

We Are His Witnesses

Acts 1:1-11

Introduction to the Book of Acts

1. The Book of Acts can be summarized in several ways:

- The Acts of the Holy Spirit
- The Acts of the Risen Lord
- The Birth of the Church

2. Central theme: We Are His Witnesses

- Witnessing is about sharing what Jesus has done, is doing, and what He promises to do.
- It's not about having all the answers or being the loudest voice—it's about sharing your personal encounter with Christ.

3. Acts 1:8: The key verse of the book and its outline:

- Jerusalem (**Acts 1-7**) – Ministry begins in Jerusalem.
- Judea and Samaria (**Acts 8-9:31**) – Expansion into surrounding regions.
- To the Ends of the Earth (**Acts 9:32-28**) – The gospel spreads globally.

What Does It Mean to Be a Witness?

1. It's Not About Having All the Answers

- Like the blind man in **John 9:25**: "One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."
- Share your personal experience with Jesus.

2. It's About Using Your God-Given Personality

- God made you uniquely to be a witness.
- Whether you are introverted or extroverted, bold or quiet, God can use you just as you are.

3. It's Faithfulness, Not Uniformity

- Witnessing doesn't look the same for everyone.
- Example: The Samaritan woman in **John 4** invited others to meet Jesus.
- Example: Peter's bold preaching in **Acts 2**.
- Example: Paul's intellectual approach in **Acts 17**.

Methods of Witnessing in the Bible:

1. The **Blind Man's** Testimony (**John 9:25**)

- Share what you know: "I was blind, but now I see."

2. The **Samaritan Woman's** Invitation (**John 4**)

- An invitational approach: "Come meet a man who told me everything I've ever done."

3. **Peter's** Bold Proclamation (**Acts 2**)

- A confrontational approach: Declaring the truth about Jesus directly.

4. **Paul's** Intellectual Approach (**Acts 17**)

- Building bridges by connecting with people, where they are – using their worldview as a starting point.

5. **Andrew's** Interpersonal Approach (**John 1:35–42**)

- Bringing others directly to Jesus, such as his brother, Peter.

6. **Matthew's** Relational Approach (**Luke 5:29**)

- Hosting a gathering and inviting friends to meet Jesus.

Why Were the Early Disciples Faithful Witnesses?

1. They Heard and Followed God's Mission

- Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses" (**Acts 1:8**), and they obeyed.

- Their mission was to testify about what Jesus had done, what He was doing, and what He promised to do.

2. They Waited for the Power of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus commanded them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission.

- The Holy Spirit empowered them for effective ministry (**Acts 2:1–4**).

3. They Lived Expecting Jesus' Return

- The angels reminded them: "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven" (**Acts 1:11**).

- They lived with urgency and readiness, knowing Jesus could return at any moment.

Practical Applications for Today:

1. Be a Witness in Your Own Way

- Whether through personal testimony, invitation, intellectual conversation, or relational gatherings, use your natural personality and gifts to share Jesus.

2. Depend on the Holy Spirit

- Take time daily to pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's power to direct and guide you in your witness.

3. Live with Eternal Perspective

- Plan for the future, but live with the expectancy that Jesus could return at any time.

- Keep short accounts with God—confess sin, stay prepared, and make the most of the opportunities you have to share Christ.