

## “Point The Way”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Many people in our society seem nervous about spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those around them. Some are afraid of people’s responses, and others just do not know how to bring up the topic.



Notes:

Consider this familiar passage from Mark:

15He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

16Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." Mark 16:15-18(NIV)

Consider also what Jesus said in this passage:

44"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. John 6:44 (NIV)

God has commissioned us to spread the good news of what Jesus did. “But, but, but...” some may sputter, “What do I say?” Well, what did Jesus do for you?

Our job not saving people, our job is to point the way to Christ by sharing our testimonies of how Jesus changed our lives. Our Heavenly Father is the one who draws people to himself. The simple acts of testifying about what Christ has done for us, and of allowing Christ speak through our actions, point the way to Christ and his salvation.

Let us focus on our job of pointing the way to Christ through our testimonies and actions, and trust our Heavenly Father to do his job of drawing people to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord. It is that simple.

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# Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

## “The Hand Of God” (Teaching Sketch)

1 Peter 5:1-11



The hand of God is mentioned numerous times in scripture. If you have been a Believer for five, ten, 15 or 20 years, or more, then God’s reasonable expectation is that you function as an Elder<sup>[1]</sup>, a mature person in your relationships with both Believers and non-believers alike.

### Elders Among You

Once a person has been a Believer (someone who trusts in, relies on, and serves as a “God’s Kingdom first” person) more than five or ten years they are the elderly in the Kingdom of Heaven. These elders among us are not elders in the faith because they are older, but because they are full of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit as a lifestyle! These are workman who have shown themselves approved by the power of God working through them.

### Be Shepherds

These are people who will-

ingly look for opportunities to be shepherds of non-believers and new Believers serving as overseers of these tender ones until they also are able to do for others what has been done for them.

### Be Willing

Many people in the Body of Christ seem to not fulfill this function for others most likely because it was never done for them. They have never seen the elderly behavior of believers expressed for their own growth. The resulting consequence being longevity as a Believer has been substituted for maturity in the things of the Kingdom of Heaven. The great evangelists of the last century and a half did a stellar job of getting the Gospel of Salvation out to the non-believers. The congregations left with the new believers were not as interested or accomplished in building mature disciples as they were in evangelizing.

Notes:

[1] presbuteros *pres-boo'-ter-os* Comparative of presbus (*elderly*); *older*; as noun, a *senior*; specifically an Israelite *Sanhedrist* (also figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian “presbyter”—elder (-est), old.

## Scripture:

### 1 Peter 5:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup>To the elders<sup>[a]</sup> among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

<sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

<sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

<sup>5</sup>Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

<sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because

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b. Proverbs 3:34

you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup>And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.



Live broadcasts are coming soon to the Sojourners Hub web site.

These broadcasts will be a great opportunity for people to listen to a live broadcast from the internet!

Days & Times will be announced soon!

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We who are alive and remain must be willing to function as elder overseers of these tender new ones. The new Believer must have a willingness to be taught and will often demonstrate this with an appetite which cannot be quenched for the things of God.

### Be Humble

The true Elder in the Body of Christ will not be as interested in their own title and authority as they will be the care and nurture of their charge. The mature Believer will be gentle but firm in the things of the Lord.

### Consequences of Faith

The consequence of faith in Jesus the Christ will always be showing the novice the Hand of God in all parts of salvation. Those parts include all the aspects of salvation, that is to say salvation, healing, and deliverance, the teaching of these, and how to operate in each of these areas with love, faith, wisdom, patience, and power. Actually these areas are more than taught they are caught or imparted from the elders who are mentoring them. The Hand of God is always present!

### Just so you'll know:

**Our service is informal.** We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
  - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
  - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

