

The Word for 2010: Do the work of an Evangelist

***But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Tim. 4:5)***

An evangelist is “one who proclaims good news.” It is one of the 5-fold ministries or offices in the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11). Timothy was not an Evangelist (as not all are called to be Evangelists), but he was called to do the work of one.

This has not been a focus recently at Parkway. The foundations are secure. Now, it’s time to grow and expand!

The idea of being a witness is one of the major themes in the book of Acts.

***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)***

***“beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” (Acts. 1:22)***

***And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all (Acts 4:33)***

A witness is a person who gives testimony. In the NT, it means to present the gospel with evidence. A witness is “evidence for the case.” True believers become such evidence for the proposition that Jesus is alive! One of the proofs that God exists is that your life that has been changed. When people see or hear you, is there evidence presented that Jesus, the Son of God is risen?

-The emphasis in the book of Acts is that a witness is some that you are, not something that you do.

He/she is a person, not a verb. Be a witness.

-The English word “martyr” comes from this word, suggesting that a witness is one who is willing to die for his testimony (Acts 22:20)

-A witness is who you are, not a technique. It is good to learn skills to communicate clearly, but the main point is: have you encountered the living God?!

-You have a story, a testimony that you can share. I heard the gospel, I believed. This is who Jesus is, this is what He did in my life. I was blind, now I see.

-You don’t have to try to make up a good story, just tell the one you’re in. Just share the facts. The Holy Spirit will convict people of the truth.

***And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death (Rev. 12:11).***

-The Apostles were eye-witnesses of Jesus, particularly His resurrection, which is the “exclamation point” on His entire life and ministry that validates what He said was true.

-Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered, died, was buried, on the third day, He rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven, poured out the Holy Spirit (the Father’s promise).

***“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”<sup>33</sup> “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear (Acts 2:32-33).***

Through the life and activity of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, our lives attest to the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead.