



MAKING JESUS KNOWN

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





Making Jesus Known

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Making Jesus Known

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 1:1-8

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2269

Our greatest need in this world is Jesus; as believers, it is our greatest privilege to make Jesus known to our neighbors and nation.

If we want to make Jesus known, we must first recognize His presence in us.

Acts 1:1-2 says, “The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen...” The Book of Acts takes place after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into Heaven. Yet, His work had only just begun, as He continued it *through* His disciples.

Adrian Rogers says, “In the Gospel, Jesus began; in Acts, Jesus continues. In the Gospel, He did that through His literal body, in the Book of Acts, He does that through His mystical body.”

We are now His Body; He wants to live and work through His Church, supernaturally, not superficially.

Secondly, we need to rely upon His promise to us, which is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus has commanded us to make disciples through evangelism, mark them through baptism, and mature them in ministry. (See Acts 1:8.) Yet, in Acts 1:4-5, Jesus instructs His disciples to wait in the city until they have received the Spirit to begin. The promise was fulfilled at Pentecost, and the disciples carried out this impossible mission. We are not waiting for the Spirit anymore. If we are saved, He has equipped and anointed us with the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work.

Third, we need to respond to His program through us.

As Believers, we are witnesses of Jesus, having seen and heard His power in our lives; we don’t have to know all the answers in order to share the Gospel with others.

If we only recognize His presence *in us*, remember His promise to us, and rely upon His program for us to make disciples, we will see Jesus do something wonderful through us.

Life Application

There are no barriers: no matter our age, education, or social status, God can use you right now, with what you have. God will supply all that you need to make Jesus known.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Our world needs to know Jesus.
 - i) Our neighbors need to know Jesus.
 - ii) We need to make Jesus known.
- b) Acts 1:1-8
- c) Jesus gave His apostles a seemingly impossible mission.
 - i) The apostles were an unassuming group of rag-tag fisherman.
 - (1) They were uneducated.
 - (2) They had no religious training.
 - (3) They had no finances.
 - (4) They had no public prestige or standing.
 - (5) They had no political influence.
 - ii) The apostles faced many obstacles.
 - (1) They were up against the imperial might of Rome.
 - (2) They were up against the intellectual sophistry of the Greeks.
 - (3) They were up against religious bigotry of the Jews.
- d) Yet, in spite of these obstacles, Jesus commanded them to go into all the world and share the message of the Galilean peasant crucified by the Roman government.
- e) In all of God's goodness to us, He requires of us obedience.
 - i) He has commanded us to be witnesses unto Him throughout the world.
- f) We need to repeat in this day what the early church did so long ago.
- g) We, the church, must go back to the basics.
 - i) We have been given a commission.
 - ii) We have been given a responsibility.
 - iii) We need to go back to the fundamentals of the faith.
- h) In the book of Acts, we see that we are to be living supernaturally, not superficially.
- i) In today's message, we will see three things that we need to learn in order to make Jesus known to our neighbors and to the nations.

2) WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE HIS PRESENCE IN US (ACTS 1:1-3)

- a) The hero of the book of Acts is Jesus.
 - i) Acts 1:1
 - ii) This is not the account of the acts of the apostles.
 - iii) It is the account of the acts of Jesus Christ.
- b) The book of Acts was written by Luke, a physician.
 - i) The "former treatise" Luke wrote was the Gospel of Luke.
 - (1) The Gospel of Luke contains what Jesus began to do and to teach.



- ii) The book of Acts contains what Jesus continues to do.
 - (1) The Gospels contain what Jesus did in His human body.
 - (2) The book of Acts contains what Jesus is doing through His body, the church.
- c) The Lord Jesus Christ is still active and alive on planet Earth.
 - i) In the Gospels, it was through His material, physical body.
 - ii) In the book of Acts, it is through His new body, the church.
- d) Colossians 1:27
 - i) We are not merely imitating the Lord Jesus.
 - ii) As believers, Jesus Christ lives within us.
 - (1) Any New Testament church is the body of Jesus Christ on this Earth.
- e) We need to stop doing things for Jesus and start letting Him do something through us.
- f) Galatians 2:20
 - i) Only one person has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - ii) If we are to live the Christian life, it will be Jesus living it in us.
 - (1) It is superficial if we do things for Jesus.
 - (2) If Jesus is doing something through us, it is supernatural.
 - iii) The faith that Jesus has given to us is the faith we are to be exercising.
 - (1) It is not merely faith in the Son of God, but the faith of the Son of God.
- g) The Christian life is not difficult; it is impossible to live.
 - i) Matthew 19:26
 - ii) But God does the impossible, and He will do it in you and through you.
 - iii) We need to stop trying and start trusting and let Jesus Christ live His life in us.
 - (1) Stop asking, "What would Jesus do if He were here?"
 - (a) He is here.
 - (i) He is in us, His church.
 - (2) It is not me; it is Christ in me.
 - (a) Galatians 2:20
- h) There are three miracles in the Christian life:
 - i) The new birth.
 - ii) The life that we live.
 - (1) Our life is to be a supernatural life.
 - (a) The Christian life is not our responsibility.
 - (i) It is our response to His ability.
 - iii) Our translation; when we are made to be like the Lord Jesus.
- i) Acts 1:2-3
 - i) Why did Jesus give the apostles this "mission impossible"?
 - (1) He knew that in Him, they could do it.
 - (2) He knew that without Him, they could not do it.
 - ii) What is the mission?
 - (1) Matthew 28:19-20
 - (a) This is not a request; this is a command.
 - (b) We are to make disciples.



- (i) Not decisions, but disciples.
- (c) We are to mark disciples.
 - (i) Jesus commanded that we be baptized.
 - (ii) Jesus commenced His public ministry by baptism.
 - (iii) Jesus concluded His public ministry commanding baptism.
 - (iv) Once a person is a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is to be baptized by immersion.
 - 1. Baptism means that we belong to Jesus Christ, and we are not ashamed of Him.
- (d) We are to mature disciples.
 - (i) We are to move believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry.
- j) Jesus did not just give us a mission impossible and is now just sitting in Heaven watching what we will do.
 - i) Jesus lives in His church.
 - (1) It is Christ in you.

3) WE NEED TO RELY ON HIS PROMISE TO US (ACTS 1:4-8)

- a) The apostles wanted to talk about prophecy.
 - i) Jesus wanted to talk about proclamation.
- b) Jesus gave His apostles a promise.
 - i) Luke 24:49
 - (1) This is the promise of the Father.
 - (a) This refers to the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) He has not given us a job that we are not able to do.
 - (2) They were to tarry until the day of Pentecost.
 - (a) We are not told to tarry anymore because the day of Pentecost has come.
 - (b) We do not need to keep asking Jesus to send the Holy Spirit because He has sent the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) Acts 1:8
- c) We do not have to be an intellectual to be used of God.
 - i) Jesus did not call us to be His lawyers, but to be His witnesses.
 - (1) A lawyer argues cases.
 - (2) A witness simply tells what he has seen and heard.
 - (a) A Christian who has had an experience with Jesus Christ is automatically a witness.
 - ii) Sometimes, people do not witness because they are concerned that they will be asked a question about the Bible that they do not know the answer to.
 - (1) But we can simply tell them that we do not know the answer.
 - (2) When we stop pretending to know things that we do not know, people will start believing us when we tell them what we do know.
 - (a) That is what a witness does.
 - iii) John 9:25
 - (1) That is an example of a witness, not a lawyer.



- (2) We do not have to know everything.
 - (a) If we are saved, then we know enough to be a witness of Jesus Christ.
- iv) When Jesus Christ is real to us, it is natural to witness to others about Him.
- d) When we witness, it is not us but the Holy Spirit communicating through us.
- e) Our job is to make Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations.
 - i) We are to begin in Jerusalem.
 - (1) That is our community.
 - ii) Next, we are to go to Judea.
 - (1) That would be tantamount to our state.
 - iii) Then, we are to go to Samaria.
 - (1) That would be tantamount to our country.
 - iv) And then, we are to go to the whole world.
- f) We are not to witness about denominations but about Jesus.
 - i) Jesus said that we are to be witnesses unto Him.
- g) The divine strategy in witnessing:
 - i) God can use you.
 - ii) God can use you with what you have.
 - iii) God can use you where you are.
 - iv) God will supply your every need.
 - (1) God has made a solemn promise to us.
 - (a) Acts 1:8

4) WE NEED TO RESPOND TO HIS PROGRAM THROUGH US (ACTS 1:8)

- a) Do our neighbors know Jesus?
 - i) Do our neighbors know that we are saved?
 - ii) Do our neighbors know that we have anything more than a type of cultural Christianity?
 - iii) Acts 1:6-7
 - iv) We need to recognize and fulfill Jesus' command in us right now where we are.
- b) Our business is to be a witness.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We need to ask God today to make us soul-winners for Jesus Christ.
- b) There is no greater joy than to lead souls to the Lord Jesus.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Find the book of Acts chapter 1, right past the Gospels. We're talking today about living supernaturally. Now what is the purpose of our church? Do you know our mission statement? First of all, it is: "Magnifying Jesus through worship and the Word." That's what we're doing right now, magnifying Jesus. "Magnifying Jesus through worship and the Word." That's the first segment of it. The second segment is: "Moving believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry." That is, to help you to grow up, stop being a spiritual baby, to find your ministry and to get at it. "Moving believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry." Now once we magnify Jesus and move believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry, the third purpose is: "Making Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations." "Magnifying Jesus through worship and the Word. Moving believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry." And then: "Making Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations." Now that third segment is what we're going to be talking about, "Making Jesus Known." It's going to be the theme of this series of messages from the book of Acts, "Making Jesus Known." And let me tell you something, this world needs to know Jesus. Your neighbor needs to know Jesus. Friend, that's what the sermon is about. It is what the Holy Spirit is saying today; we need to make Jesus known.

"Friends all around me are trying to find what the heart yearns for, by sin undermined; I have the secret, I know where 'tis found: Only true pleasures in Jesus abound." Jesus is all this world needs today. "Blindly they strive, for sin darkens their way; Oh, to pull back the grim curtains of night, One look at Jesus and all will be light."

Acts chapter 1, the first eight verses, "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen: To whom He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, 'Ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.' And when they therefore were come together, they asked of Him, saying, 'Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?' And He said unto them, 'It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the Earth.'"

Now notice what He has given to them. It's almost like a mission impossible. Here they are, look at them, a little group, ragtag apostles, some of them fishermen. They're unlettered; most of them don't have any education. Don't have any college behind them. They have no seminaries. They have no finances. They have no prestige. They have no political pull. And they're commanded to go into all of the world and tell the message of a Galilean peasant who died on a cross, crucified by the Roman government. It's a mission impossible. Think of what they had and then think of what they were up against. There was the imperial might of the iron legions of Rome. There was the intellectual sophistry of the Greeks. There was the religious bigotry of the Jewish religion. And here they are. And Jesus said, "You will receive power, after



that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the Earth.” And it reads like a magnificent novel, but it is absolutely true. It is the story of the church triumphant.

Folks, God has given us a lot. God has been so good to us. But with all of His giving, God requires of us that we do what He wants us to do. And what that early church did so long ago, we need to repeat in this day and this age. And if we want something new, we’re going to have to find something old. We’ve got to go back to the basics. A church is not some sort of a glorified country club with stained-glass windows and a steeple on top. We have been given a commission. We have been given a responsibility. And I want us in this book of Acts to think together about living supernaturally, not superficially, and we’re going to go back to the basics.

There’s a story, I don’t know whether it’s true or not, but it’s often told, probably is true, about the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers, Vince Lombardi. And it said that one day his team had played miserably. And he brought them all in to what we used to call, when I played football, skull practice. That is, not on the field, but thinking, practicing, getting your head right, getting between your ears, things arranged. And the legendary coach wanted to get the boys back to the fundamentals, back to the basics of the game. And he reached in a bag and pulled out a football and said, “Gentlemen, this is a football.” Now these are professional football players, but he’s saying I’m going to go back to the rudiments, back to the basics, “Gentlemen, this is a football,” and to go from there.

I think that’s what the church of the Lord Jesus Christ needs to do today, is to go back to the very basic, fundamental, rudimentary elements of our faith. So I want to tell you, “Ladies and gentlemen, this is a Bible.” This is a Bible! It is the Word of God. We need to go back to find out what God wants us to do.

They criticized Billy Graham one time. They said of Billy Graham, “Why, he’s not up to date with his evangelism and his methods, and he’s behind. He’s decades behind.” He said, “Oh,” said, “No, I’m not, I don’t want to set the church back a decade or two decades, I want to set it back two thousand years.” Want to get back to the very essence, the very fundamentals of the faith.

So let’s look right here in these first eight verses of the book of Acts. And I tell you, this is a wonderful success story. There are three things. If we would make Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations, there are three things we’re going to find in these eight verses. And the very first is this: that **we need to recognize His presence in us**. Now most of us don’t do that. Now listen, those words can go past you so quick you didn’t even hear them. It made no impact. But this is the most phenomenal thought. It is a phenomenal thought, if you get it in your heart and in your mind, that Jesus Christ is in us. Look again at the first three verses, Acts 1 verses 1 through 3, “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,” underscore, “began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after that He, through the Holy Ghost, had given commandments unto the apostles whom He had chosen; To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Now this was written by a man named Luke. Luke was a physician. He was a doctor. We have a number of wonderful doctors in our church today, and they believe the Bible is the Word of God. And that proves to me that you don’t have to check your brains at the door to believe the Bible, Amen? I thank God for MDs who are not ashamed of the Lord Jesus.

Every good book has a hero, and the hero of this book is Jesus. Look in verse 1, “Of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.” But in the Bible that I have up here, at the heading it says, “The Acts of the Apostles,” but down here in verse 1 it says, “All that Jesus began to do and teach.” Friend, I want you to get the point. Don’t miss it. The title: “The Acts of the Apostles” was put on by the Bible publisher. That’s not



in the text at all. That's not a part of the inspired thing at all. And here they missed it. The book of Acts is not the story of the acts of the apostles; it is the story of the acts of Jesus Christ. Now don't miss that. "Of all that Jesus began to do and teach."

Now see, he said, "The former treatise have I written unto thee." Well, what was the former treatise that he'd written? Luke wrote what? The Gospel of Luke. He said, "Now I've written the Gospel of Luke. This is what Jesus began to do. Now I'm going to write the book of Acts. This is what Jesus continues to do," because he's not saying, "I wrote what Jesus did. It's finished." No. "The former treatise have I written unto you," the Gospel of Luke, "of all that Jesus began to do and to teach." "Now I'm going to write something else. I'm going to show you what Jesus Christ is continuing to do."

Now, in the Gospels you find out what Jesus did in His human body, the body of His flesh. In the book of Acts you find out what Jesus is doing in His mystical body, the church. You see, Jesus is still active and alive on Planet Earth today and He still has a body. In the Gospels it was His material, physical body. In the book of Acts it is His new body, which is the church. And Jesus is alive and well today in His mystical body. This is what the Bible calls in Colossians chapter 1 verse 27, "Christ in you." You see, we're not here just imitating the Lord Jesus. I love the idea, "What would Jesus do?" That implies, "What would He do if He were here?" Friend, He is here. He is here. And it's not, "What would He do;" we just need to let Him do what He will do. This church, and any New Testament church, is the body of Jesus in this city. We are Him. He is us. We are the visible part of the invisible Jesus, and He is the invisible part of the visible church. If we ever let that thought get into us that Christ is in us, that He began in the Gospels, but He continues today, the church of Jesus Christ is the body of Christ on this Earth.

Now we need to stop doing things for Jesus. We need to start letting Him do something through us. You see, there's only one Person who has ever lived the Christian life. What's His name? Jesus. No one else has ever lived the Christian life, only Jesus. And if the Christian life is lived where you hang your hat, where you go to work, where you go to school, it will not be you living it; it will be Jesus living it in you. Oh, you say, "Adrian, you're just playing with words." No, I'm not. The apostle Paul said in Galatians chapter 2 verse 20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ that lives in me; and the life I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Now if you do it, if you're doing things for Jesus, that's superficial. If Jesus is doing something through you, it is supernatural.

Did you know the only thing I have about my life that I have any right to ask you to believe and emulate is that which you cannot explain? If you can explain Adrian Rogers apart from the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ inside of me, then it's superficial. But my life is to be supernatural; I mean, absolutely supernatural. Jesus Christ is to be living in me, and the life I live, I'm to be living by the faith of the Son of God. Not faith in the Son of God; the faith of the Son of God. The faith that He has given to me is the faith that I am to be exercising.

You see, folks, listen to me, the Christian life is not difficult; it is impossible. The Christian life is impossible. Well, you say, "If it's impossible, then forget it." Now wait a minute. It is impossible, but God does the impossible, and He'll do it in you and through you. Stuart Briscoe, great preacher, said, "When I first got saved, gave my heart to Jesus, I went out to live for Him. I said, this is wonderful!" But then he said, "After I stumbled and fell several times, boy, this is difficult." He said, "I rededicated my life and started again," but then he said, "I stumbled and fell again, and I stopped saying this is wonderful or this is difficult. I began to say this is impossible." Then he said, "I discovered that it was Jesus Christ in me who was going to do it through me." And then he said, "This is wonderful, this is wonderful." We need to stop trying and start trusting and let Jesus Christ live His life in us.



Now you might think I'm just talking about so much hocus-pocus, but, friend, I'm talking to you about fundamental religious truth, spiritual truth. The book of Acts is what Jesus is continuing to do. God wants to write a twenty-ninth chapter of the book of Acts, and He wants to write it through the church, of what Jesus is going to do in this city. Stop asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do if He were here." He is here! Let Him be God in you. Now, other than that, all you'll be is a little, cheap, tin imitation of Jesus.

My friend Bob Sorrell's sitting out here. Bob's a great golfer. I never played golf with Bob because I don't like to be humiliated, and I'm too rotten proud to play a game with him. But suppose one day I said, "Well, I'm going to go out here, and I'm going to beat Bob playing golf, and so I'm going to play like Tiger Woods. Bob will play like Bob and he's good, but I'll play like Tiger Woods and I'll beat him." Well, you laugh, of course. I can't just say I'm going to play like Tiger Woods and play like Tiger Woods. I can't just say, "I'm going to be like him." And you can't just say, "I'm going to be like Jesus." But suppose I could take Tiger Woods and put him in a pill and swallow him down. All right. Now, we go out there and we tee off. Poof! There it goes, right down the straightaway, and he says, "Good night, Rogers, where'd you learn how to play golf like that?" If I'm honest, I'd say, "Hey, it's not Adrian, it's Tiger in me."

Friend, listen. It's not you; it's Jesus in you. And we need to stop strutting around like we're somebody wonderful. Friend, listen, if we're doing anything good, it is Christ in us. "The life I live I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." And the book of Acts is what Jesus continues to do. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Jesus were let loose in Memphis, Tennessee, through His body, the church? See, we are the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Living the Christian life is a miracle. There are three miracles in the Christian life. There's the first miracle, which is the new birth. That's a wonderful miracle. There's the concluding miracle, the last miracle, which is our translation when we're made to be like the Lord Jesus. But in between that first miracle and that last miracle there's a middle miracle, and that is the life that we live. Our life is to be a supernatural life. Now, I want you to remember this: that the Christian life is not your responsibility. It is your response to His ability. Major Ian Thomas said about this, "I can't. He never said I could. He can; He always said He would." And so, that's the first thing we need to do. We need to recognize His presence in us.

Now with that, the Bible says, look if you will in this passage of Scripture, look in Acts 1 verse 3, "To whom also He showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking to them of things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Back up to verse 2. He gave commandments unto the apostles.

Now why did He give them this mission impossible? Well, He gave them this mission impossible because He knew that in Him they could do it. But He also knew without Him they could not do it. What were the commandments that He gave? We don't have to guess; we know. Do you know what Jesus' marching orders are for you? All right, put in your margin Matthew 28:19 and 20. You know it, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Now this is not a request. This is a command. Jesus is King. If you are not a part of obeying this command, listen to me, I want to say it as sweetly as I can, you're not right with God. Furthermore, you're guilty of high treason against your King. Jesus said, "I have commanded you to go and make disciples." We are to be making Jesus known.

Now what does He say to do in Matthew 28:19 and 20? Three things. Number one: **we are to make them.** "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples." Now, He didn't say make decisions. People talk about great evangelistic crusades, and they say, "We had a thousand decisions." He didn't say make decisions; He said, "Make disciples." Make them. Not only are we to make them, **we're to mark them.** He said, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Don't you minimize baptism! Jesus



commanded that we be baptized. Jesus commenced His public ministry by baptism. Jesus concluded His public ministry commanding baptism. Once a person is a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is to be baptized by immersion, marking himself out, saying, "I belong to Jesus Christ. I'm not ashamed of Jesus Christ." Some of you haven't been baptized because you say, "I'd mess up a \$40-dollar hairdo." I'm serious. You say, "Well, that's incidental." It's not incidental. Jesus has commanded it, "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

You know why I wear that ring? That's about the only piece of jewelry I have, unless you call that watch jewelry. You know why I wear that? That ring shows that I belong to Joyce. I'm a one-woman man. I belong to that girl, and I love her and I'm not ashamed of her. When I go out of town, I don't take the ring off. I belong to a lady. Do you know what baptism means? Friend, it means that you belong to Jesus Christ. You're not ashamed of Jesus Christ. I want everybody to know. See me up here buried in the likeness of His death, raised in the likeness of His resurrection. If you haven't been baptized, you ought to be the first one down this aisle this morning, say, "I want to make an appointment for my baptism," that is, if you're truly saved.

First you make them, then you mark them, and then **you mature them**. "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the age." That's the marching orders of the church, to make them, mark them, mature them, moving believers in Jesus toward maturity and ministry. That's what we are all about. And to do it, we need to recognize His presence in us. He hasn't just given us a mission impossible and backed off, sitting up there in Heaven, peering down to see what we're going to do. Jesus lives in His church, Christ in you, the hope of glory. The Gospel's what He began to do. The book of Acts is what He continues to do. In that First Century church and in this Twenty-first Century church, that's what it is all about.

Now secondly, not only should we recognize His presence in us, but number two: **we should rely on His promise to us**. Look if you will in Acts 1 verses 4 through 8, "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they, therefore, were come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?'" They wanted to talk about prophecy, "And He said unto them, 'It's not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.'" They wanted to talk about prophecy; He wanted to talk about proclamation, "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the Earth."

Now here Jesus is talking about a promise He'd made. When He was walking with them and talking with them, He gave them a promise. Put in your margin Luke 24 verse 49, and here's what Jesus said to them. He said, "Behold, I send the promise of the Father unto you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power on high." Jesus said, "Don't go out now and start any kind of a ministry until first of all you receive this promise. I am going to send the promise of the Father." What is the promise of the Father? It is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. And really this is almost a repeat of the first thing. You see, we need to recognize His presence in us, and then we need to rely on His promise to us. He's not given us a job that we're not able to do. Again, these were unlettered, uncouth people. They had no finances. They had no colleges. They had no seminaries. They had no buildings like this. And He says, "Go to all the world," but He did not leave them helpless.



I heard of some cows who were grazing in a field, and a milk truck went past and it said, “Thus-and-such a dairy. Our milk is Grade A, sanitized, vitamin-enriched, homogenized, pasteurized from contented cows.” One cow said to the other one, “It makes you feel inadequate, doesn’t it?” I mean, we don’t have what it takes. But Jesus said, “Don’t go out.” Just don’t go out knocking things over and calling it working for Jesus. “Tarry in Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high.” That was until the Day of Pentecost comes. Now we’re not told to tarry anymore because the Day of Pentecost has come. We don’t need to keep asking Jesus to send the Holy Spirit. He has sent the Holy Spirit and He has said in verse 8, however, “You will receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.”

Now learn this secret. You don’t have to be an intellectual top water in order to be used of God. As a matter of fact, I’ve been a pastor long enough to know that some of our brightest minds are our worst witnesses. Nothing wrong with having intellect. But Jesus did not call you to be a lawyer; He called you to be a witness. A lawyer argues a case; a witness tells what he’s seen and heard.

Come up close, I want to tell you something. You know why some of our people don’t witness? Folks, they haven’t seen or heard anything. But a Christian, a Christian who’s had an experience with Jesus Christ is automatically a witness. He can’t help but witness! You don’t have to know all the answers. When you share Jesus Christ, you say, “Well, but if I go out and start witnessing, somebody’s going to ask me a question about the Bible that I don’t know the answer to.” Don’t worry about it. Let me tell you, you can answer any question, any question anybody asks you, any question, let me tell you how to answer it. Say, “I don’t know.” Isn’t that a good answer? Listen, when you stop pretending you know things that you don’t know, people will start believing you when you tell them what you do know. That’s what a witness does. “Just the facts, ma’am.” What have you seen? What have you heard? That man, Jesus opened his eyes. Read John 9 verse 25. He was blind, and the Pharisees and the Sadducees, they began to question him and belittle him and say, “Who healed you? What were His credentials? Ta-da-da-da-da.” He said, “I don’t know. I don’t know. But one thing I know. Once I was blind and now I see.” Now, friend, that is a witness. Not a lawyer. You don’t have to know everything. You, if you are saved, you know enough to be a witness of Jesus Christ. Say Amen.

A man went in to a department store one time, a preacher. He went back to the back of the department store, one of these big stores or something like that. He went back there to where they were selling fishing tackle. And he walked up there and he just asked this question: “What is a good bass lure?” The man over here shopping turned to him and said, “Hey, let me tell you about a good bass lure,” and he began to talk to this man, and he began to tell him everything about bass lures, the best places to fish, and so forth. The man said, “Well, thank you very much.” And he bought one of the lures and started to walk out; this man just followed him all the way out to the car. All the way out to the parking lot this man was still talking about bass and bass lures and how to catch bass. Now I’ll tell you one thing about that man: little doubt is that he was a bass fisherman. Little doubt but that he knew something about what he was talking about, and he was very interested in it. Now I don’t know whether he knew Jesus or not, but probably if that man were a member of a local church and you told him to testify, he’d say, “Well, I can’t do that.” You know why? He was not interested in the subject, not filled with the subject. Friend, when Jesus Christ is real to you, witnessing will be just as natural as talking about bass lures was to that bass fisherman. You see, what’s down in the well comes up in the bucket, doesn’t it?

Jesus said, “You’ll be witnesses unto Me!” I’ve said it many times from this pulpit, before I preach I get on my knees and pray, because anything I can talk you into, somebody can talk you out of. But when the Holy Spirit of God takes the man of God and his words and brings them home to your heart, then it’s not Adrian; it is the Holy Spirit of God speaking to you.



God wants to use you and your neighbors, with your neighbors, and God wants to use you with the nations. Our job is making Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations. We're to begin in Jerusalem. That's our community. And then Judea. That would be tantamount to our state. And then Samaria. That would be tantamount to the mid-south, and then the whole world. And that's what we exist for, folks. This is the year of evangelism. God has so blessed our church and God has given us so much, but we're not going to sit on our hands, sit and soak and say, "What good boys and girls we are." We're going to take this community for Jesus Christ. I mean that. Say Amen. We're going to do it. And I don't say it arrogantly. God has given us that assignment. Give God a hand. We're going to do it. And we're going to share Jesus Christ because Jesus wants us to do it! This is our Jerusalem and we can't play leapfrog. We can't jump over our Jerusalem and go across the nation, go across the world. We start here with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And the purpose of this church is making Jesus known to our neighbors and to the nations. And so, how are we going to do it? We're going to recognize His presence in us. We're going to rely upon His promise to us. "You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me." Now we're not to witness about our church. We're not to witness about the Baptist denomination. People need Jesus. They need Jesus, "Witnesses unto Me."

One man was trying to make a Baptist out of a Methodist, and the Methodist didn't want to be made a Baptist. And so the Baptist got in an argumentative mode and said, "Well, how come you're a Methodist?" He said, "Well, my daddy was a Methodist and my granddaddy was a Methodist and that makes me a Methodist." The Baptist said, "Well, wait a minute. If your daddy was a fool and your granddaddy was a fool, what would that make you?" He said, "Well, I guess I'd be a Baptist!" We're not witnessing to some denomination. People need Jesus. "You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me." Now this is the divine strategy, and listen to me carefully, God can use you. Say, Amen. God can use you with what you have. God can use you where you are. And God will supply your every need. If this church ever really gets serious about sharing Jesus Christ, what an impact we will make in this particular city. God has made a promise to us, a solemn promise, that we, "Would receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon" us.

Now here's the third and final thing I want you to see this morning as we think about what God wants us to do. **We need to respond to His program through us.** What is His program through us? Look again in Acts 1 verse 8, "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me in Jerusalem." How about your neighbors? Do your neighbors know Jesus? Do they know you're saved? Do they know that you have anything more just sort of a cultural Christianity? You know really, they don't care how much you know about Bible prophecy. In Acts chapter 1 verses 6 and 7, the apostles said, "Lord, are you going at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said, "That's not your concern. That's not for you to know. Your business is to be a witness."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, one of the greatest preachers who ever lived, said, "I had rather lead one soul to Jesus than to unpick all the mysteries in the divine Word." To lead one soul to the Lord Jesus Christ. Now I'm concerned about the world. As a matter of fact, I met two of our precious young people today, they said to me, "Pastor, we have just been accepted by the Foreign Mission Board to go to Kosovo. We're going to Kosovo to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ." My heart burned with joy to think that two young people out of our church have now been approved, going to missionary training service. They're going to Kosovo. But I'll tell you why they're going to Kosovo is because they've been witnessing for Jesus right here. One man applied for missionary service and the man who was reviewing his application said, "Well, what are you doing in your neighborhood where you are right now?" He said, "Well, not much." He said, "Well, please don't go across the ocean and do it." You see, if you're not doing it here, you're not a candidate for missionary service anywhere. We need to recognize and fulfill His program in us right now.



Now, folks, I hope you're going to be with me. As we study this Book of Acts together we're going to find out how the early church did it, and we are going to get with it.

Tell you a story. Preachers have told it for a long time, but it's a good one. A man was known as a great fisherman. And he would come back with a ton of fish, a boatload of fish. One day a stranger said, "Would you take me fishing with you?" The man said, "Sure, come on." So he got out in the middle of the lake, and this man who was known to be such a great fisherman reached under his seat and got a stick of dynamite. And he lit the fuse and threw it overboard. It sank to the bottom with tremendous explosion and hundreds of dead fish just floated to the surface. This man started picking them up. This other man reached in his pocket, pulled out his billfold with a badge, and said, "Sir, I'm the game warden. What you are doing is illegal. You are in serious trouble." The fisherman didn't say a word. He just reached under his seat and got another stick of dynamite and lit it and handed it to that man. He said, "Are you just going to sit there and talk or are you going to fish?"

I want to ask you a question. How about you? Now listen to me. Are you going to come to church, listen to a sermon, make some notes, but would you say, "Dear God, make me a soul winner. Make me a witness." Again, a witness is somebody just tells what he's seen and heard. Friend, there's no greater joy than to lead a soul to Jesus Christ. Recognize His presence in us. Rely upon His power to us. And remember His program for us. We are to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the Earth. We're going to be living supernaturally, and we're going to learn the secret in the book of Acts. And God's people said: "Amen."

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. Now while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, let me ask: how many of you today can say, "Pastor Rogers, I am saved, I do have a testimony, I have seen something, I have heard something, I do know Jesus, I know by the grace of God that if I were to die right now I would go straight to Heaven, I have the absolute assurance of my salvation."

Now if you could not answer that question, let me lead you in a prayer right now that you'd give your heart to Jesus. And if you want to be saved, God'll save you where you are today. Pray this prayer, "Dear God, I'm a sinner, I'm lost, I need to be saved, I want to be saved. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, right now, this moment. I am a sinner. My sin deserves judgment in Hell, but I need mercy. I want grace. Jesus, You died to save me, You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, like a child, right now, I trust in the finished work of Calvary. Thank You for paying for my sin. I believe that You died for me. I believe that You walked out of that grave. I believe that You're able to save me and I turn my life over to You, right now. Begin now to make me the person You want me to be, and help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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