

What Has God Been Up To?

The Ministries of the Holy Spirit Series – Part 6

1. We are called to join a long line of “witnesses”

PETER: *To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, **a witness of Christ's sufferings** and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed.*
1 Peter 5:1 (NIV)

JOHN: *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And **we have seen and testify** that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.*

1 John 4:13-14 (NIV)

JOHN: *That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we have looked at** and **our hands have touched**--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.*
1 John 1:1 (NIV)

PAUL: *So do not be ashamed **to testify** about our Lord.*

2 Timothy 1:8a (NIV)

PAUL testifies about Jesus to the Jews in Pisidian Antioch

*The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days **he was seen** by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. **They are now his witnesses** to our people.*

Acts 13:27-31 (NIV)

PAUL gives his personal “Testimony” to King Agrippa:

*"On one of my journeys **I was going to Damascus** with the authority and commission of the chief priests. About noon, O king, as I was on the road, **I saw a light from heaven**, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. **We all fell to the ground**, and I*

heard a voice** saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' **"Then I asked**, 'Who are you, Lord?' **"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,**' **the Lord replied.** **"So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

Acts 26:12-15 & 19 (NIV)

2. Jesus’ Word, Works and Wonders provided powerful, balanced testimony to His unique identity and mission

Jesus’ Clear Words: He testified clearly about His identity

Jesus said to (Thomas), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. John 14:6 (NASB)

Jesus’ Good Works: He fed, healed and comforted people.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. John 14:12 (NASB)

Jesus’ Wonders: He gave supernatural evidence to his identity

Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

John 14:11 (NIV)

3. We are included in a very impressive group of witnesses!

*How shall we escape (God’s righteous judgement) if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced **by the Lord (Jesus himself)**, was confirmed to us **by those who heard him (the Apostles)**. **By God (the Father)** also testifying to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and **by gifts of the Holy Spirit** distributed according to his will (to Christ-followers like us).*

Hebrews 2:3-4 (NIV)

4. What has the Lord been doing here at The Harbor?

Alpha retreats, Student Rethink Conference, Healing seminar!