

## "WITNESSES FOR THE LORD"

### Acts 1:1-8

**Introduction:** The book of Acts is about the beginning of the Church and the first 35 years of the apostles' ministry. The central theme of the book is the ascension and Lordship of Jesus. It was written by Luke and throughout it shows God's constant care and special guidance for His Church.

### **I. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY LAWGIVER FOR HIS CHURCH (vv1-2)**

1. Both Luke and Acts were written specifically for a man Luke called Theophilus.
2. Although the gospel writers did not record every word and deed of Jesus, they did record all the Holy Spirit inspired them to write which is what God wanted us to know today..
3. Jesus Christ gave His commandments by the Holy Spirit to His apostles and they, in turn to the Church. *2 Timothy 3:16*

### **II. THE LORD JESUS GAVE MANY INFALLIBLE PROOFS OF HIS RESURRECTION (v3)**

1. Jesus appeared to His disciples many times, both publicly and privately, giving irrefutable proof of His resurrection (*1 Corinthians 15:5*), spending 40 days with them, eating, drinking, walking and talking.
2. The testimony of those honest men and women who saw the risen Christ cannot be ignored.

### **III. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER (vv4-5)**

1. God has made thousands of promises, but the "promise of the Spirit" is the only one called "the Promise of the Father." (*Joel 2:28*)
2. Jesus promised His disciples the gift of the Spirit of God also.  
*John 14:16; 16:7; 7:37; Galatians 3:13-14*

### **IV. EVEN THE MOST GIFTED BY GOD SOMETIMES FALL AND ARE CONFUSED (vv6-7)**

1. Jesus' disciples were still looking for Him to set up an earthly kingdom.
  - There are no infallible people in this world, no matter how holy and used by God they may be.
  - Jesus did not show the least bit of anger toward His confused and erring Disciples.
    - We should be equally as kind to one another. (*Ephesians 4:32*)
2. There are some things God does not intend for us to know. He has already given us more than we can ever grasp or understand and to question and pry about that which God has not revealed to us is foolish.

## **V. THE LORD PLAINLY TELLS US WHAT OUR LIFELONG WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY BELIEVER IS (v8)**

1. Without question this is the special power that came upon those men God called to be His apostles.
  - Today, no one can be saved or serve God until this same power comes upon him/her.
  - *Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-9*
2. A witness is one who accurately and honestly relates to others that which he/she has heard personally.
  - No one can be a "witness" unto the Lord Jesus Christ except one who has received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - It is not only a command, but a privilege, responsibility, and honor to be a witness for the Lord Jesus.
3. To "witness" is the lifelong work and responsibility of every believer.
  - Every believer is a missionary, evangelist, preacher.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. No Christian has to wonder what he/she can do for the Lord. Jesus has already told us what we are to do - to "witness" at all times, wherever we are, whatever we are doing, to whosoever.
2. "Witness" comes from the word, "martyr." "Martyrs" are people who lay down their lives for the cause of Christ.
3. Go ahead and work your job, pay the expenses of this life, but do not forget your calling, your life's work is to be Jesus' witness. Let nothing interfere with that.