



WITNESSES: ACTS 1:1-9

Intro to Series – “Witnesses”

- Raises question: What makes a story credible?
 - Witnesses
 - Independent accounts
 - Alignment on core truth
 - Nothing to gain — sometimes something to lose
 -

Text: Acts of the Apostles 1:1–9

1.) We Are All Witnesses

- Witness is broader than preaching:
 - Prayer – partnering with God
 - Giving – sharing resources
 - Preaching – proclaiming truth
 - Hospitality – welcoming others
 - Holiness – distinct living
 - Good deeds – tangible love

Repeated theme in Acts: “We are witnesses”

- Acts 2:32; 5:32; 10:39–40

We inherit a heritage of witnesses:

- Apostles, Early Church, Spread of Christianity
- We received what was handed down

Greek “martyr” = witness

- Early believers died physically

- We die daily to self, comfort, ambition

2) The Holy Spirit Makes Us Effective

- “You will receive power...”
- Fulfilled in Acts of the Apostles 2
- Spirit empowers ordinary people

Illustration: Wedding witnesses

Gospel of John 15:26–27

- Spirit testifies about Jesus, We testify with Him
- Often witness = simple obedience

Ordinary obedience → God’s larger redemption

3) Witnesses Go Where Jesus Sends

Acts of the Apostles 1:8 geography:

- Jerusalem – immediate world
- Judea – broader network
- Samaria – uncomfortable differences
- Ends of the earth – global mission

Witness moves outward:

- Local faithfulness first
- Visible integrity
- Crossing barriers with compassion
- Participation in global kingdom

We are here because others witnessed.

Now it’s our turn.

Connect Group Discussion Warm up:

- 1.
2. What stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

Study & Discussion:

1. In everyday life, we instinctively evaluate whether a witness is credible. What makes a Christian's witness believable — and what quietly undermines it?
2. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit's power before commanding witness. Where do you feel anxiety or resistance around being a witness? If the Spirit is the primary witness, what would it look like to shift from pressure-driven evangelism to Spirit-led participation?
3. Think about your relational circles: comfort zone, broader network, and uncomfortable spaces. Where are you most faithful? Where are you most hesitant?
4. The word "martyr" means witness, and for many it meant literal death. For us, it often means dying to self. What comfort, ambition, identity, or rhythm might Jesus be asking you to surrender in order to live as a clearer witness? What would change if you saw ordinary obedience (prayer, invitation, hospitality) as participation in God's global redemption story?

Practice of the Week: Three Names. One Step. Daily Prayer.

Write Down Three Names

Identify 3 people in your "Jerusalem" (your everyday world):

- A coworker
- A neighbor
- A family member
- Someone at the gym, café, school

Pray for Them Daily

Every day this week, pray specifically:

- For their good
- For openness to Jesus
- For wisdom on how to love them well
- For the Holy Spirit to move in their life

Take One Small Step

Ask the Spirit: *What's my part?*

It might be:

- An invitation (coffee, church, BBQ, conversation)
- A check-in text
- An act of service
- Sharing part of your story
- Offering to pray

At the end of the week, reflect:

- Where did I notice God at work?
- Did fear shrink or grow?
- What surprised me?