

May 6, 2024

## You Will Be My Witnesses

[Acts 1:1-11](#)

<sup>8</sup> *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses. . .*

Being a witness to a really special event may make us think “I’ll remember this all my life.” As a witness, we see what happened and think about how that may impact our lives or the lives of others.

Decades later we may remember exactly where we were and what we were doing on the day the event happened. I was in second grade at a circus in the high school gymnasium when a clown announced that President Kennedy had been shot. I remember that as if it were yesterday. (Yes, it really was a clown.)

In the opening passage of Acts, Luke tells us that 40 days after his crucifixion, the disciples witnessed Christ’s ascension into heaven. Imagine the emotional roller coaster they must have felt after seeing Jesus put to death on a cross, then appear to them only to disappear again. Being a witness to history is life changing, but imagine being instructed to **be a witness** to “the ends of the earth.”

Witness as a verb means **seeing** something.

Being a witness is a gerund (noun phrase) that means **doing** something. Jesus told the disciples to be a witness; it was a **calling** with the instruction **to go**.

Technology enables us to achieve that calling to go to the ends of the earth much more easily today than during the time of the early church. Yet we struggle to get outside our comfort zones and outside the walls of our buildings.

John Wesley wrote that he looks “upon all the world as my parish.” (*Works*, “Journals,” June 11, 1739). Wesley reminded us how important it is to get outside the church building to make disciples. He taught us to share the good news of God’s love and “do good” in all places.

We are learning about the [Fresh Expressions](#) movement. It’s sort of new, but in many ways, it’s the same as the instructions Jesus gave the disciples:

Get outside the building. Find people who share common interests. Be in community with them. Spend time with them. Listen to them. Share how Jesus has changed our lives and can do the same for them.

In other words: Be a witness. Imagine the possibilities.

*Prayer: Gracious God: We give you thanks for the ability to be a witness to our brothers and sisters around the world. Help us remember to gently encourage our neighbors to accept your grace and mercy and to seek peace. Prepare us and give us courage. Amen*

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