

Bay City Wesleyan Church
June 2, 2019

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Sunday Morning 06-02-2019

SUMMER TEACHING SERIES (June 2-August 13)

Learning to be Witnesses: Embracing Your Fears with Faith

Why do you get out of bed each day? What's your purpose? Why do you think God put you in this place and time? How much peace, love, joy, and hope do you want to experience? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace your fears with faith as you learn to be one of Jesus's witnesses.

<http://bible.com/events/628993>

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Learning to be Witnesses: Embracing Your Fears with Faith

<https://imageproxy-cdn.youversionapi.com/320x320/https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mushroom-event-images-prod/5722009-1558222827628.jpg>

Summer Series

Learning to be Witnesses: Embracing Your Fears with Faith

How much peace, love, joy, and hope do you want to experience? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace your fears with faith as you learn to be one of Jesus's witnesses.

Daily Devotional Thoughts on the Book of Acts

Tomorrow (June 3rd) we will gather at the starting line for a marathon of a journey together: The Acts of the Holy Spirit (I mean... the Apostles). We will start in an upper room in Jerusalem and wind up on our way to the ends of the earth.

Sign up at the link below to receive daily devotional thoughts.

<https://www.seedbed.com/daily-text-subscribe>

I'm starting this study of the book of Acts in the apostle Paul's letter to the Jesus followers in Rome.

Paul is the main character in over half of the book of Acts. That record of the early church ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome.

Paul wrote to the Romans to introduce himself to them. It was written sometime before the end of Acts and in the 15th chapter, he gives a very short summary of his work.

Romans 15:14-19 NET

14</small> But I myself am fully convinced about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. 15</small> But I have written more boldly to you on some points so as to remind you, because of the grace given to me by God <font

16</small> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. I serve the gospel of God like a priest, so that the Gentiles may become an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17</small> So I boast in

Christ Jesus about the things that pertain to God. 18</small> For I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in order to bring about the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, 19</small> in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem even as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.
<https://bible.com/bible/107/rom.15.14-19.net>

There are four ingredients in the Spirit's plan for building the Church - "by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of God."

Sermon in a Sentence:

When the Holy Spirit does what only he can do, people draw closer to Jesus.

... the number one reason people go to [worship gatherings] is not out of need or desire to connect with others, but out of a deep-seated longing to experience and encounter the [Creator] of the universe.

Citation: © 2016, Stephen D. Elliot, By Signs and Wonders: How the Holy Spirit Builds the Church, Seedbed.com

There are four ingredients in the Spirit's plan for building the Church - Spirit-empowered words, good deeds; the power of the Spirit's presence; and in miracles, signs, and wonders.

Individual Christians and whole churches put excessive emphasis on one or two ingredients to the exclusion of the others. But healthy congregations utilize all four to introduce more people to Jesus.

When the Holy Spirit does what only he can do, people draw closer to Jesus.