



Series Title—Spiritual Growth
Part Seven—A Call to Witness

Acts 1:8

Pastor Dan Turpin WestCoastChurch.com

Objective Sentence: Everyone can be a witness for Jesus by receiving the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to use you to witness in four areas that you can make a difference. [1. Where it all begins 2. Give Your Full Attention 3. Make a Calendar Clock Commitment 4. Love the Church 5. Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit 6. Be A Witness for Christ 7. Power to Witness].

William Booth: You may say I am not called; but instead of saying you are not called to seek and to save the lost; it would be more proper for you to say I have not heard the call. Put your ear down to Word of God, and hear Him command you go and pull people out of the fire of sin. Put your ear down to the troubled, agonized heart of humanity, and listen to its pitiful cry for help. Go stand by the gates of hell [Luke 16:19-32), and hear the damned beg you to go to their father's house and implore their brothers and sisters and servants and masters not to come there. Then look Christ in the face—whose mercy you have professed to obey—and tell Him whether you will join heart and soul and body and circumstances in the march to publish His mercy to the world. **Luke 16:19-32 NIV** There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat the scraps left over from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire. ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm

has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.²⁷ “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.²⁹ “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.³¹ “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.

#1. Acts 1:8 *You Will Receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and You shall be witnesses of me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the utter most parts of the earth.*

A. Exodus 9:16 *The Lord said to Moses, “For this purpose I have raised you up , to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” Your life is the miracle that God wants to show the world. You and I have the power, through the presence of the Holy Spirit to change the eternal fate of others. As a youth Pastor in Oklahoma I told me young people I was there for two reasons: To get them out of the lifestyle that was destroying my life and soul; to keep them out of that lifestyle if they were not in it. One of the great miracles we overlook and fail to honor as we should is God’s Keeping Power. For some of you God wants to use your life to show how merciful, loving, kind and powerful He is by delivering you from the bondage of sin. And there are others of you that God wants to use to show how merciful, loving, kind and powerful He is by keeping you from a life of sin and self destruction.*

Since that is true look for ways to ...

1. Witness Inside the Four Walls of Your Church (*Acts 1:8* *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.*)

- a. Pastor Dan:* Your calling is to take away the hurt of others [inside your church]. A little care, a little love, a little kindness and a little taking an interest in people [in your church] is as powerful as a great sermon; it is a move of God that will never fade, it is one thing that will make an eternal difference in the lives of others [inside your church].
- b. Pastor Dan:* In order for you to grow spiritually you must stop the habit of coming to church to get something out of it; you must begin developing the habit of coming to church to put something in it.
- c. Pastor Dan:* The first real problem in the early church recorded in **Acts 6** occurred because of neglect. The apostles reminded the people of the priority the Lord placed on their lives of teaching His word. They were not above serving tables because for three years they had served tables, prepared meals and took care of Jesus. In **Acts 6:1-3** two acts of neglect which will cause it to become divisive and powerless if practiced. (1) When we neglect the people in our church and fail to meet their needs. (2) When we fail to do our part in ministry to the needs of people so the leadership of the church can focus on prayer and the ministry of teaching God’s Word. **Acts 6:1-3 NIV** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked [neglected] in the daily distribution of food.² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together

and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

- d. *Crandall Miller*: Neglect is the worst form of abuse. When you and I neglect anyone who walks through the doors of this church then we have done a great disservice to the Lord Jesus and His interest in people.
- e. *Pastor Dan*: Peter and John witnessed in the temple—their church at that time. Start where you are with the people who walk through your doors each service. **Acts 3:1-5** Peter and John went up together to the temple [they went to the temple to pray and witness] at 3 PM the hour of prayer ² And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb ... ³ who, seeing Peter and John ... asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.” ⁵ So he gave them his attention
- f. *Author Unknown*: Nothing great happens if you hold back. **Acts 20:20** Paul said to the Ephesians, “I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.
- g. *Pastor Dan*: God did not call me here to do what He called you to do; and He did not call you here to do what He called me to do.
- h. *Albert Einstien*: Only a life lived for others is worth living. (**John 13:34-35**)

2. **Witness In Your Community** (**Acts 1:8** *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 ends of the earth.*)

- a. *Pastor Dan*: Your calling is to take away the hurt of others [in your community]. A little care, a little love, a little kindness and a little taking an interest in people [in your community] is as powerful as a great sermon; it is a move of God that will never fade, it is one thing that will make an eternal difference in the lives of others [in your community].
- b. **Matthew 5:16** *Let your light so shine before people [in your community], that they may see your good works and glorify [recognize and honor] your Father in heaven.*)
- c. *Neil McQueen*: The most effective means of attracting new people to a church is by means of invitation. Have you heard or read the statistic that **70-80% of people would respond to a FRIEND’S INVITATION to attend your church?** I thought it sounded too good to be true ... until I found the actual survey. It was done in 2006 by Lifeway Research, the research division of the Southern Baptist Convention. **Inviting Works!** According to the same research, over 90% of new church members said they attended church the first time because a friend invited them. This number also gives a greater chance of a second time visit (the crucial one) because they already know someone.
- d. **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- e. *Leonard Ravenhill*: We Christians are debtors to all men at all times in all places, but we are so smug to the lost state of people. We’ve been "living in Laodicea ", lax, loose, lustful, and lazy. Why is there this criminal indifference to humanities lost state of existence? Our condemnation is that we know how to live better than we are living.
- f. *Kirk Cameron*: If you had the cure to cancer wouldn’t you share it? You have the cure to death ... so get out there and share it.

Ten Reasons why a Person chooses a particular Church

1. The theological beliefs and doctrine of church.
2. The people seem to care about each other.
3. The quality of the sermons that are preached.
4. How friendly the people are to visitors.
5. How involved the church is in helping poor and disadvantaged people.
6. The quality of the programs and [classes](#) for children.
7. How much you like the pastor.
8. The denomination the church is affiliated with.
9. The quality of the adult Sunday School classes.
10. The convenience of the times of their weekend

Closing and Invitation; William Booth: While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while children go hungry, as they do now I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight-I'll fight to the very end!