Witness: Obstacles and Opportunities
message #2 in the series
The Acts 1:8 Adventure
Sunday, November 3, 2019 • Tim McCoy, Lead Pastor

A Chapter a Day

- Sunday, November 3  Acts 14  If you would like to receive a short, daily email to help you better understand and apply the chapter we are reading together each day, please sign up by texting the word Chapter to 22828
- Monday, November 4  Acts 15
- Tuesday, November 5  Acts 16
- Wednesday, November 6  Acts 17
- Thursday, November 7  Acts 18
- Friday, November 8  Acts 19
- Saturday, November 9  Acts 20

Acts 1:8
8 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.” (ESV)

1. The power for our witness is God’s __________________ within us.

2. The purpose of our witness is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. The content of our witness is the ____________________.

4. The place of our witness is here, there, & everywhere.

5. The time of our witness is until Jesus returns.

37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38, ESV)
Five Obstacles to the Witness

1. **External pressure to be __________________.** (Acts 3-4)
   
   18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” . . . 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:18-20, 31, ESV)

2. **Internal lack of _____________________________.** (Acts 5:1-11)
   
   • Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, lied about their giving and died as a result. Falsehood fractures fellowship, and hypocrisy hurts witness.

3. **Learning to ____________________________ if we are “counted worthy to ____________________________” for Jesus and the gospel.**

   After being arrested, jailed, beaten, and “charged not to speak in the name of Jesus” the Scripture says: “Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus” (Acts 5:40-42, ESV).

4. **Lids on our capacity to _____________________________.** (Acts 6:1-7)

   When widows were being overlooked because “the disciples were increasing in number,” the apostles selected and commissioned more caregivers. As a result, “the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem” (Acts 6:7, ESV)

5. **Crossing racial and cultural ___________________________**.
   
   • Samaritans repent and believe (Acts 8:1-25)
   • Ethiopian eunuch repents and believes (Acts 8:26-40)
   • Jewish persecutor Saul is converted (Acts 9:1-30)
   • Roman soldier (Gentile) Cornelius is converted (Acts 10:1-11:18)
Two Opportunities for Witness

1. “_________   ___________  ___________” witness

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, . . . 4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word (Acts 8:1-4, ESV)

2. “_________   ___________” witness

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:1-3, ESV)

So, let’s make it personal:

(1) If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, will you join the Jesus movement – will you turn from your sins in repentance, trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord, be baptized in his name, identify with his people, and invite others to do the same?

(2) If you are a follower of Jesus, will you renew your commitment today to being a verbal witness for Jesus and the gospel? Will you be an eager, joyful, and bold witness fully engaged in the Acts 1:8 adventure?

(3) If you are a follower of Jesus, who’s your one? The one person (in your family, at work, at school, at the gym, in your neighborhood, etc.) that God would have you pray for and talk with about Jesus and the gospel.

My one is ____________________________.

(4) If you are a follower of Jesus, will you pray, give, and go so that the witness will extend to “every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9)?