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**Can I Get A Witness?**

Acts 1:8 records these words from Jesus, “*Ye Shall Be Witnesses unto Me*”. The Book of Acts tells us that Jesus spent His last 40 days on Earth speaking to the apostles of “things pertaining to the Kingdom of God”. These words were some of the final ones spoken by Jesus before His ascension.

Witnessing is God’s only New Testament Plan for Evangelism. There are some very specific assurances given to the Apostles and disciples for successfully accomplishing this task.

The first of which is Jesus’ Total Possession of **ALL Power**.

***Matt 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto***

***them, saying, All power\* is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) 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. Amen.***

The Greek term for power in this verse was Exousia.

\***Exousia** (ex-oo-see'-ah); from NT:1832 (in the sense of ability); privilege, i.e. (subjectively) force, capacity, competency, freedom, or (objectively) mastery (concretely, magistrate, superhuman, potentate, token of control), delegated influence:

KJV uses it as authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength. (Definition from Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

Verses 18-20 take into account both aspects of New Testament Outreach – Evangelism and Discipleship. Verse 19 Jesus says, “Go ye therefore...” The *therefore* indicates that the Apostles were to go and make

disciples by teaching them (evangelism) and baptizing them in Jesus Name and teaching the converts all things Jesus taught His disciples (discipleship) based on the fact of who He was and His possession of all power in heaven and earth.

Secondly, there would be **power** given to the witnesses.

***Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power\*\****, ***after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

\*\***Dunamis** (doo'-nam-is); from NT:1410; force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power (usually by implication, a miracle itself):

KJV uses it as ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power, strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work. (Also from Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance)

**By: Howard Pastorella**

## Can I get a Witness Cont....

The final component of successful evangelism and discipleship is Jesus' never ending presence in these instances!

**Matt 28:20b (20) And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Piece of Cake!

1. Jesus has all Power to do ANYTHING!
2. We are to go evangelize, baptize and disciple.
3. Jesus would be with us unto the end of the world.

Our efforts are book-ended by the Power and Presence of Jesus Christ. And the middle component is that we are to teach the things Jesus taught! Its fail-proof!

It is not a secret that our world is saturated by sin. Three of the most lethal behavior generated problems are due to the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The majority of these users don't know the truth; therefore they are not made free through Jesus Christ.

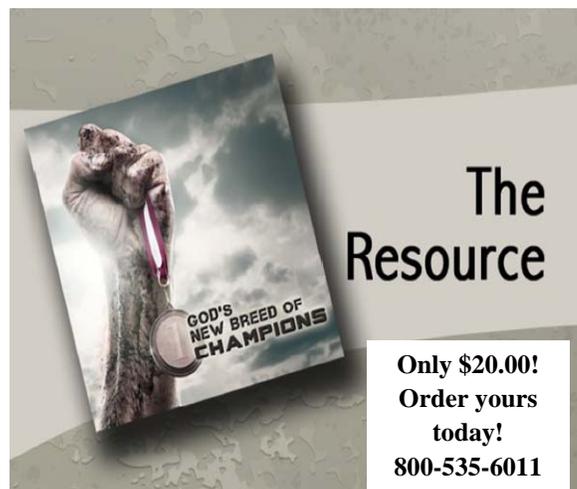
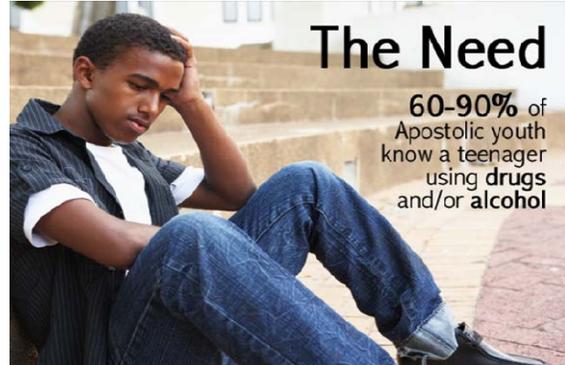
**John 8:32 - And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

If there is addiction, bondage or dependency of any sort, there has to be missing elements of truth.

Our congregations already know individuals and families who are being devastated due to the use of alcohol and other drugs. YOU are the answer! Better yet, YOU are the witness to the answer that brings the abundant life! Pray and ask God to help you help. Then call us at 800-535-6011 for more information on helping those struggling with these substances.

***"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."***

**Luke 19:10**



## CIP at POSC

By: Robert Bieszk, CIP Coordinator

March of 2012 saw the Christian Intervention Program come to the Pentecostals of Sheboygan County in Sheboygan Falls, WI. Under the direction of Pastor John Putnam the program was presented to our congregation by Spirit of Freedom Ministries Director, Bro. Howard Pastorella.

The church responded with enthusiasm as 33 people attended the training sessions. From this group, came 8 people who felt a specific call and burden to minister to those struggling with addictions. In May 2012 we held our first class, as we began to fulfill the great commission by seeking and saving the lost! C.I.P. has been a great blessing to our church, as it has given us another avenue to serve our community. It was not long after we began our classes that God began to bless. A young couple came to visit our church and was soon enrolled in C.I.P. Like many young people today, they were struggling with everything from smoking to heroin. Living together and

and both coming from broken families, they were suffering from the effects of sin. As they attended the classes they began to respond to the power of the Holy Ghost. They were both filled with God's Spirit and baptized in Jesus Name! There were some bumps along the way, but the love of God and the church has kept them both. Today they are set free, married, and have a beautiful son. They are now active in ministry with a burden for the lost. Another man began attending P.O.S.C. He was an elderly gentleman who had been smoking for 65 years! He enrolled in C.I.P. and half way thru the lessons he was set free! Since we started C.I.P. we have had 29 students and 19 graduates. This year also saw our first outreach effort in Sheboygan. We began to hold classes at a facility for low income residents. Two people responded. I believe God will continue to bless our efforts! God has also

opened a door for P.O.S.C and in August 2015 we will begin teaching Bible Studies and C.I.P. classes from a rented store front. While we are finalizing our advertising and outreach efforts, I believe God is already at work preparing the hearts of those who need to be set free! It is truly an exciting time to live for God. We are looking forward to seeing lives changed, people set free, and the Lord add to the church! I would encourage any church to consider starting the C.I.P. program in their church. The need is great and we truly have the right answer for those poor souls who need God to desperately intervene in their lives! While it takes time, energy, and effort, the rewards are eternal. I cannot imagine our church without the dear saints mentioned above. Every time I see them worship and grow in Christ it brings joy to my heart. There is room for more! Will you answer the call?



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