

# Witness to Christ: Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1-11

Pray

Introduction: There is no Plan B

*We bear witness to Christ through the **power** of the Holy Spirit*

- Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power through the Holy Spirit...then they would bear witness to the world.
- Just as Jesus promised the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit and started the NT church.
- Now every believer is given the gift of the Holy Spirit upon trusting in Jesus.
- *We are called to bear witness to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, but what in the world does that mean?*
  - If I asked you to what it means or looks like to walk in the Spirit or work through the power of the Spirit, would you be able to respond.
  - *First, be reminded that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God through magnifying Jesus Christ*
  - *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. John 16:14-15*
  - We see some of the roles of the Holy Spirit explained in John 14 and 16 as it tells us the Spirit will lead us into truth, teaching us about JC, reminds us of JC's teachings, and convicting us of sin before God.
    - Through prayer, word, fellowship of believers, confession of sin. Through basic spiritual disciplines
  - *Third, know that we bear witness in the power of the Spirit by depending on God to transform lives instead of human methods.*
    - We must proclaim Christ clearly and passionately but it is God who convicts and melts hearts.
    - We are not to use manipulation, emotionalism or coercion to 'get people down the aisle' or in the 'water.'

- We should lean more on prayer than persuasion if we want to see people transformed by Gospel.
  - *Finally we bear witness in the power of the Spirit because we are in a spiritual war*
    - We face a spiritual battle as we share Christ with others. We are not only battling sinful culture, lies of our time, but ultimately against Satan.
    - We are in war of the soul, not just mind or heart.
    - Again, wage war with spiritual weapons—prayer and God’s Word.
- *Misconception 1: If only we had new better programs, facilities, leaders, events, \_\_\_\_\_ then our church would grow!*
  - *Only the work and power of God through Christ and Spirit will grow our church spiritually (and numerically if God wills)*
  - God works through faithful, obedient people not a new church program, event or facilities.
  - Programs, facilities and events can be used by God to grow people, but we should not depend on them to produce mature believers of Jesus.
  - Myth of build it and they will come...
- Application
  - *Do we walk faithfully with God so that we are prepared to share Christ at all times?*
  - *Are we growing in dependence on God to transform and grow people or human methods and programs to grow our church?*
    - The point of REACH is to get every member inviting and sharing with others. REACH will not grow our church. But members being obedient to Christ will grow our church spiritually.
  - *Do we pray for unbelievers?*

*We bear witness to Christ through **purposefully** presenting Christ to all people*

- Jesus calls his disciples to be his witness in Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria and to the end of the earth
- *Every believer is called to purposefully present Christ to all people*

- For the most part, this will not happen by accident. We must take initiative to present Christ to others.
- We cannot avoid this command of Christ we can only grow in obedience as we share Christ or disobedience...
- *Misconception 2: Someone else's job! (Pastor's job, evangelist's job.)*
  - *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, Ephesians 4:11*
  - Not a pass—evangelists is to equip saints
  - *Evangelism is not a calling of some but a command to all!*
  - Our problem is that we treat Jesus like our value meals. We want it our way. We want Jesus on our terms. If we don't like command we ignore it. We even try to justify our sin: I'm doing enough.
- *Every believer is called to purposefully present Christ through actions and words.*
  - It takes both compassionate service and speaking truth in love.
  - It is not either or. It takes both!
  - Jesus in Gospels and Peter (Acts 3) heals and preaches man.
  - *Misconception 3: Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words (St. Francis of Assisi)*
    - Yes we should live in such a way to honor and reveal God (1 Peter 2:12)
    - But we must share Jesus with our words
    - *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:14-15*
    - Work these two out with humility and love. Love people because they are created in image of God and God loves them. But love them enough to share Christ with them. You do not have to wait to bring it up. But you do not have to be forceful or move on because they are unreceptive.
- *We must purposefully go to the ends of the earth*

- Start locally—family, work place, groups
- Move regionally—church planters, partnerships, disaster relief, etc.
- Plan for the ends of the earth
  - Pray for missionaries we know or use prayer journal
  - Give as God allows you
    - Stats on CP, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong
  - Go
    - Make missions a priority
- Convicted by the video every time because it reminds me how weak my love is for God and for people. So let's be purposefully and intentional as we bear witness to Christ.
- Application
  - *Are you seeking out opportunities to befriend, bless and interact with unbelievers?*
  - *When was the last time you verbally shared Jesus with someone?*
  - *How are we as a church getting the gospel to the ends of the earth?*

*We bear witness to Christ with a **perspective** that He will return*

- Disciples are told to stop staring in the sky, Jesus will return as he left.
- *We bear witness with urgency*
  - No one is guaranteed tomorrow
  - Our youth group lost a student to a car crash on a Sunday night after we meet for mission trip training.
  - Don't wait on perfect opportunity or for someone to bring it up. Be respectful but take courage and share Christ.
  - Urgency should help us destroy the excuse that evangelism is uncomfortable, awkward and hard.
    - Christ does not care. Your friend who is living in hell and headed for hell won't care!
- *We bear witness with clarity*
  - Do not assume that people understand the gospel (they often don't!)
  - Do not assume people understand terms such as sin, saved, heaven, hell, JC, etc.
  - *Misconception 4:* people already know the gospel
  - *Misconception 5:* I'm not sure how to share the gospel

- *We bear witness with urgency and clarity because everyone we meet will live forever*
  - C. S. Lewis quote from *Weight of Glory*
- *Illustration: Video: Penn receives Bible*
- Convicted by the video every time because it reminds me how weak my love is for God and for people. So let's be purposefully and intentional as we bear witness to Christ.
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- We witness to people who will live forever—either in the glory and splendor of God in heaven or in everlasting torment in hell.
  - We have the privilege and responsibility to present Christ. To give the give news of eternal life with God.
- Application
    - *Will you practice sharing the gospel with clarity and confidence?*
    - *Will you memorize a few Scriptures to share gospel.*