

different matter. Therefore it is important that we think about it...to get a better perspective on our witness and the position that makes it realistic.

B. Discussion

1. The character of the position of Witness

In these remarks we are trying to discuss the character of the position although it is easier to discuss the character of the witness. If we sometimes get the two confused...forgive and see if the ultimate point can still be seen.

a. A position of Knowledge. Based in Acts 1 on the "many infallible proofs." The witnesses knew that Jesus was alive and this had been established in a certain way by him for their benefit. In 1 John 5 the thrust is on "we know" and this is what is expected of a witness...that he know. The position is one of "knowledge."

b. A position of Consistency...meaning that the word of the witness must not change from day to day. It is expected that he will have the same report from time to time, not one that varies or contradicts itself. The witness may know more from time to time and be better able to express it in some way but there should be a harmony in the position that he assumes. No one can shift his witness and expect to be received with credibility.

c. A position of Belief...as in 1 John 5:11. The witness works with what he knows and on the basis of what he knows projects his faith both forwards and backwards. If one does not have a strong belief, the nature of his testimony is very greatly weakened. The spark that marked the New Testament church was the power whereby the affirmed the truth of the Lord's resurrection and life.

2. The character of the practice of Witness