

## “Jesus People Obey Their Assignment”

Acts 1:6-11

*So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”<sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”<sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,<sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*

Acts 1:6-11 (English Standard Version)

- **IT'S EASY FOR A BELIEVER TO BE DISTRACTED.**

Kingdom of God = God's rule, set up in the hearts of people, by the Holy Spirit

- **WITNESS-BEARING IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT IS CHRIST'S ASSIGNMENT TO ALL BELIEVERS.**

“Witness” = Greek, *mártus*, = one who declares what he has seen, heard or knows

### Three Layers of Witnessing

- Expressing love to someone far from God

*“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16 (New American Standard Version)

- Telling what Jesus has done for you

*The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,<sup>39</sup> “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.”* Luke 8:38-39a (ESV)

- Talking to someone about their spiritual state, and proclaiming the gospel

- Know, accept and obey your assignment.

*But you, beloved . . .<sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them out of the fire; . . .* Jude 1:20, 23 (ESV)

- Prepare questions designed to open spiritual conversations.
- Be ready to make a gospel presentation. (See Romans 10:14)

- Romans 3:23 – “All have sinned.”
- Romans 6:23 – “The wages of sin is death.”
- Hebrews 9:27 – “A man is destined . . . to face judgment.”
- 1 Peter 3:18 – “Christ died for sins, to bring you to God.”
- Ephesians 2:8-9 – “Saved by faith, not works”
- Romans 10:9-11 – “If you confess . . . you will be saved.”

*. . . but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; . . .* 1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

- Ask a closing question.

- **BELIEVERS ARE NOT TO BE PASSIVE IN THEIR WITNESS.**

Conduits or channels -- not reservoirs or holding tanks

75 to 90 percent of new believers come to Christ through a friend or acquaintance who explains the Good News on a one-to-one basis.

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes . . .* Romans 1:16 (New International Version)

**Questions:** Who has the Lord put on my agenda to love and introduce to Him? Who am I praying for to receive Christ? Who in my life may have missed hearing the gospel because of my silence?