

Being A Witness ■ Who Will Go!

by K.P. Yohannan

This sermon emphasizes the importance of living a life empowered by the Holy Spirit, focusing on the need to be witnesses of Jesus Christ through acts of love and compassion. It highlights the true nature of the Holy Spirit as a person who empowers believers to serve others selflessly, warns against false prophets who seek personal gain, and encourages a life of prayer, faith, and dependence on God's strength for impactful living.

Scripture: Acts 1:8, Acts 16:16, John 14:26, Galatians 5:22, 1 John 4:1, Matthew 5:16, James 2:14, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 12:7

Topics: "Empowerment by the Holy Spirit", "Witnessing through Love and Compassion"

Description

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Transcript

Would you all stand with me just for a second? This week, without any doubt, has been the most exciting and exhilarating for our church. And for me, it's been an absolute joy to see all of you, I consider my children. All of you, you are brothers and sisters.

So, turn to the person right, left, behind you and give them a smile and a nice hug. No boys hugging any girls. Alright.

You can be seated. Some of us were talking today saying that how sad it is our week went by so fast. I am sure we will have many more opportunities like this.

I am sure we will have many more opportunities like this. I was so glad to hear this afternoon from our Father Sijo and Jeena Kachamba and several other people that some of the most brilliant young people in our generation, they are here in our meeting. I was so glad to hear this afternoon from our Father Sijo and Jeena Kachamba and several other people that some of the most brilliant young people in our generation, they are here in our meeting.

I was hoping that our church will be able to pray and sponsor at least 100 young people who will want to go for their civil service education to become IAS officers. These are people, those who become collectors

and people responsible to serve our country. And they are extremely powerful positions.

Recently when we had the massive flood in Kerala, I happened to see the collector responsible for this district. He was speaking on the television. I was so moved by his genuineness and his compassion as a young person.

By religious beliefs, he is a Muslim. And I said to myself, I must do whatever I can to help him. And I went to see him.

And together we helped thousands of families. And someday, Believers Eastern Church should have thousands of young people serving our country. And that's what God wants from us.

And I am glad you are called by God to do it. And think about it, in many parts of our country and in neighboring countries, up to 100 km radius, there is no doctor, there is no nurse, there is no hospital. Who will care for those poor people? And Jesus said to us, you must go.

And you must love others just as I loved you. And I am so glad that God has burdened our heart to do things like that. And today, our special theme is about the Holy Spirit.

And the Holy Spirit is not just power. He is a person. I mean, look at me.

I can raise my hand. I can lift things. And I can pick up things.

I can write things. It all takes energy. I am a person.

Some people think the Holy Spirit is a power. It is like you. You are walking.

Why? You have energy. Walking is not you. You are a person.

Holy Spirit is a person. So, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, that is what the very special privilege the church has to worship the Holy Trinity. And the Holy Spirit's role is to give us the power to be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is the reason we are asked to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit. That is the reason we are asked to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit. I remember when I was about 19 years old, I was in Jammu.

And because of my ability to speak and teach, lots of people, lots of churches invited me to be the speaker. And I was very glad to do it. I was proud of it.

And I thank God for the intelligence God gave me. And you have your abilities. But I remember that evening.

There was a big crowd. And I was supposed to be the main speaker. And I just didn't have any strength in me.

I was travelling many, many weeks. And I was so desperate. So, I went into a tiny room.

And I knelt down beside the bed. And I prayed. And I said these words.

You see, prayer always for me means talking to someone. And I said, Jesus, You said you will give me power. And I ask you, please, would you do that for me? And give me the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, I can speak to all these people tonight on your behalf. And I was so sincere. Because I had my message and my notes.

But I felt so helpless. And you know the amazing thing happened. It is like you put your hand in the socket, in the electric socket.

And I think God had to do that for me, I think. I felt strange strength coming into my being. I was so filled with God's love.

It is like a thousand watt electricity going through my body. In the end, I said, God, please stop it. I can't take it anymore.

And the amazing thing was, my heart was so completely filled with God's love. And I preached that night. Not in my strength.

He gave me the filling of the Holy Spirit. And this is our birthright. There are people who teach us all kinds of false doctrines about the Holy Spirit.

Our Bishop Timothy Oss, this morning, talked to you about it. And this is the reason why Believers Eastern Church stays with God's Word. And also the teaching, the tradition of the Apostles and the early Church Fathers.

Anything God has for us, it comes through faith. How do my sins get forgiven? I don't see any signs in the sky. It says in the scripture, if I say I have no sin, I am deceiving myself.

But if I say, I am a sinner, when I get angry with people, when I lie to people, when I am proud, the Holy Spirit convicts me. My conscience bothers me. What am I supposed to do? I say, Lord, please forgive me.

And if I offended my father, I go and tell him, Father, I am very sorry. Father, I told you the truth, but the way I said it to you, it was not kind. And I ask you to forgive me.

See, many people think doing the right thing is love. It is not. Love is greater than truth.

This is a problem of the church many times. You see, you think about someone in your village. He may be a Muslim.

He may be a Hindu. He may be somebody who doesn't believe in God. And he may have leprosy.

And how do you deal with them? Somebody died in their home. Somebody is poor. The children cannot go to school.

What do you say? Oh, they are not my religion. They don't believe in my God. So, they are not my family.

No. All people are our family. How do you know that? God, one God made all of us in His image.

If a father has ten children, suppose my father has ten children and you take all the ten children's DNA, all of them are his children. The same way, regardless of caste, creed and religion, Bible says, God made all of us. Out of love, He made us.

And Jesus Christ is not Christian's God. Bible is not Christian's book. God loves all people.

So, here is a Hindu family. Here is an atheist family. And I hear early morning that somebody died in their home.

So, what do I do? I think, it is just like my family. I take the two-wheeler or bicycle and early morning I rush to their home. And knock at the door.

And they open the door. They are crying. They are weeping.

They ask, What do you want? Why did you come here? Why did you come here? I speak Hindi, you speak English. And then you say, Oh, I am a student here at the college. I heard about your son died.

I just wanted to come by and tell you I am so sorry. Is there anything I can do to help? And that mother may say, You don't have any help. You don't know what to do.

And my husband died. And I have no money. So, what do you do? And you say, Aunty, I will do what I can.

You are not pulling your Bible out. You are not preaching Bible verses. And you go home and ask your father and your mother and I have some money.

They say, We are also poor people, man. I have no money here. What can you do? And then you think, Oh my goodness, I want to help their family.

Then you realize you have a watch. And you quietly go to a shop, man. Or anyone.

Please help me. Can I sell this watch to you? What do you want with that? I paid 500 rupees for this. Anything you give, it is only one year old.

The man says, Will you give me 10 rupees? 10 rupees. And you say, Please, I went to your home. They are poor.

Somebody died. They are needing help. And all I have is this.

Can you please help me with more money? And he is a Hindu owner of the shop. And he says to you, Are you telling me the truth? Yes. Then he says, Okay, wait here.

Then he makes some telephone calls. Then he comes back. He says, Yes, I know it happened.

What do you want? I don't know, sir. But they need some help. And he gives you 1000 rupees.

And then you take the watch. And give it to him. He says, no.

You keep the watch. You take the money to them and help them. And you bring it to them.

And you say to the auntie, I got this money for you. Anything else I can do? And she is wondering if you are a human being or an angel. All you do is love.

Let me ask you this. Why do you feel kindness in your heart towards them? Because God's kindness is inside you. And you went to the shop man.

He is a Hindu Brahmin. He heard the story. God made him to give you the money.

It's a kindness God put in his heart. You see, you understand. We all are connected.

Whether we are near or far. This is how Jesus wants us to live as his witness in this world. I remember one day when I was travelling in the train in Rajasthan.

And those days there was no second class. It was first class and Gandhi class. That is before you were born.

And I had my seat. It's my seat. Then I saw an old Marwadi Mataji standing there.

And I said to her, Please sit here. And she sat there. She didn't even look at me.

Didn't say thank you. I was very sad. Later I said to myself, I am so selfish.

I did that so she will thank me. She will think I am a good person. But that's not what God does.

He gave his grace and blessings to all people in spite, instead of people getting mad at God. But the question is this. How can we live as Jesus lived on earth? That's what Jesus said.

As the Father sent me, so I am sending you. You be the light of the world. You be the salt of the earth.

How do you do that? You allow the living Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit dwell in you. Every morning you get up. You kneel by your bedside.

And you pray. What do you pray? What I do, I first make the sign of the cross. My life is sealed with the cross of Christ.

I am his. Then I say to him, Today, please Jesus be with me. Then I read the scripture.

Then I say the Nicene Creed. Then I pray the Lord's Prayer. And end with the sign of the cross.

And that day, I want the Holy Spirit to guide me. People talk to me on the telephone. All the time I am on the telephone.

And many times when I am talking on the telephone, inside me, I am saying, Holy Spirit, help me to understand what I must do. What I must say. How I must respond.

The amazing thing from inside me I can hear the Lord speaking. That is Holy Spirit. Your conscience is the most powerful weapon God has to speak to you and through you as you live this life.

So living by the power of the Holy Spirit simply means you allow the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Lord all the time. But how do you do that? Ok, this morning you ate breakfast and lunch time you ate lunch and even in dinner and in the evening you did not eat. Are you dying of hunger? No problem, you will get it.

You will have your dinner. But why eat breakfast, lunch and dinner in between tea and biscuit and all that? Because our body needs energy. This evening I had a glass of juice and I ate one egg and I also was swimming in the water.

This is true. I need a strength to speak to you. The food and the drink gives me the strength.

So somebody says Did you eat food? And that person says Yes, yes, yes, yes. But when? Oh, 25 years ago. And you say 25 years ago? You never ate anything since then? You will say Something is wrong with

his head.

That's not normal. The same thing. Every day you need to be connected with the life of God.

That's what Jesus said in Saint John chapter 15 Abide in me and I in you and if you do that you will bear the fruit automatically. If the branch is cut off it will dry out. Now the question How do you live in constant fellowship experiencing the life, the power of God? The early church fathers in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th century on the true name they are orthodox fathers and they taught always live in the presence of God.

But how do you do that? See, I recommend you make it a point you pray in the morning you read your scripture. We have a book that helps you to read through the whole scripture, Bible in one year. Then you ask God please speak to me give me strength and then you pray for the day then just before noon time stop whatever you are doing.

We have a lot to learn from our Muslim brothers and sisters and from the Jewish people. How many times a day they pray? In the book of Daniel you read three times a day morning, noon and night so I ask you young people this is something our church teaches all individuals all people make a habit to pray in the morning pray in the noon time and pray in the evening this is your personal prayer because you can talk to God. You know how I pray I have a little car and nobody is in the car except me you saw that you know I charge the electricity so when I get in the car I sit for a second and I say oh Lord I am starting this day please help me and I pray whatever I need to pray and I make the sign of the cross then the car takes off but then on the right side of my car on the left side is the passenger seat and nobody is sitting there and I imagine Jesus is sitting there and I say all kinds of things to him one day I said Jesus I don't know what you are doing I have been telling you about a lot of problems I am dealing with please do something about it and this is a conversation prayer is basically talking to someone he is not million mile away he is near you how we do that because the Holy Spirit in us gives us the grace and strength to pray without the Holy Spirit we cannot live the Christian life without electricity the bulb will not shine there will not be any light and as young people as you are you should pray earnestly the Lord will help you to live by the power of the Holy Spirit but what is one of the proof of the feeling of the Holy Spirit we saw the scripture verse but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to me the Holy Spirit was not sent to give us goosebumps and shake around or fall down no the Holy Spirit came as a person to empower us give us strength to be Christ witness so all these things I told you we don't know it is happening the bulb has no clue it is happening but the energy is flowing through and how we do that you surrender your life continually to the Lordship of Christ and the Holy Spirit and the Father it is called the sacrament life but when we live like that life becomes much easier you know I do exercise like push ups you don't believe that I will show you here I did that I do that everyday I think father they are all going to do push ups they are all going to do push ups it is important to exercise but you see unless we engage our life unless we yield our life I can stand here and say I am going to do push ups in my mind 1 2 3 4 5 nothing will happen this is what you need to understand sacramental life means a life filled and led by the Holy Spirit this reason is so important that you be faithful to your church it is so important that you partake from the Eucharist because it is supernatural it is not something we are doing and through the Eucharist Jesus life is flowing into us but how by the power of the Holy Spirit when the priest take the bread in his hand and he bless and consecrate it when he take the chalice in his hand and he consecrate it what is he doing? he is saying may the Holy Spirit and all the mystery happens through the power of the Holy Spirit this is the reason why our church teaches so strong about the mystery of Eucharist I am telling you things that are practical talking about doctrines without real reality of life has no meaning we read about the Lord Jesus he was led by the Holy Spirit to go into the wilderness to fast and pray here you are you are in

college you are in high school you live with your family your relatives lots of problems with people he knows some of that what do you do? he knows someone who is taking drugs and he knows he is going to destroy his life he is eating pan all the time like a cow but do you know what is going to happen? he is going to get cancer and he knows that you should tell him don't do this but there is a problem in Saint John chapter 10 verse 10 Jesus said Satan has come and demons at work we cannot see them what is their purpose? to destroy your life to make you poor and helpless and cause you to be ill and sick and Jesus said I have come to give you life and life abundant and Jesus he says he was led by the Holy Spirit 40 days of prayer and fasting so now you see your friend he is doing wrong thing he is going to hurt himself he could be a family member so what do you do? you say Lord Jesus help me what must I do? and you will hear him speak to you how do you hear? with your ears? no in your heart you feel this urge it is like drinking water when you drink water we should drink more water but we will drink when we are thirsty so in your spirit you feel the urge I should pray say maybe I must fast so you take a day or two or three fasting and pray for what? for God to set him free from the addiction why you do that? because the Holy Spirit alive in you is guiding you this you take any part of your life you will be surprised when you are led by the Holy Spirit you will do things normally you don't do some of your friends they are dangerous friends and our bishop this morning told you about that you don't know what to do you are struggling God can do wonders through the power of the Holy Spirit if you depend on him in our own strength we cannot do it but with his power we can do it so Christian life is not living a life by our strength but a life lived by the power of God but how we experience that the connection is prayer and faith that's the reason I told you the other day about the Jesus prayer in the orthodox faith they made a string with knots in it and each knot at that knot they hold and pray the prayer Jesus Christ Son of God have mercy on me I am a sinner so we always live with the awareness who we are and who God is there are lots of false prophets going around they say they got power of the Holy Spirit they can heal people all kind of things be very careful the power of the Holy Spirit more than anything else is giving us the understanding of others need of the Lord Jesus Christ and all these healers going around how much money they are collecting you never find apostles collecting money from people for healing people in the book of Acts chapter 16 you will find a young girl and he was going around talking about people's future and people are giving money who they are making money he says her owners huge amount of money they are making I can tell you this as your spiritual father anyone who pray and heal and preach and ask for money take money for the ministry they are doing they are false prophets that I didn't say it the early church father said it and there are prophets going around they speak in some strange language I am not saying Holy Spirit will not enable someone to speak in tongues that is not what I am saying but they go around and say these strange languages and then I don't know if it is a language or not but they will tell you what God said they cannot show that in the Bible and what do they do they collect money they put fear on you I tell you listen to me young people anytime anytime you get afraid you fear that is not from God it says in 2nd Timothy God has not sent the spirit of fear so in the book of Acts chapter 16 this young girl was talking about people's future and people believed it I tell you something happened to me a real story it was 1973 December I was in Delhi and that night I was supposed to catch Air India flight from Delhi to Frankfurt Germany and I went to the Air India ticket office to get my ticket and they said where is your passport I gave my passport the man looked all through this he said we cannot give you a ticket I said what happened I had to go tonight he said you are not buying clearance I had no bank account what clearance I must get he said sorry you need to get bank clearance for you to leave India and I didn't know what to do so I called a friend I said sir this is what happened he said come here no problem so I went to his house he said in Connaught place there is a bank you go and tell so and so that I sent you please give me the stamp so I had few hours left I was in panic Connaught place in Delhi in the afternoon is like an ocean of people I was rushing and people everywhere I am right there among 100,000

200,000 people the man looked at me he said one minute please stop I said what do you want he looked into my face and he said tonight you are going to airport you are catching a flight you are going to Germany give me 5 rupees I will tell you the rest of the story give me 5 rupees I will tell you the rest of the story I am telling you the this really happened but I knew enough of the bible I said this I don't want to listen to him I said sir I have to go please let me go I rushed to the bank and got my paper and I caught my flight how did that man knew how did he know it is bible called familiar spirit they are demons that's what you read in act 16 so so many people in the name of Jesus are going around as prophets don't let them come to your house don't let them in the church I know too many families destroyed by these people I am sure there are godly prophets and they will say what the lord said and give them 100 rupees they will not take it you give them 1 crore they will not take it I knew people like that but Jesus said in the last days the greatest falling away from faith will happen through false prophets and I warn this to you because when you go home you need to tell your parents you need to tell other people in the church believers in eastern church believe in the book of acts everything there we believe everything we believe I lived in Rajasthan for 2 years and I was in Kota for many months but I am telling you a surreal story this team of young people like me we go around and distribute gospel tracts and booklets and tell people about Jesus one of those teams they were doing not far from Kota Rajasthan and free literature there was a little booklet it is named the good shepherd it's about Jesus and this man came and got that he was in his early 50s and he left but what happened this man had cancer in the last stage and the hospital said there is nothing we can do you go home and die and he decided he wanted to go far away from his home and commit suicide it was on the way to kill himself he met this team and got this booklet and he sat by the roadside and he read it he talked about the Lord Jesus he forgave your sin whatever you need call upon him God loves you he cares about you and he never prayed to Jesus and he sat there on the roadside in his own words he said Jesus I don't know who you are but this booklet says you are a loving God and I ask you to please help me I am going to kill myself can you please heal me I don't know I am a sinner but I am praying to you all of a sudden he felt something strange happened in his body a new strength came in his body he didn't go and hang himself instead he went back to the hospital and the doctor said we told you everything you need to know there is nothing more we can do it's too late then he said doctor sahab one request please test me again give me all the tests and he insisted he said I will give you all the money anyway I am not poor and they did and the doctor said we don't know what happened and many doctors came together they said all our tests all was wrong always this man has no cancer he is completely normal and this man pulled out this booklet from his pocket and he said doctor sahab this booklet healed me and they thought he went mad hallelujah and with the address on the booklet he went to the station where our people are and told them the story and they explained him the lord jesus is a loving saviour he heard your prayer and he healed you think about that real event in the life of that man how did that happen the power of the holy spirit that's what is in the book of acts saint peter and saint john were going to church there is a man sitting there he is begging he is crippled he can't walk and saint peter said look at me and he looked at saint peter thinking he is going to get some money and saint peter said we don't have any money but that which we have we will give it to you in the name of the lord jesus christ you stand up and walk and he stood up he got healed that's exactly what the holy spirit came to do you will find that throughout the bible the real holy spirit leads people to follow the lord jesus christ the false holy spirit will cause people to follow the man and the man makes money and he becomes a millionaire that is not the holy spirit and i tell this to you because we are living in a dangerous time i want you to follow christ till the end of your life i will end by telling you another real story this happened in tribandrum it's told to me by a professor the teaching in the kerala university in the class there were some 30-35 students and there was one girl in the class she was in the post graduate studies msc or ma and the professor was an atheist he didn't believe in god he just

made fun of the girl all the time where is your god where is jesus what is this why all the suffering in the world can't god do something about it the poor girl didn't know anything one day she went to the professor and said sir i don't know how to answer your questions but one thing i know the blood of jesus cleanses us from all sin and he loves you that is all she knew she didn't know how to preach some years later this professor got sick and he was in the hospital all his friends left him and he was battling with death and one day he was laying in his bed helpless lonely forsaken by all and he was looking at a blank wall all of a sudden it was as though somebody was writing on the wall the blood of christ cleanses us from all sin jesus loves you that came back to his mind laying there he said i don't believe in god i don't believe in jesus but i am dying i remember the girl telling me jesus if you are real if the girl said it is true please have mercy on me and please help me miracle happens the man got healed he recovered completely here is the question how did that happen a young girl studying in college she is not a bible scholar but she had in her the love to tell others about the dear lord jesus christ she didn't back off she didn't say if i tell this to him he will hate me she didn't know how to argue all she could say is what she knew that is being a witness of christ when you go to a shop you buy things and they give you change back you get home they give you five rupees more and then you rush back and you say what happened sahab you gave me five rupees more and you give it back that is you are a witness of jesus that is what it is i recommend you every week go to a hospital and see the sick people especially cancer hospitals spend a few hours and see the pain see the agony if you are from a city go to the street and see the poor children see the beggars and say to yourself but for the grace of god that is me think like that and even if you don't have any money to give that night you will pray oh god that woman i met the children i met please have mercy on them why jesus lived on earth not for himself he lived for others and now you live for others but how can we do that we need supernatural strength i myself am a selfish person i am thinking about my stomach i don't think about your stomach but if i live by the holy spirit depending on him then i think about you i think about all people and i pray that believers eastern church our future is in your hand and you will become living christ everywhere you go and people think what is wrong with him what is wrong with her and they will discover you are a follower of the lord jesus christ that is the reason the holy spirit came and you allow the holy spirit to witness about jesus through your life i must conclude i know you are special why because god brought you here you say i had no plan to do this but god had a plan he loves you he brought you here what you heard this week what you hear tonight is to tell you lord jesus is more closer to you than you can ever imagine and by faith take his hand everyday and say jesus lead me and the holy spirit will give you the strength and you are the living christ today and believers eastern church will become the reason for millions of people to find hope and new beginning in their life may the lord bless us would you stand with me just for prayer i just want us to be absolutely quiet no one making any noise close your eyes keep your heads down and think think one thought holy spirit process come and take control of my life lord jesus here i am fill me with your holy spirit in silence you surrender your whole life at the feet of jesus

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