

THE SECRET SERVICE

We are all familiar with the "Secret Service" of our government -- the special unit of Police that guards the President and other leaders in Washington.

We heard quite a unique storey recently told by a TV Pastor concerning this title -- "A young boy was walking a dirty, messed-up mongrel dog on an old frayed rope. A man passing by asked the boy what kind of a dog it was. The boy answered very proudly, he's a Police Dog, to which the man replied, but he doesn't look like a Police Dog. To which the boy answered, well, he's in the Secret Service.

This brought to mind just how many Church goers, while claiming Christianity, really don't look, act or sound like Christians -- they must be in a Religious Secret Service as well.

The Bible is very clear exactly what God expects of His followers (Romans 12:1,2) -- "You SHALL be witnesses" (Acts 1:8) -- be NOT "ashamed" (Mark 8:38) -- "GO" and tell others (Matthew 29:19 & Mark 16:15). We must not hold back, fearing what others will think of us -- in fact we are urged to be Bold in our witness (Hebrews 13:6).

To be a Secret Believer is to deny the Power of the Lord to give us all we need in His service. The Apostle Paul told the Church at Philippi -- "*I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13) -- this includes speaking out for the right -- opening our mouths in public to encourage others to follow the Lord and make Him known in this dark world.

Actually, when you think of it, to be a Secret Believer it to be a coward. Christ promised to "*Never leave us nor forsake us*" (Hebrews 13:5) -- so whenever the opportunity comes our way we can stand firm and stand tall, speak up, and proclaim the Goodness and Greatness of God the Father, and His Son Jesus Christ. He will speak through us if we simply open our mouth and allow Him to fill it with His message (Matthew 10:18-20).

Of course a knowledge of the Bible and memorizing verses of Scriptures will do much to make this easier -- but -- God is able to give us all we need. Jesus even told the Pharisees that if His disciples were to keep silent, "*the stones would immediately cry out*" (Luke 19:40) -- so if God could even make solid stone to speak His message we ought to be available when He gives opportunity.

In the Old Testament the story of Queen Esther brings another warning -- her uncle Mordecai warned her that, "*if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*" (Esther 4:14) -- indicating that if we hesitate or hold back to speak up when the opportunity is before us -- then God will raise up someone else to do the task and they will receive the Blessing -- and you will be left wanting.

Don't be shy -- don't be afraid -- don't be hesitant -- be prepared and ready, stand tall, realize the Power of God that is available to all who will trust Him and not rely on their own ability.

Don't be a Secret Servant -- speak up -- be proud to be a child of God in this dark and wicked world -- proclaim the Good News with all the strength you have, with Full Assurance.

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