

1. We should hear, accept and eagerly respond to God’s call for witnesses.
2. We should surrender to God all our propensities to command, possess and exert power over “others.” As Jesus relinquished command, possession and power at Calvary and then rose to manifest his everlasting self-emptying love, so he calls us to yield to him all our personal self-inflating inclinations.
3. Jesus invites us to accept all his gifts — faith, hope, love, peace, rest, tranquility, truth, life, breath, and all his other gifts. We do not have these attributes — that is, we do not possess, nor do we have the power to manifest, any of these gifts in and of ourselves.
4. Jesus asks us to respond to his gracious gifts by returning and sharing them with all “others” — family, friends, neighbors, enemies and all! As Jesus declared, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself” (Luke 10:27; cf. Matthew 5:43-45).
5. Having shared God’s gifts, let us together celebrate his presence and his imminent appearing.
6. As members of the living community of witnesses, let us eagerly anticipate the final resurrection of all the dead.
7. Finally, let us rejoice in the forthcoming eternal transformation of all Creation.

As we stand on the threshold of eternity, God is calling us to be his witnesses. Will you, will we —

As we stand on the threshold of eternity, God is calling us to be his witnesses.

Tell it to every kindred and nation,
 Tell it far and near;
 Earth’s darkest night will fade with the dawning
 Jesus will soon appear.

Nations again in strife and commotion,
 Warnings by the way;
 Signs in the heavens,
 Unerring omens,
 Herald the glorious day.

Children of God look up with rejoicing;
 Shout and sing His praise;
 Blessed are they who, waiting and watching,
 Look for the dawning rays.

Refrain:

Hail Him the King of glory,
 Once the Lamb for sinners slain;
 Tell, tell the wondrous story,
 “Jesus comes to reign.”²

Endnotes

1. See “The Gospel for the Postmodern World III: The ‘Other Side’ of God,” *Outlook* (January 2008); “The Gospel for the Postmodern World IV: The Gift of God,” *Outlook* (February 2008); “The Gospel for the Postmodern World V: The Gift Abused,” *Outlook* (March 2008).
2. Henry de Fluter, “Tell It to Every Kindred and Nation” (1916), at cyberhymnal.org/html/h/a/hailhimk.htm

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