

Be Christ's Witness: Be Christ's Disciple (6)

Acts 1:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*but you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall **be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

Matthew 28:18-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them **to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Introduction

Good morning. The title of today's message is '**Be Christ's Witness.**' It's a title that comes directly from today's text (Acts 1:8): **be My witnesses.**

In Acts 23:11, Jesus appeared to Paul the Apostle and commanded him to *Testify to the truth about Jesus*. Testify to what Christ has done for Paul. The same Jesus calls us to do the same. *Testify for Me. Be My witness.*

Content

As much as we are called to keep the commandments of God, we are also called to hold the testimony of Jesus. We are called to testify to His life, death, resurrection, and His teachings. We are called to testify to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all the things that we have seen and experienced in Jesus. Testify to the things how Jesus appeared to us. Never shrink from declaring to the world the whole purpose of God in Jesus. That is our call. That is our mission.

This morning, we will reflect on what it truly means to be a witness for Jesus—and what it takes to take the gospel to the nations with power and purpose.

Three Characteristics of Christ's Witnesses:

A. They know who Jesus is.

Many people in the world don't truly know Jesus; some see Him as a good moral teacher. Others know Him only as a miracle worker. Still more have a completely distorted understanding of who Jesus is—one that doesn't align with what the Scriptures reveal.

One time, a missionary was visiting a village in India. He asked a local man, “Do you know Jesus?” The man answered, “No, there’s no one by that name in this village.” That response highlights a deeper truth: many have never encountered the real Jesus.

But we—His witnesses—know who Jesus is. Not just intellectually, but personally.

We believe and proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, just as God has testified in the Scriptures (1 John 4:15). We don’t merely know *about* Him—we *know* Him personally. We’ve experienced His grace and mercy. We’ve walked with Him. We’ve heard His voice and seen His work in our lives. His testimony lives in our hearts (1 John 5:10).

The apostle John puts it this way: “*We have seen it and testify to it*” (1 John 1:2), and “*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world*” (1 John 4:14).

Consider the Samaritan woman at the well. After her encounter with Jesus, she ran to her town and said, “*Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did*” (John 4:39). She had discovered who Jesus truly was—and she couldn’t keep it to herself.

That’s the first mark of a true witness: **we know who Jesus is—the Savior of the world and we make Him known.**

B. They Know Who They Are

It’s not enough to know who Jesus is—we must also know who **we** are. As His followers, we need a clear identity and a clear calling. We are not just churchgoers. We are not simply believers. **We are Christ’s witnesses.**

In Acts 1:8, Jesus makes this unmistakably clear: “*You shall be My witnesses.*” He doesn’t say, “You might be” or “Try to be”—He says, “**You shall be.**” That’s a declaration. That’s a calling. That’s who we are.

Think of a courtroom witness, standing under oath, swearing to tell “*the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.*” That’s the image. Jesus has charged us—His witnesses—to testify truthfully about Him to the world.

“You shall be My witnesses”—not the world’s spokespersons, not silent observers, not distracted spectators—**My witnesses.**

We are called to speak the truth about who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He offers to all people. That is our identity. That is our mission. **We know who we are—we are Christ's witnesses.**

C. They Know What to Tell

A true witness doesn't speak opinions or guesses—they speak the **truth**.

At the core of any witness's duty is a simple but sacred responsibility: **to testify truthfully**. Without truth, a testimony loses its power and its credibility. In legal terms, anything less becomes perjury. In spiritual terms, it becomes a distortion of the gospel.

As witnesses for Jesus, **we know exactly what to tell**—we tell the truth about Him.

And we're not alone in bearing that truth. Scripture shows us a great cloud of witnesses, all confirming the same message. Their testimonies all point to **one person: Jesus Christ**.

Who are these witnesses?

- **God the Father**, who affirmed Jesus as His beloved Son.
- **Jesus Himself**, who declared, *"I am the truth."*
- **The Holy Spirit**, who testifies in our hearts and reveals Christ to the world.
- **The works of Jesus**—His miracles, His teachings, His cross, His empty tomb, and His resurrection.
- **The prophets**, who foretold His coming, His suffering, His resurrection, and His eternal reign.

All of them speak in harmony: Jesus is the promised Messiah. He suffered, died, and rose again. He is coming again. And He reigns as Lord over all creation.

That is the truth to tell. That is the testimony we carry.

What Is Our Testimony?

So, what exactly is the message we are called to share? The apostle John puts it plainly and powerfully: *"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."*— 1 John 5:11–12

That's the testimony. That's the truth. That's **our story to tell the world**. It's not complicated—but it is life-changing. We testify that **eternal life is found in Jesus Christ**

alone. And if someone has Jesus, God is in them, and they have life. If they don't, they're still in need of it. That's what we speak. That's why we go. That's why we live as His witnesses.

Go Into the World

With this testimony in our hearts, we are not meant to stay silent—we are **sent**.

It has always been God's plan to send His people into the world with the Good News of the Kingdom. As Jesus said in Matthew 24:14:

“This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

That means that the Good News is not meant to be kept within the four walls of the church. It's not a secret to be stored—it's a message to be shared.

God sends us out. To neighborhoods. To cities. To nations.

As Christ's witnesses, we carry a message of **repentance and forgiveness**, a word of **reconciliation and peace with God**. We testify to the truth that **everyone who believes in the name of Jesus** will receive **forgiveness of sins** and the gift of eternal life.

That is our mission. That is our calling. That is the heartbeat of dynamic evangelism.

So let us go—boldly, humbly, and joyfully—as witnesses of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

We Go to Make Disciples

When we go into the world, we don't go aimlessly. We go with a clear mission: **to make disciples of Jesus Christ**.

That's the Great Commission—**to go, baptize, and teach** in His name. As Jesus commanded in Matthew 28, this is our calling as His witnesses.

The Methodist Church puts it well: *“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”* But let's not miss the point: The goal isn't merely the **transformation of the world itself**—it's the **transformation of people** within the world.

It's not about changing culture from the outside in—it's about reconciling people to God so that He changes them from the inside out.

We aren't just trying to clean up society. We're bringing people to the Savior who **makes them new**.

Think of it this way: Put a pig in a clean room, and it won't be long before the room is a mess. But put a clean person into a pigsty—and if they stay long enough—**the place starts to look different**.

That's what happens when the gospel transforms people. **Change the heart first, then Changed hearts lead to changed homes, communities, and nations.**

So we go to make disciples—not just to do good, but to lead people to **the Good Shepherd**, who alone can transform lives for eternity.

The Power We Need

Let's have a moment of honest reflection—a reality check. When it comes to witnessing for Jesus, **we're not doing well**. If we were to grade ourselves, the truth is, many of us would be staring at an **"F" on our report card**.

These days, **"evangelism" has almost become a taboo word**, even in the church. The United Methodist Church in America is declining—not because we don't have programs or passionate people—but because we've often lost sight of our core mission: **to bear witness to Christ**.

We're doing a lot of good things. But are we doing **the one thing Jesus told us to do?**

Let's be real. The numbers don't lie. We might be attracting visitors or hosting events, but how many are truly **surrendering their lives to Jesus**, being **baptized**, and **following Him to the cross?**

Even large churches like Willow Creek admitted it. In their own internal study, *Reveal*, they found that **activity doesn't equal transformation**. Programs didn't automatically produce passionate disciples.

Let's face it: **our witness is weak**. Much of what we call "evangelism" today looks more like **marketing strategy** than spiritual power. And without the Spirit, it won't last—it won't save.

So what's the fix? What's the solution? We don't need better slogans. We don't need slicker strategies. We need **power—Holy Spirit power.**

Because Jesus said, *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses..."* (Acts 1:8). That's the turning point.

We cannot be effective witnesses **without the Spirit of Christ pouring upon us, living, and burning within us.**

Power from the Holy Spirit

Here's the truth: **We can't witness without the Holy Spirit.** We shouldn't even try.

Before we ever open our mouths or step outside the church doors, we must begin on our knees, seeking **the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.** Jesus didn't say, *"Go first."* He said, *"Wait until you are clothed with power from on high"* (Luke 24:49).

Why? Because it's not by clever words or human effort that lives are changed—**It's by the Spirit of God.** And when the Holy Spirit moves, **witnessing comes alive.** Evangelism becomes explosive.

History proves it: Wherever the Holy Spirit is poured out, **evangelism breaks out** (Acts 4:19).

Take early Methodism in 19th-century America—A movement of the Spirit swept across the land, and countless lives were transformed. Churches multiplied. Disciples were made.

I've seen it with my own eyes. In the 1970s, back in my home church in Korea, it all started in a humble prayer room in the basement. A few young adults gathered—fasting and praying, crying out to God. And then the Spirit came.

For the next five years, witnessing overflowed. People hit the streets. They preached in marketplaces, on sidewalks, even in their workplaces. And the result? **Hundreds of young people came to Christ.** Over 300 young adults were added to a church of 1,000 members. It wasn't strategy. It wasn't programming. It was the **power of the Holy Spirit.**

We Need Power Here! Folks, if you agree with me—that the Church today needs **new converts**, that we must do a better job **witnessing to Jesus**—then there's only one place to start: **Prayer.** That's exactly what the early disciples did (Acts 2:42).

Before Peter preached and 3,000 were saved in one day, before the fire fell and the Church was born—**they waited**. For ten days, they gathered in one place. With one heart, with one purpose, they **devoted themselves to prayer** (Acts 1:14).

And then... on the tenth day—**the Holy Spirit came**. And the rest is history.

I long to see that same fire fall again. **Right here. In our church. In our generation.**

That's why I'm praying for a breakthrough. That's why I'm calling for a Ten Day Prayer Gathering, starting today. Every day at 11:00, we will gather here in the sanctuary to pray for our revival. August 10 through August 20 (August 16 is off due to Fire Station event—the road is blocked). Come and join me. If you can't be here physically or at work, you can still join us in spirit at the same hour wherever you are. Pray that the Lord will bring us a revival in our hearts, in our homes, in our church and in our communities. Pray that the Lord will ignite our hearts with **passion for God and compassion for people**.

I'm praying that the Holy Spirit will come upon us in a fresh way— **to fill us, anoint us, and send us out** as powerful, Spirit-filled witnesses for Jesus. Let's not settle for business as usual. Let's seek revival.

Conclusion

We need the power of the Holy Spirit—the power from above that draws people to Jesus. For example, my mom was once a Jehovah's Witness and refused to return to the Church. It was only after witnessing the Holy Spirit's work through prayer—when my brother came out of a coma after fervent prayers—that she came back to the Lord.

People desperately need the Lord, and the Church desperately needs the Holy Spirit. We must see the Holy Spirit's power demonstrated in our evangelism.

Lord, please fill us with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.