

GOD'S PURPOSE: **DARE TO DECLARE GOD'S WONDERFUL DEEDS**

Two devout Christians were going door to door.

At one house they encountered a woman who was not happy for their visit.

Before they could even say "hi" she slammed the door right in their faces.

To her surprise, however, the door did not close.

Rather than latching, the door bounced back open.

Glaring at their faces she tried again.

This time she really put some muscle behind the motion.

That attempt had the same amazing result, the door bounced back open.

She was convinced one of the Christians was sticking his foot in the door.

So she reared back for the third time.

She was going to slam the door so hard it would teach him a lesson.

Just before she released the door, one of the fellows politely said:

"Ma'am, before you do that again, you really should move your cat."

We have been given a mission by God.

We have been given something to declare about God.

This declaration is a responsibility everyone in the Body of Christ is given.

There are a lot of ways we can declare God's message.

Knocking on people's doors is one idea that was popular in the 20th Century.

It isn't always well received to the chagrin of some cats.

But door to door evangelism is still widely used.

Some of the other ways of declaring God's deeds are: Open-air preaching, Trickle-down evangelism, Evangelizing through a sermon, Lifestyle evangelism, Friendship evangelism, Creative evangelism, Using Gospel tracts, Televangelism, Radio evangelism, Internet evangelism, Phone evangelism, aka "phone fishing", Personal evangelism, Creation evangelism, Prophetic evangelism, Treasure hunts, Using the EvangeCube and Jesus Film Ministries.

Every one of these methods of declaring God's deeds have been effective.

The medium we use to declare the message is not the important thing.

But what is important is the message we dare to declare.

Regrettably harm has been done to God's Kingdom by good intentions.

People have declared things about God that He never intended.

Messages like those supported by the Klu Klux Klan.

Messages that even well meaning Christians declare.

Many have heard Christians proclaim that God sends sinners to hell.

Or God helps those who help themselves.

Or we can earn our way to heaven with our good works.

Peter tells us what we are to declare and tells us how to declare it.

I What we Dare to Declare: GOD'S WONDERFUL DEEDS.

There is no limit to God's wonderful deeds.

God's wonderful deeds are as numerous as there are moments in history.

There is no ending to how God has interacted with His creation.

We are told the heavens declare the glories of God.

Psalms 147 has an amazing sample of God's wonderful deeds.

"He is gracious ... He gathers the outcasts ... He heals the brokenhearted ... He determines the number of stars ... abundant in power ... lifts the downtrodden ... prepares rain for the earth ... gives the beasts their food ... blesses your sons ... makes peace in your borders."

But we are looking at a letter written by the Apostle Peter.

I wonder what wonderful deeds Peter would highlight?

What would he dare to declare?

On the night Jesus was arrested Peter was the apostle who denied knowing Jesus.

I wonder if Peter would have something to say about **second chances**?

I wonder if he might have something to declare about **God's grace**?

I wonder if he might have something to declare about **God's forgiveness**?

Peter was the apostle who tried to walk on water.

I wonder if he might declare **God is greater than our fears**.

I wonder if he might declare **God uses the most unlikely** person.

I wonder if he might declare **Jesus' authority** over all that He created?

Peter was one of the first to gaze into the empty tomb.

We celebrated Easter and Peter saw the amazing **power of the Resurrection**.

God **defeated death**, one of the stark realities of sin.

I wonder if he might declare the **power of God over anything that entombs us**.

Peter was the one who preached the Pentecost Day sermon to thousands in Jerusalem.

We know what he declared that day.

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36)

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses." (Acts 2:32)

"Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst." (Acts 2:22)

Peter was beaten and imprisoned for preaching that Jesus saves.

I wonder if he would declare there is **no price too high** for serving His Lord.

I wonder if he would declare God's ability to **deliver**.

I wonder if he would declare all things work together for good.

Peter was one of the disciples who voted to rain heavenly fire on his enemies.

I wonder if he would declare **God's unconditional love** for this world.

I wonder if he would declare the merits of **unquenchable faith**.

I wonder if he would declare God's grace and mercy for an undeserving world.

Peter was the disciple who reached out his hand to a lame beggar who walked.

I wonder if Peter would declare **God's power to heal**.

I wonder if Peter would declare **God is greater than silver or gold**.

I wonder if he would declare **God is all we need**.

Let's see what Peter did dare to declare in this letter.

"It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation," (1 Peter 1:3)

"we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay." (1 Peter 1:4)

"God is protecting you by his power" (1 Peter 1:5)

"God who chose you is holy." (1 Peter 1:15)

"the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites." (1 Peter 1:17)

"God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited" (1 Peter 1:18)

"You were cleansed from your sins" (1 Peter 1:22)

"now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart." (1 Peter 1:22)

"Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God." (1 Peter 1:23)

These are some of Peter's declarations of God's wonderful deeds in just chapter 1.

What do you dare to declare?

I encourage you to write down on your sermon notes 5 of Peter's declarations.

Which of these wonderful deeds have you experienced personally?

That is always a good place to start when we dare to declare.

Peter personally experienced all of this and more.

He was convinced that God, revealed through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was this world's greatest need.

God's wonderful deeds meet people's deepest needs.

But Peter not only reveals what we dare to declare.
He also reveals how to Declare Clearly.

II Peter shows us how to Declare Clearly GOD'S WONDERFUL DEEDS.

The Psalmist said, "Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to Him with timbrel and lyre!" (Psalm 149:3)

We can declare God's deeds with clarity and simplicity.

We must be sure not to distort them or use them for the wrong purpose.

It helps us to notice how we are described in our text.

How we are described will tell us how we are to declare.

We are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, ... called out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

Peter goes on to say, "Once you were no people but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10)

Peter doesn't get hung up on the method.

There are no sacred methods.

There is no perfect how-to formula that most clearly declare God.

But Peter does reveal who is equipped to declare God's deeds.

Who it is that declares determines the clarity of the declaration.

We declare clearly God's wonderful deeds when we have received mercy.

We declare God's wonderful deeds with the inspiration He gives.

We declare His wonderful deeds inspired by our personal relationship with Him.

We declare His wonderful deeds from a heart made holy.

We declare His wonderful deeds as a royal priesthood.

This is a ministry shared by the entire body of Christ.

Notice the thoughts that are in the bulletin about this passage.

"Show others the goodness of God; declare God's amazing activity in this world; chosen to come out of darkness to be examples to others about His work for us; we have worth because of what God does not by anything we do; live a holy, priestly life because we have received mercy; set apart for God's use and protected by God"

These are highlights of your thoughts.

We are all set apart for God's use to declare God's wonderful deeds.

There are no exceptions.

If you and I don't who will?

We declare God by being the people of God.

We give witness as the new people God creates.

Peter elaborates on this in various ways.

"And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple." (1 Peter 2:5)

"you are his holy priests." (1 Peter 2:5)

"Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors." (1 Peter 2:12)

"they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God" (1 Peter 2:12)

"Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters." (1 Peter 2:17)

"if you suffer for doing good and endure it patiently, God is pleased with you." (1 Peter 2:20)

"we can be dead to sin and live for what is right." (1 Peter 2:24)

What wonderful deeds of God have you declared?

With who have you shared the amazing life of faith?

Who have you told about Jesus, the Cornerstone rejected by this world?

But the Cornerstone who is precious to both God and the believer.

But more importantly, what is your relationship with Jesus the Cornerstone?

Is He the Cornerstone of your life?

Is He the Centre and foundation of your life?

Closing Song - Be the Centre