

# **The Evidence**

**“But 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.” Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.””**

**Acts 1:8-11 NKJV**

- 1. The Lord Jesus had to ascend and take His place at God's Right Hand before the Holy Spirit could be poured out.**
- 2. The disciples were not qualified witnesses until they saw the Lord ascend and received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. They spent three years in ministry school with Jesus as their teacher, they did some practicum casting out demons, saw Jesus crucified, buried, resurrected and glorified, but they were still not ready to proclaim the gospel. Why?**

**Son of Man, The Apostles Gospel**  
**Samuel Whitefield**

**“The Church is not simply the carrier of a message about Jesus. The Church is also the legal evidence that the message is true.”**

**“The disciples needed power from Heaven, but they also had to become the evidence of their message before they could be sent out. Therefore, anyone who receives the Spirit is a message to this age. They are a supernatural person—born human, but filled with God. God dwelling in a human is impossible by natural means, so every believer is a supernatural being. The world can argue with the message, but it cannot deny the evidence. The Church is the evidence Jesus is everything the Bible says He is.”**

**The evidence I represent as an individual has power to bear witness to the truth about Jesus.**

**The evidence the local church represents also has power to bear witness to the truth of Jesus.**

**They are not mutually exclusive.**

**Each person in the Upper Room was baptized in the Holy Spirit, but the evidence was not individual, but collective, and corporate.**

**God demonstrated His will for each believer to experience the Holy Spirit and display the evidence joined together as the Church to the world.**

**Story: When my parents received Christ in their late 30's, the evidence that they were in union with the Lord was so great, all five of their children are serving the Lord today. They didn't become perfect overnight, but the proof of God's power working in their lives was obvious and undeniable to everyone.**

**-The message loses its power when the evidence is weak.**

**-The message is what we know, but the evidence is what we are.**

## **1. DESTROY THE EVIDENCE:**

**“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.....”**

**John 10:10 NKJV**

**“Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.”**

**1 Peter 5:8 AMP**

## **2. DISTORT THE EVIDENCE:**

**“.....Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him [by God], speaking about these things as he does in all of his letters. In which there are some things that are difficult to understand, which the untaught and unstable [who have fallen into error] twist and misinterpret, just as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.**

**Therefore, [let me warn you] beloved, knowing these things beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men [who distort doctrine] and fall from your own steadfastness [of mind, knowledge, truth, and faith],”**

**2 Peter 3:15-17 AMP**

### **3. DISCREDIT THE EVIDENCE:**

**“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.**

**But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.””**

**Acts 4:13-17 NKJV**

**Story: In high school, the attempts to discredit the evidence, the marijuana accusation.**

**You are marked by the Holy Spirit as an exhibit bearing witness to the truth of the Gospel.**

**Your life is a warning to unbelievers that it's time to separate themselves from the beastly kingdoms of darkness and come to the Light of Jesus Christ.**

**You are proof that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**