



Grace Assembly Of God

## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Acts 1	Title:	Witnesses of Christ
Author	Ps Alvin Lim		
Summary of Chapter	The book of Acts records the rapid growth of the early church and the spread of the gospel from the Jewish to the Gentile world by the power of the Holy Spirit despite being persecuted by the authorities. In Chapter 1, Jesus at His ascension, asked the apostles to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Matthias was selected to replace Judas as one of the apostles.		

Key Verse(s) NLT	How does it speak to me?
<i><sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.</i>	<p>This familiar verse tells us the primary reason why Jesus wanted the disciples to wait in Jerusalem. They would need the power of the Holy Spirit to begin their mission and be witnesses of Christ from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. The word <i>witness</i> means someone who sees an event and reports what happened. When the Holy Spirit fills us, what do we see and what do we report?</p> <p>On my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, I prayed that I wanted to see God's face and then I experienced the supernatural empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Before that, I was a nominal Christian for the first 5 years of my Christian life. After that prayer, I began having a desire to share the Gospel which I never had before. I shared the Gospel to my family, friends, and people on the streets. After that I went for a missions trip in Malaysia for a week. The following year, I went to East Asia for a month to reach out to the students in the university there. I experienced the Holy Spirit's empowerment to share the Gospel in Mandarin which was my weakest subject. A teacher in the university there received Christ and that experience greatly impacted me. All these would not have been possible through my own human strength but can only be achieved through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. I also received my full-time calling there in East Asia. I am thankful that I experienced God using me to share the Gospel in different places and arenas as the Holy Spirit filled me just like in the key verse.</p> <p>We need to be empowered by the Spirit to constantly preach the Gospel wherever we are and it should not just be a one-time experience. May we see Christ and report all that He has done upon the cross and in our lives.</p>

### APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	Are we allowing the Holy Spirit to constantly empower us to be witnesses of Christ wherever He has placed us? Ask God to fill us constantly.
Youth:	Do our friends know that we are Christians? Does our life represent Christ in our speech and actions? Ask God to empower us to be His witnesses.
Child:	Share with a friend this week about how Jesus can be his/her special friend whom he/she can talk to and is powerful to help him/her.

### PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Dear heavenly Father, fill us with the power of Your Holy Spirit to be Your witnesses to report to others what You have done in our lives and on the cross wherever You have placed us.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank You for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.