



Bible Study – February 07, 2024

Series: A Study About Sharing Your Faith

Lesson 6: Be My Witnesses - Acts 1:4-8 (NKJV)

Introduction

In the last study, we stated that all believers are witnesses. Whose witnesses? Jesus Christ's witnesses. In this lesson, we will look at what it means to be a witness of the gospel. Also, how to establish rapport or concern with a person and then share your personal story, pray, or share a gospel track with them. In other words, we want to strengthen the "know-how" skills learned in our training sessions. If we use what we learned, we will not lose it. Let's get things started.

The Heavenly Father's Gift

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, *"which,"* He said, *"you have heard from Me; 'for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'"*

The "Promise of the Father" that Jesus tells His disciples about is the Holy Spirit. Luke, who is the writer of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, confirms here what was stated in [Luke 24:49](#) (*please read it*) concerning this promise ([See John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7](#)). John the Baptist had proclaimed a Holy Spirit baptism by the Lord Jesus Christ when he said, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* ([Matthew 3:11 NKJV](#)) John the Baptist knew that his baptism with water was not as great as the Lord's baptism with the Holy Spirit. The word "baptize" usually means dip or immerse, but here, it implies the thought of uniting with Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus stated the exact words that John the Baptist spoke in verse five.



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Q. For what reason did Jesus Christ want His disciples to remain in Jerusalem and be empowered by the Holy Spirit?

The Desire for Israel's Restoration

Acts 1:6

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Throughout the ancient history of Israel, the thinking was when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place, Israel would be at peace and restored ([Read Isaiah 32:15-20, Ezekiel 39:27-29](#)). The Lord's disciples were of the same mindset when they asked Him if it was at that particular time that He was going to restore the kingdom to Israel. The disciples believed the Holy Spirit's outpouring and the promised kingdom's coming were closely associated.

Q. What is the common theme expressed in Isaiah 32:15-20 and Ezekiel 39:27-29?

You Shall Be My Witnesses

Acts 1:7-8

And He said to them, *"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*



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Jesus did not change the thinking of His disciples because of a wrong concept about a coming kingdom. He had instructed them about things pertaining to the kingdom of GOD ([Acts 1:1-3](#)). However, they were to let the Heavenly Father decide when the kingdom of GOD would appear. After all, this was His scope of authority. Jesus refocused their attention on the mission that they would do. He reminded them again that they would receive divine power when the Holy Spirit came. It would be a supernatural outpouring, and after this happened, they would be His witnesses, beginning in Jerusalem and reaching the four corners of the earth. Once more, this is a command for them to GO! Go and preach the gospel to every living human being. Go and make disciples of them, remembering to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Go and teach them about the kingdom of GOD just as He had taught them.

Jesus wanted this for His disciples then, and He wants it for His disciples today. When you and I became “born again,” it was of the water and Holy Spirit so that we could enter the kingdom of GOD ([John 3:5](#)). That is good news! But unless you can tell your own story about your life before Jesus, your life when you met Him, and your life since He came in it, who would hear the good news from you? In session two of EBAW, Minister Johnson showed us how to develop our stories. I am unsure how many of you did not get the opportunity to do this. However, I am encouraging you to do this to share your faith in Jesus. I need a volunteer to share their story to illustrate how we were taught in EBAW.

Endnotes

1. Drs. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament* (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983) 353-354.
2. Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible, New King James Version®*, NKJV®, Copyright©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved.