

# Lifestyle Witnessing

## • Lesson Four •

### Witness with the Teaching of Election in Mind

1. The church grows by grace
2. Election gives confidence to witness

## Worship

Read responsively the hymns “All Praise to God Who Reigns Above” (CW 236:3) and “Lord, ’Tis Not that I Did Choose You” (CW 380:1).

A: The Lord will not forsake his flock,

**B: His chosen generation;**

A: He is their refuge and their rock,

**B: Their peace and their salvation.**

A: As with a mother’s tender hand

**B: He leads his own, his chosen band—To God all praise and glory!**

A: Lord, ’tis not that I did choose you;

**B: That, I know, could never be,**

A: For this heart would still refuse you

**B: Had your grace not chosen me.**

A: You removed the sin that stained me,

**B: Cleansing me to be your own; For this purpose you ordained me, That I live for you alone.**

## Witnessing Activity Report

Spend a few minutes talking about witnessing joys and frustrations, triumphs and failures.

## Introduction

Imagine meeting a visitor as you leave church. What if that person’s conversion depended on you doing or saying the right thing? How would you feel? Thank God, it doesn’t. Our salvation, from beginning to end, depends on God’s work. And he wants all to be saved. Today we’re going to discover the connection between election and witnessing.

## Studying God's Word

### The church grows by grace

#### Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

1. Underline words or phrases that describe what *God* has done for you.
2. Circle two phrases in the second paragraph that describe what *you* do. Now read Ephesians 2:8,9. Cross out the thing that we do only because the Holy Spirit has worked in us the desire and ability to do it. What do you have left?
3. What comfort do we find in the teaching of election?
4. Read 1 Timothy 2:4. What does this verse teach us about those who ultimately are lost?

#### Read Acts 13:44-48.

1. Some Jews rejected the Word of the Lord because “they were filled with jealousy.” Why do you think they were jealous?

2. Some of the people who heard the apostles came to faith. “They were glad and honored the word of the Lord” (verse 48). How might these people have shown their gladness and honor for the Word of the Lord?
3. Reread verse 48. How does Luke, the author of Acts, apply the doctrine of election to Paul’s evangelism?

### His Word in My Life

Agree or disagree: “Since God chose from eternity who would be saved, I don’t have to be concerned about telling others about Jesus.” Explain your answer.

The Jews of Antioch rejected Paul’s witness because they were jealous. For what reasons might people become jealous of your Christian life?

How do you know when a person won’t believe and it’s time to give up on your witness?

We are to think of all people as though they are elect. What makes that difficult?

*God told us about the teaching of election to encourage us to rely on his grace.*

### Election gives confidence to witness

**Read Acts 18:1-11.**

1. What made it possible for Paul to start a church in Corinth?
2. Reread verse 9. How do you think the Lord’s “little talk” with Paul affected his attitude and zeal?
3. A year and a half was a long time for Paul to stay in one place. Why do you think he stayed so long?

### His Word in My Life

Our salvation was Jesus' work. Our faith is the Spirit's gift. Our election is God's choice. Where do our witness and lifestyles fit in?

How does the Bible's teaching of election help you in witnessing?

Aquila, Priscilla, Silas, Timothy, Titius Justus, and Crispus were people God had used to sustain and grow his church. Name some people you personally have seen God use to build his church.

*God's election frees us from pressure as we witness. This comforting truth builds joy into the sharing of our faith!*

### Summary

Without a proper understanding of election, *we* become a reason a person comes to faith. The burden is on us. But *God* will bring into his church all who are his. Our role is to show his love and speak his Word. We must go forward with the knowledge that God wants all to be saved.

### Life with God

God's motive for choosing you is his grace. Search your daily readings for insights on his grace. Jot down your thoughts to share with the group next time.

- Day 1: Read Romans 8:14-17.
- Day 2: Read 1 Peter 1:1,2,20.
- Day 3: Read Galatians 4:8,9.
- Day 4: Read Romans 8:28-34.
- Day 5: Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13.
- Day 6: Read 2 Timothy 1:9, and plan your witnessing activity report for the group.