

Transforming Daily
“ . . . *witnesses* . . . ”
Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 is probably the key verse to the book of Acts. And the message from verse eight is clear and simple. The believer has been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness to Jesus Christ. But what does it mean to be a witness? It means to testify on the behalf of. However, in order to testify, one must have personal experience with the facts in evidence. Therefore, it is not only the believer's privilege to witness on the behalf of Jesus Christ; it is the believer's responsibility to do so as we are the only ones who actively can.

Often the believer's witness is reduced to what God has done for or to, or will do for or to, the believer materially (prosperity gospel, which really isn't another gospel, see Galatians 1:6-9). God's material blessings are not what testifying on the behalf of Christ is about. There is no doubt that we are blessed materially and we give Him the praise for it! However, Acts (as well as the gospels ff. Matthew 16:16) is addressing the building and growth of the church of Jesus Christ. The miraculous events within the pages of the book of Acts, first and foremost, have to do with the spread of the gospel and the growth of the early church. In essence, Ephesians 1:3 and 6:10-18 sum up the believer's experience in testifying on behalf of Jesus Christ.

Testifying on the behalf of Christ is a part of the spiritual battle in which we are engaged. If ever there was a time for Christians to testify on behalf of the saving grace of Jesus Christ, it is now! Why? More false cults exist worldwide; more false teachers are accepted as credible; global fear is at an all-time high (at least in my lifetime); the strongest and most vocal Christian nation (USA) is decaying from the inside out from its rejection of the truth of God Word; natural disasters and catastrophic events are being experienced and forecasted with such regularity that the common folk (and some who profess Christ) have become desensitized to their effects, while more secular sources are reporting the events with biblical-like terminology; and we are closer to the return of Christ than we've ever been before.

If you don't have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, today is the day of salvation. I don't know what you are waiting for. Admit to God that you're a sinner; Believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior; Confess your sins to Him in repentance, and Romans 10:9-10 says that you will be saved. If you are a believer, then be about the Master's business of testifying on His behalf, for today is the day of salvation and we are His witnesses.