

THE TRANSPARENT CHURCH

5-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



Willing to Be a Witness

A week of going deeper into Acts 1:8

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.

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

On Sunday we learned that there's a difference between wanting to witness and being willing to witness. This week, we're going to sit with that difference — day by day — and let God move us from wanting to willing.

Each day includes a short reading, a reflection from the message, a question to sit with, and a simple prayer prompt. Find a quiet few minutes, grab a pen, and let's go.

DAY 1

Wanting vs. Willing

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.

Acts 1:8

FROM THE MESSAGE

There's a difference between wanting and willing. Wanting is a feeling that lives in your heart. Willing is a decision that shows up in your life — in what you say, and in what you do. The disciples in Acts 1 didn't just want to tell people about Jesus. They became willing, and the Holy Spirit gave them the power to follow through.

REFLECT

Where in your life have you been content to want something for God, without ever becoming willing to act on it? What has kept the wanting from turning into willing?

JOURNAL

PRAY

Lord, I don't just want to be a witness — I am willing to be one. Holy Spirit, give me the power to follow through today. Amen.

DAY 2

Let Your Life Speak

In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:16

FROM THE MESSAGE

Passive witnessing is your walk — the way you live shines a light before anyone hears a word from you. Before you ever say anything about Jesus, people are already watching how you handle pressure, how you treat people, and how you carry yourself when no one's applauding.

REFLECT

If someone watched your life this week without hearing you say a single word about your faith, what would they conclude about who you serve?

JOURNAL

PRAY

Father, let my good deeds shine so clearly that people are drawn to praise You, not me. Make my life a quiet sermon today. Amen.

DAY 3

Care Casts Out Fear

Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

1 John 4:18

FROM THE MESSAGE

The first essential to being an active witness is care. Most of our hesitation to speak up isn't really about doubting the gospel — it's about fear. But genuine love for people, the kind that actually cares about where they end up, pushes fear out of the room.

REFLECT

Think of someone specific in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus. Does fear or love have a louder voice when you think about talking to them?

JOURNAL

PRAY

Lord, grow my love for people until it's bigger than my fear. Let me care enough about someone's eternity that silence stops feeling safe. Amen.

DAY 4

Confidence and Courage

For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:7–8

FROM THE MESSAGE

Confidence is built through preparation — “work hard so you can present yourself to God” (2 Timothy 2:15). Courage is built through conviction. When you know what you believe and why, you can stand even when it costs you something. Courage comes from your convictions.

REFLECT

Where do you need to grow more — in confidence (knowing what to say) or courage (being willing to say it)? What’s one practical step you can take this week?

JOURNAL

PRAY

God, You haven’t given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline. Build my confidence in Your Word and my courage in my convictions. Amen.

DAY 5

Clarity: The Story We Tell

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

1 Peter 3:15

FROM THE MESSAGE

Clarity aids your confidence and your courage. You don't need a theology degree to be a witness — you need a clear, simple grasp of the story: we've all sinned (Romans 3:23), sin leads to death but God offers a free gift (Romans 6:23), God showed His love by sending Christ to die for us (Romans 5:8), salvation is a gift of grace, not a reward for works (Ephesians 2:8–10), and whoever declares Jesus as Lord and believes in their heart will be saved (Romans 10:9–10).

REFLECT

Could you walk a friend through that story in under two minutes, in your own words? Try writing it out below in your own voice.

JOURNAL

PRAY

Lord, make this story so clear in me that I'm always ready to explain it with gentleness and confidence. If I am willing, You are able. Amen.

“If you are willing, God is able.”