

“Witnesses with Evidence: The Power of the Gospel and Miracles”

Summary

Today, we delved into the power of miracles and their crucial role in spreading the Gospel. We explored Isaiah 53, which prophesies about Jesus and His sacrificial death for our sins. This 'report' or message, when believed, reveals the 'arm of the Lord' - His miraculous power. We learned that faith comes by hearing this report, not just any word, but specifically the message of Christ's redemptive work. This insight challenges us to refocus on the core Gospel message in our lives and ministries. Are we truly proclaiming the transformative power of Christ's sacrifice? How might our faith grow if we fully embraced and shared this 'report'?

Main Points – Guest Speaker Harry Jackson

Title: Witnesses with Evidence: The Power of the Gospel and Miracles

Sermon Summary: This sermon emphasizes the importance of miracles and signs in evangelism and the spreading of the Gospel. Harry Jackson says that more people come to Christ when they witness verifiable miracles. He outlines three methods through which miracles occur: the power of the Gospel message itself, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and personal relationship with God. The sermon encourages believers to actively participate in spreading the Gospel and not solely rely on special anointings or revivals.

Key Points:

- The Gospel itself has power to produce miracles and signs
- More people come to Christ when they witness verifiable miracles
- There are three methods of miracles: Gospel message, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and personal relationship with God
- Believers should not wait for special anointings but act on the Gospel message
- The Holy Spirit works alongside believers, not instead of them
- The same miracles done by gifts can be accomplished through the power of the Gospel message

Scripture Reference:

- Isaiah 53:1-5
- Matthew 11:20-24

- Romans 10:16-17
- John 15:26-27
- Hebrews 2:3-4

Stories:

- The speaker shares a personal experience of ministering in a church where he prayed for a woman born blind, deaf, and mute who was miraculously healed
- The story of Jesus healing the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-15) is used to illustrate the difference between specific gifts and the broader power of the Gospel

Small Group Study Guide – Guest Speaker Harry Jackson

Small Group Guide: Witnesses with Evidence

Key Takeaways:

1. The gospel message itself has power to produce miracles and faith.
2. There are three methods of miracles: through the gospel message, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and personal relationship with God.
3. More people come to Christ when miracles happen.
4. We shouldn't wait for revival or special anointing - we can act on the gospel now.

Discussion Questions:

1. The speaker emphasizes "witnesses with evidence." What does this mean to you? How can we be effective witnesses for Christ in our daily lives?
2. Discuss the three miracle methods mentioned in the sermon. Which one resonates most with you and why?
3. The sermon highlights Isaiah 53 as a key "report" that produces faith. Read this passage together. How does this depiction of Christ impact your faith?
4. How do you think the balance between human action and the Holy Spirit's work should look in ministry?
5. The speaker mentions that "more people come to Jesus when miracles happen." Do you agree? Share experiences where you've seen this to be true or false.
6. What are your thoughts on the idea that we shouldn't wait for revival but act on the gospel now?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, share the "report" from Isaiah 53 with someone who doesn't know Christ. Be prepared to discuss your experience next week.
2. Identify an area in your life where you've been "waiting for a move of God." What step can you take to act on the gospel in that area?
3. Spend time daily this week meditating on one aspect of Christ's sacrifice as described in Isaiah 53. Journal how this impacts your faith and relationship with God.
4. Practice sharing your testimony, focusing on the "evidence" of God's work in your life. Be prepared to share with the group next time.
5. As a group, plan an outreach activity where you can practically demonstrate God's love and be open to praying for people's needs.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the power of your gospel. Help us to be bold witnesses, not just with words but with evidence of your work in our lives. Increase our faith to act on your Word and to expect your miraculous power. May we be conduits of your love and power to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Guest Speaker: Harry Jackson

How might our understanding of miracles change if we view them as evidence of God's message rather than isolated supernatural events?

In what ways can we cultivate a faith that expects and acts upon miracles in our daily lives, as described by the speaker?

How does the concept of 'witnesses with evidence' challenge or affirm your current approach to sharing your faith?

What are the implications of Jesus basing His ministry on Isaiah's prophecy, and how might this inform our own ministry efforts?

How can we balance waiting on the Holy Spirit's move with taking action in our own faith, as the speaker suggests?

In what ways might our focus on spectacular 'revivals' be hindering our everyday walk with God and ability to minister to others?

How does the speaker's explanation of the three 'miracle methods' challenge or expand your understanding of how God works?

What are the potential dangers of relying solely on 'special words' or being 'called out' for healing, rather than trusting in the power of the gospel message?

How might our approach to evangelism and ministry change if we truly believed that 'more people get saved when people get healed'?

In what ways can we cultivate a closer 'abiding' relationship with Jesus that allows us to 'ask what we will' and see it done?

Scriptures – Harry Jackson, Witnesses with Evidence

Here are the [scripture references](#) mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

1. Matthew 24:14
2. Mark 16:15-18 (alluded to)
3. John 14:12
4. John 5:31-33
5. Romans 15:18-19
6. Acts 5:12-16
7. Acts 8:5-8
8. Acts 9:32-35
9. Matthew 11:20-24
10. Isaiah 53:1-5
11. John 12:37-38
12. Romans 10:16-17
13. Matthew 8:16-17
14. Acts 5:29-32
15. John 15:26-27
16. Hebrews 2:3-4
17. John 15:7 (alluded to)
18. John 5:2-9 (alluded to, story of healing at the Pool of Bethesda)
19. Matthew 9:35

The sermon also discusses general themes of miracles, healing, and the power of the gospel message. Some [additional relevant verses](#) that align with these themes could include:

20. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5
21. Acts 14:3
22. Mark 16:20
23. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

24. James 5:14-15

Devotional – Guest Speaker: Harry Jackson

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: The Power of God's Message

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-6

Devotional: As we read Isaiah's prophetic words about the Messiah, we're reminded that God's message has inherent power. The question "Who has believed our message?" challenges us to examine our own faith. Do we truly believe in the transformative power of the gospel? Reflect on how Jesus took our pain, bore our sorrows, and was wounded for our transgressions. This sacrificial love is the core of the "report" that reveals God's mighty arm. Today, meditate on how you can share this powerful message with others, allowing God's strength to be revealed through your witness.

Day 2: Faith That Produces Miracles

Reading: Matthew 8:14-17

Devotional: Jesus' healing ministry was a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. As we read about Christ healing all who were sick, we're reminded that our faith in God's word can produce miraculous results. The gospel isn't just good news – it's power for transformation. Consider areas in your life where you need God's healing touch. Approach Him with faith, believing that the same power that worked through Jesus is available to you today. How can you step out in faith, trusting God for the impossible?

Day 3: Witnesses with Evidence

Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Devotional: The early church grew rapidly because of the undeniable evidence of God's power working through the apostles. Signs and wonders accompanied their preaching, drawing many to faith in Christ. As believers, we're called to be witnesses with evidence – not just in words, but in power. Reflect on your own testimony. What tangible evidence of God's work can you share with others? Pray for opportunities to demonstrate God's love and power in practical ways, allowing your life to be a living witness to the gospel's transformative power.

Day 4: The Holy Spirit's Role in Ministry

Reading: John 15:26-27, Acts 5:32

Devotional: Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would testify about Him, and that we too would bear witness. This partnership between believers and the Holy Spirit is crucial for effective ministry. We do our part in sharing the gospel, and the Holy Spirit does what only He can do – convict hearts and reveal truth. Today, consciously invite the Holy Spirit to work through you. As you go about your day, be sensitive to His leading. How can you cooperate with the Spirit's work in the lives of those around you?

Day 5: Abiding in Christ for Fruitful Ministry

Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional: Jesus teaches us that the key to fruitful ministry is abiding in Him. This goes beyond mere belief – it's about cultivating a deep, ongoing relationship with Christ. As we remain connected to Him, His life flows through us, producing fruit that glorifies God. Reflect on your own "abiding" practices. How much time do you spend in God's presence through prayer, worship, and meditation on His word? Consider ways to deepen your connection with Christ, knowing that this intimate relationship is the source of all effective ministry and miraculous power in your life.