message must be delivered now. And think of it.

God doesn't send angels to take the gospel message. He sends people just like you and me. He sends human beings, men and women.

[8:21] He sends you. You! People just like you. So when do we witness? Always. What?

What should we witness? What is our message? What should we tell them? Peter says, be ready always to give an answer. Be ready always to give an answer.

This message that we bear is glad, glad news. And it's the answer. Isn't it? Jesus is the answer. To life's most complex.

To life's most complex. Conundrums. He is the ultimate answers. The ultimate questions of life. Why am I here?

What is the purpose of life? Here's the answer, Jesus, our Lord. May we exude the personality of Christ to our world around us when we witness.

[9:34] In Luke 4.22 it reads, Of Christ and all bear witness and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.

Words, gracious words, came out of our Saviour's lips. Think of how he dealt with people, how he loved people, how he showed his love, how he reached out.

Is it gracious words that fall out of our lips? I know sometimes my words aren't gracious. Perhaps we should have a grace test.

Is that word gracious that I'm going to speak or is it not gracious? Do we tell others the good news from our heart of our loving and precious Lord, our gentle and gracious Saviour?

As a people who have been ourselves rescued, our glad hearts have been set free. You have a message only you can deliver.

[10:46] Your testimony. It's yours. There was a man called John Vassar who would witness and one day he came to a town where he went to help with some church work and he came to help the preacher and he got off the train at the station.

This was a man. He'd never preached a sermon, but he was always an active witness for Christ. He just couldn't keep quiet about Jesus. They couldn't shut him up.

You know some people like that? I know some people, I'm talking about my mum and dad, and it's almost like I can reckon if someone comes there, a handyman comes to do something, or a salesman comes to the door, or they go down the shop, or they go to a garage sale, and you just can't shut them up about Jesus.

It's almost like, I think it would be unusual for someone to go and visit my mum and dad and just have a passing conversation with them without them saying something about Jesus.

Amen? Amen? Because they've always got an answer. And this fellow, John, was an active witness, and the preacher met him at the train.

[12:09] They walked down the street to the blacksmith shop, and the preacher said, hey, look, there's a blacksmith here. He's a pretty rough dude. He's got a great influence, though. He's very influential.

Everybody knows this blacksmith, but he's as rough as guts, you know, that kind of guy, just a real rough diamond, you could say. If only we could win him, what an impact that would be to reach someone like him.

Such a character. And Vassar asked the preacher, have you talked to him? Oh, we're afraid of him. He would curse and swear any preacher that came near him. John Vassar said this, wait a minute until I take my turn. And Vassar went into the blacksmith shop.

He was there putting a horse, a shoe on a mule, and John knew it was time just to wait his time. He didn't want to interrupt.

[13:11] He was gracious. He had the good sense to wait to show his consideration. And 15 minutes later, the blacksmith was on his knees, weeping like a child.

Trusting Christ. And John went down the road, checked into his hotel, and then at the reception point, there was this finely dressed woman, and he walked up to her and he said, lady, are you a Christian?

She said, yes, I am. I beg your pardon, he said. I didn't mean that kind. Have you been born again? Oh, yes, we've gotten over that here in Boston. Well, he said, lady, you've gotten over Jesus Christ in Boston too.

You've gotten over God. And he disarmed her until her prejudice was let go and tears trickled down her cheeks. And he said, may I pray for you?

[14:19] She said, I wish you could. I wish you would. God knows I need that. Although I'm a member of the church. And he prayed, and she trusted Christ for the first time.

And her husband came in later, and he noticed that her eyes were red and sore, and he said, has anyone insulted you? And she said, this unusual little man came in just a short while ago, and he talked to me so nice about Jesus.

And he said, if I had been here, I would have told him to go along and mind his own business. And she said, I wish you had been here. You would have thought he was minding his business.

His business was a mission for his king to bring people to Jesus Christ. Truly, John used gracious words.

Gracious words. In Psalm 45 too, it says, God's given us grace, and it just pours out, doesn't it?

[15:30] Into and out of our lips. May we have such winsome words that we'll win some. Win some more souls to Jesus. So when should we witness?

Always. What should we witness? Answer. Have the answer. Jesus is the answer. Thirdly, who? Who should we witness to?

Yeah, you could say, oh, I've got here anyone. I've run out of A's now, but, no, well, who should I witness to?

Who needs to hear this? Be ready always to give an answer to every man. Anyone. I want to tell you today that Jesus is inclusive.

The gospel is inclusive, isn't it? Absolutely. Some people say, you Christians, you're not inclusive enough.

[16:30] Jesus is. He's inclusive. Come as you are. You don't stay the same, but come as you are. Amen. All have sinned, it says. That's inclusive, isn't it?

That's comprehensive. All, A double L. All have sinned, long and short, black and white and red and yellow, gay, straight, you name it.

All. The gospel is inclusive. All have sinned. Christ is inclusive. His salvation offer. Whosoever, ever, my arms aren't long enough, ever, ever and ever, whosoever will, may come.

Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord. God, that's inclusive, isn't it? Actually, there's no one on this planet who does not need this message.

Isn't that true? That's inclusive. There's a universal need for this universal message. This is for anyone outside of Christ.

[17 : 39] Whether they trust or not, it's in his hands. But our job is to declare it, to deliver it. The Bible calls anyone outside of Christ lost.

Lost. And souls are eternal. Eternal. This is eternal stuff we're talking about. A fourth consideration is this one. How? How should we witness?

And I put to you, it's about having the right attitude. How? We can witness like a big shot, can't we? Like a know-all.

Like a holier-than-thou. Like a I'm above you. When truly it's but for the grace of God we'd be in their shoes.

Wouldn't we? Wouldn't I? Witness with an attitude that's right. 1 Peter 3.15 but sanctify the Lord God in your heart and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

[18 : 59] With meekness and fear. The attitude that's right from a heart moved with meekness and fear. It's getting hot in here isn't it? People feeling that? Can you feel the flames of hell?

Can you can you feel the heat? The heat. Just crank it up a bit more just so you can feel the heat this morning. No really be nice to put it down a bit.

In other words have a compassion and a kindness. We could always ask why should we witness too? It's another question really isn't it? Why?

Why bother? Who cares? I'm saved. Why should we witness? The Lord Jesus has called us to this task to this mission and his very mission is to seek and to save the lost.

to seek and to save that which was lost. Shouldn't we have his heart too? Once I was lost now I've been found.

[20 : 09] Once I was blind now I can see and there's people in darkness all around me who need this word. I've got to be giving an answer.

Why should we witness? Jesus said go ye. Matthew 28 verse 18 the Lord Jesus came he said all power is given unto me in heaven and earth.

Go ye therefore and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world.

When I look at go ye it means go me can you say that too? Maybe say that with me can you?

Go ye means go me go ye means go me that's what it means because ye is plural it's every one he addressed there which was the whole church really wasn't it?

[21 : 22] Nothing must deter us the work must go on regardless now yesterday we went out to do some outreach and before it was particularly bad yesterday people might recall and I know a lot of people had other commitments but yesterday we went to reach out and I did get a message but we'd long gone out by the time I got to see the message and he was saying of course we're not going out today are we pastor the weather's too bad and I thought yes before I went out that morning I thought the weather is terrible we should just cancel it cancel it the weather's terrible but then I thought hell is worse hell is worse what if one soul misses out because I thought the weather was terrible in hell there'll be weeping and gnashing of teeth I don't want anyone I care about to go there I don't want even my enemies to go to hell we have a rescue mission a rescue mission a rescue mission that must occupy us this is our passion this should set our hearts on fire why should we witness because Jesus says go ye go me go me souls for

Jesus why should we witness because it's a wise thing to do like we first read about that they that are wise another scripture says that too it says the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that winneth souls is wise he who is wise wins souls look you might say I've tried and failed keep on keep on delivering sometimes it's you're the first one to talk to them and it's the second one that they'll trust Christ you might be the only one who talks to them and later that day later that week later that month later that year they might trust Christ don't be deterred there's a fruit you will see fruit a tree of life the righteous is a tree of life you'll bear fruit here is wisdom it says here is wisdom that's what moves us that's what motivates us that's why we care

Paul was a man with a mission look at what Paul went through in his ministry he was a man determined if anyone had an excuse to be hanging up his hat it was Paul and of Paul it says in Acts 20 in the context it talks about Paul being a man serving the Lord with many tears and temptations he had trials and temptations he had tears he knew bonds and afflictions were awaiting him as was told to him just prior to this verse Acts 20 24 Paul said he held nothing back brother sister hold

nothing back you might say preacher I've never opened my mouth and told a soul about Jesus that can change you can tell one then you can tell another and another Paul determined to testify his message repentance towards God and faith toward the

Lord Jesus Christ you know Jesus is a revolutionary word people talk about religion and God in an airy fairy sense but the name of Jesus is what matters it's the blood of Jesus it's the saving grace of Jesus that's what matters that name rocks our world that name changes lives that name turns lives around it saves souls and it's the name that we need on our lips the name of Jesus Paul knew what it was to face trials and temptations trials and tears chains and pains troubles and tribulations what does it say what does he say he says none of these things move me neither count I my life dear unto me that I might finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus to testify the gospel of the grace of God in other words he said I have to testify I have to testify I have to tell others we're so easily moved so easily deterred sometimes we've just got to step out of the comfort zone now just last week

I had occasion to do some training in public speaking now of course we public speaking isn't preaching but preaching is public speaking so I can always brush up and get better at it I trust and pray I will but not looking to the world for wisdom but just to be a more confident person I need that I always needed that I look back my first job I worked in the old CES and had to interview people and I was a hopeless!

[26 : 56] nervous person and that first job helped me to be more confident in myself you look back of life's learnings can't you how you've grown God helping you and in this course it was interesting we had to deliver a message and my message was really the basic gospel message and it was a real blessing for me just to minister that as it were to my classmates some of whom are Christians some of whom are confessed atheists there's 20 odd 30 people in the room and one of the exercises while we had to go down and practice our pitch they called it our little message that we were to deliver which for me was the gospel message and it was a bit of a competition so we had to go down to the highly trafficked areas like the train station and I button hold people and said can you help me I'm doing a course and I've got this survey this pitch that I have to practice on someone and it was kind of like a competition the one that got the most kind of presentations got won the competition and had an hour and a half to do this and we were down there at the train station and

I was able to give the gospel presentation from woe to go to 22 people in an hour and a half and it was really amazing and they were gracious enough to hear me out and I left them with that gospel message this is kind of a secular course and here I am giving this gospel message to 22 people in my lunch break as it were or dinner break and I got back to the classroom and the trainer asked how many people did you present your pitch to and most people really it was 90% of people hadn't even talked to one person and there's this other South Aussie student and she presented her presentation to a couple of people so I just blew them out of the water with 22 people but it was more of a blessing!

They gave me this little gold statue this little plastic gold statue which I didn't bother keeping but I won the prize but what mattered to me what was much more important than that was the 22 souls that I delivered the gospel message to that was much more important than winning the competition and all that so it's about how can you minister how can you witness if you can do that I was thinking to myself afterwards well shame on me if I can do that for a worldly course just go and witness the 22 people in an hour and a half I mean what should I be doing normally you know really why should we witness because Jesus says go go ye we've got souls eternal souls we've got a message that should be delivered and only you can deliver it why witness because it's our duty to we see the parable where the servants come and they say to the master we've done that which was our duty to do this is our duty this is our responsibility this one way we can walk worthy of our

Lord walk worthy of him God will bless you will bless God and you'll bless your own soul and you'll bless the souls that you reach that we might walk worthy of the Lord walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God share the gospel get get it clear in your mind what it is as I like to refine it right down as I say accept you're a sinner a b believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins see confess Christ as your Lord trust him call on his name a b c this is really that clear isn't it and it's our duty to deliver it share the gospel now sometimes when we get cold let's face it and I get this a lot I sit at the desk and you get this chill and what is it that tends to get the coldest

I know for me it's my feet I get cold feet it's our feet that can get the coldest so too spiritually what does the Bible say about our feet our beautiful other feet take the good news have your feet shed with the gospel shoes preparation of the gospel of peace our feet get frozen and we don't use those feet to talk to take the message to tell others we must share the gospel we must get involved in the soul winning business it's a business how many people who know you know who or what you stand for who around you know that you are an unashamed Christian does it reflect in your Facebook post can they see it in your Twitter feed can they see it in what you go on about all the time and what you're focused on who knows you are a

[32 : 12] Christian let's change that don't hold back look it can take a challenge and it takes tact too you don't go acting like a total fool just be a fool for Christ in a good way be dangerous for the kingdom of hell such that you're on his hit list the devil I know some people like I say you can't get out alive of their house without hearing the message it's like they can't meet someone without telling them and that speaks to me how they are always giving an answer to anyone their attitude is sweet and they're going because they must we must friends many are helpless and helpless they're hell bound really all men outside of

Christ they are lost lost and they face God's rightful wrath and judgment it's a prospect that should terrify them some aren't even aware of it we must witness with meekness and fear but for the grace of God I was there it's a fearful prospect a terrifying prospect a terrifying reality that anyone who does not know Christ saving power is lost lost and eternally lost and faces an eternal hell and if that's not a motivator for us to witness I don't know what is knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade!

men friends these things should move us to action get those feet warmed up put the car heater on get your feet warmed up amen I'm talking spiritually of course these eternal realities that we should not be moved by opposition by the vagaries of the weather by obstacles that make it hard for us to witness to make a definite effort to resolve this it's like at times we have the thought when we witnessing those that are doing the door knocking I'll just knock one more door one more soul I just want to tell one more soul and that is often times it is the one that needs that response that hears go ye go with the right attitude go go with compassion go go with conviction go with confidence what's stopping us from witnessing now people you speak to often they say it's not of your business you might care enough to ask them do you know you are going to heaven and they can say it's not of your business but it is our business too just like it was with John as we talked earlier as a born again

Christian it is our business to tell others sometimes it can seem like something hard and some may question what are we doing there was a man thought one day about a lighthouse keeper now think about a lighthouse keeper a job that's lonesome a drudgery a difficult job and one man came to a lighthouse keeper one day and said hey are you lonesome must be a lonely job being in that lighthouse all there on your own are you lonesome out in this lonesome spot out of the way of everyone and he said I was lonely before I saved four men from drowning oh is that a boat out there the lighthouse keeper was always on the lookout for more boats to save this is our mission you know yesterday day I teamed up with some crazy guys crazy for christ going door knocking we want to do better than the mormons and the jw's well we have got we've got the message they don't have and these crazy guys hit the streets of manapara taking the message of the gospel in the pouring rain your message is too urgent and important for a few torrential showers to put it off and one man I knocked his door and he had this sign on his door it said no sales people no sales people please do not knock and he just gave me this stern look and he pointed with his finger at the sign haven't you read the sign

I said I'm not selling anything he said you're selling God I told him no he is free to all who will receive him he is free free free indeed I'm not selling God he's free he's free he freely gives his saving grace he freely gives it full and free his salvation but it is for a limited time only now we don't throw the steak knives in but you know it's free and that's everything he is everything there's nothing more are you on the sales team selling God selling God be ready always it says but sanctify the Lord God in your heart be ready always to give an answer to every man of the reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear be willing to go out you don't have to necessarily join the door knocking team or you know there's tracks here at the back grab a handful we thank

[38 : 11] God some have offered to help fund some more tracks we're going to get more of these out we need thousands out there there's many that need this message because who needs this

message anyone anyone we can reach buy the truth and sell it not be willing to go out go out with a broken heart it's gut wrenching sometimes in a way I'm more sad and not at the rejection when someone says not interested slams the door or curses you my heart hurts for them because of their decision to reject Christ my heart weeps for them go with a broken heart for the lost go out weeping it says bearing that precious seed this is precious precious the word of God bear the seed he that goes forth and weeps bearing precious seed shall doubtless come again rejoicing there's a certain cost it will take some tears it can be hard witnessing you know

I don't like getting rejected at the best of times but they're not rejecting you they're rejecting him and why should you witness why should you witness just one more one more little reason I think this is a very big reason why you should open your lips and tell someone you can send a signal to heaven that gets choirs of angels off their seats jumping up and down standing to their feet shouting hallelujahs you can make the difference on this very planet that the halls of the highest heaven will ring with joyous praise one sinner that repents there's joy in heaven for that wow wouldn't that be great to think of that one as he or she prays to trust Christ the angels are jumping up with joy jumping up and down you can offer the greatest gift that you can ever share with another human being there's great gladness when someone trusts Christ deep down in their soul and high high up in heaven and you don't have to work it up or manufacture it you don't have to tarry for this joy go forth weeping and you'll come back with joy go share the gospel why why should you witness because

God has called you do damage to the devil's kingdom I know I've mentioned it before it's pastor Neil Aitchison he used to say when he got a bit down and he felt like he was under attack the fiery darts shooting at him hard yakker in the ministry he just got off his bottom and he gave out some gospel tracks he says I'm going to get back at him the devil I'm going to give out some more I'm going to go for souls because the devil doesn't like that and I'm going to get back at him we need to do damage to the devil's kingdom your mission field is where you are now some people think I'm still getting prepared I'm still getting trained I've still got to learn the Bible a bit more no always have an answer for anyone have the hard attitude of meekness and fear your mission field is where you are now impact where you are now bloom where you plant it our words can make an eternal difference a world of difference and friends

God is working in you now both to will and to do of his good pleasure and let your speech be seasoned with salt some can witness where it's just like they're kind of browbeating people or trying to just win a contest or just win an argument and just trying to hammer people not talking about that put yourself in their shoes they need Christ they need gracious words to come out of your lips be men and women of faith and trust in him depend on him without him we can do zilch nada nothing depend on him without him you can do nothing and be bold they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever there's an eternal dimension here you can shine as a star you can be a star you can be a brightly shining

Christian taking this message wherever you go and this will be forever forever and ever Daniel 12 verse 3 let's pray Lord we thank you that this all happens as we set apart you Lord God in our hearts as we know you as our master as we sanctify you Lord as we make that devotion of our heart to you and we set you apart and Lord we put our trust in you Lord help us to be ready to prepare to have words of the Bible that we can share even a Bible track that we can read out to someone Lord that we can always be ready always have that answer that reason of the hope that is in us and we'll communicate it Lord always to anyone and have that attitude that's sweet that's gentle and that knows the fear of

[44 : 01] God that this is something we have a serious responsibility to do Lord we pray if there's any here today that think I'm really fearful I'm nervous I find it hard to even open my mouth and say anything let alone the gospel Lord that you'd stir that one up Lord help them to see they do not do the work that you do the work in them we just have to be available we just have to be vessels you can use Lord because without you we can do nothing and Lord we entirely depend on you and your power your Holy Spirit Lord give us grace gracious words and give us that gospel message so we can impart it if any know you not today that hear this Lord let it be that they'll put their trust in you right now for time and eternity the trust you're dying on the cross in their part and you're living in their hearts as Saviour and Lord as they put their trust in you and

Lord for each Christian Lord to see that we've entered the mission field today in Jesus name Amen