

Denying God's Power for Revival - Part 1

by Edgar Reich

Edgar Reich emphasizes the importance of witnessing and the necessity of relying on the Holy Spirit's power for revival in the Christian life.

Duration: 42:39

Scripture: Matthew 28:19, Luke 12:12, John 17:20, Acts 8:4, Romans 10:10, Romans 10:14, 1 John 4:4

Topics: "Revival"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the importance of witnessing and sharing the word of God with others. They emphasize the need for repentance and asking for forgiveness for not being a faithful witness. The speaker also encourages seeking the filling of the Holy Spirit and having faith that God will provide the words to speak. They address common fears and doubts that may hinder witnessing, reminding listeners that relying on oneself and denying the power of God is not the way to go. The sermon concludes with references to biblical verses that emphasize the commandment to go and make disciples of all nations.

Transcript

And dear sisters and brothers in Christ, welcome and I feel so much that I am in your debt. I thank you so much for your prayers and for your love and in turn I owe you love. I have come through a period of sickness but it has been the kind of sickness that has drawn me much closer to him and so I praise God for everything that he's doing.

The message for tonight is Denying God's Power for Revival, Part One. And there are three scriptures. 2 Chronicles 7, 14 says, If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

And then 2 Timothy 3, verse 5, Having a form of godliness but denying its power and from such people turn away. And then Acts 1, 8, 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.

The first scripture I mentioned was 2 Chronicles 7, 14, which addresses God's people and that includes us today. The Lord states as the fourth condition that we must turn from our wicked ways. I have wrestled much with this.

What are wicked ways of Christians? What are my wicked ways as a Christian? 2 Corinthians 13, 5 says, Test and examine yourself. I have tried to examine myself as to whether I am in the faith. And then scripture says in 2 Corinthians 13, 5, Test yourselves.

Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you are disqualified? Then scripture tells me in 2 Timothy 3, 12, Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. Now I'm not suffering persecution. And I asked the question, Why? Was scripture wrong or is it me? Is my life not godly and where am I going wrong? If I lived a godly life, surely there would be persecution.

Am I blending in so well into the world that I'm making no difference? What makes a difference? Scripture says in Matthew 5, 11 to 14, Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven. For so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

And now come two key verses here. Verse 13, You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by man. You are the light of the world.

A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. As a Christian, I can do many good things, but most of these blend right in to the world. When there's nothing that gets authorities or the masses upset at me, am I not just blending in? When looking at the underground church in China, Iran, and North Korea and other parts of the world, I was reminded what makes me the salt of the earth and the light on a dark hill.

It is giving my witness, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others in an active and daily manner. In China, a great pianist who is a Christian and who has been many years in prison and labor camp, joyfully was shouting into a camera, hurry up, share the gospel, hurry up, share the gospel. In Iran, a group of Christians who are incarcerated and tortured were given a choice.

If you promise no longer to share your faith, we will let you go, said their jailers. Their response was, how can we not share such great salvation? They stayed in prison to be tortured, but sharing their faith with other prisoners. I found myself confronted with the truth of God, his word and the testimonies of my persecuted sisters and brothers.

I had a form of godliness, but was denying its power in not witnessing daily and regularly. How is that possible? I want the power of God, yet I blend into the world as do 95% of all North American Christians. Only 5% of USA and Canadian Christians witness regularly.

In China and Iran, witnessing means daily sharing your faith in words and deeds, even if it means jail, even if it means losing your life. I was not doing it. I am the salt that has lost its savor.

I'm not a light on a dark hill. Oh, Lord, where am I going wrong? Is there any hope for me, Lord, or is it too late? Must I be thrown out on a dunghill as worthless salt, having lost the flavor of my Christian life? The scripture I read in the beginning, the third scripture was Acts 1.8, 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. Here in Acts was the beginning of revival.

The beginning of revival was when the Holy Spirit came and gave the power. Please note that this verse says that the Holy Spirit gave power. Power for what? It says He came for us to be witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now I thought I was born again of the Spirit, so surely the Holy Spirit is in me. So what is wrong? Why do I not witness? Could it be true that the Holy Spirit had not come upon me for the purpose of witnessing? Surely if I don't witness, it proves I'm not filled with His Holy Spirit. I was reminded of the Apostle Peter.

Jesus had said to his disciples in Mark chapter 14 verses 26 to 31, they had just sung a hymn, and they went out to the Mount of Olives. And then Jesus said to them, all of you will be made to stumble because of me this night, for it is written, I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.

Peter said to him, even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be. He was saying, even if all run away, I won't run away. Jesus said to him, assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.

But Peter spoke more vehemently, if I have to die with you, I will not deny you. And they all said likewise. It happened as Jesus said, strong Peter denied Jesus three times and cursed and ran away from the cross.

After Acts 1.8 and the Holy Spirit coming, we find the great revival started. Peter preaches under the power of the Holy Spirit and 3,000 are converted. In Acts 1.8, the Lord Jesus says to Peter and the disciples, start to witness now in Jerusalem where they crucified me.

Start to witness where I died and rose again. Start to witness in the town where there's opposition. Yes, they will persecute you.

Yes, they will jail you, but go under the power of my Holy Spirit and your reward is great. You shall be a witness to me where it hurts at home first. Then your home state Judea, and then the neighboring state Samaria, and then the whole world.

Peter tried to witness. He tried to stand by the Lord, but he was not able to do it of his own power. Peter needed the endowment of the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit spoke through Peter on the day of Pentecost, and all who heard were pricked in their heart. Acts 2.37. When Peter preached on the temple grounds right under the nose of the Pharisees and Sanhedrin, he put his life on the line. Says T.J. Crane, saints are made in the furnace of affliction.

Great times of trials provide a chance to prove and demonstrate the supernatural. The supernatural started to happen with Peter and all the disciples. Their words cut deep, deep, deep into the hearts of men.

The Holy Spirit pricked the hearts of men, and a great revival started. I thought about it, and I prayed much. I asked the Father, and I said, fill me with your Holy Spirit, Father, I prayed.

Lord, you told me to ask, and it will be given to me. Father, you said, if I seek, I will find. You said, if I knock on your door, you will open the door.

If I ask for bread from you, you won't give me a stone. You see, Father, the bread is your living bread, which I want to give to others, that they might live and find eternal life with you. I'm not asking for the bread for myself.

Lord, I'm asking for a fish. I'm asking for a fish that multiplies, that many might hear the truth of the gospel. Lord, you said, if I ask for fish, you won't give me a serpent.

Lord, I ask for an egg that unfolds new life in another person. Lord, you said you would not give me a scorpion. You said you are much greater and better than an earthly father.

You said you would give me the Holy Spirit, if I ask you. Father, I ask you, and you cannot lie. So, Lord, reveal yourself and give me your Holy Spirit.

Fill me anew, and then through your Holy Spirit, help me to be the salt of this earth in Jesus' name. And this prayer was based on Luke chapter 11, verses 9 to 13. Yet, even after that prayer, still, I seemed to have no urgency to witness.

I was not witnessing regularly. What was wrong? Did God not do what he said he would do? Somehow, I was denying God's power to witness. There were thoughts in my mind.

Whenever I came near other people, I started to get promptings to share the gospel. But how? Yes, I felt I should reach out and witness. Well, I thought, I'm not really comfortable with this.

I permitted thoughts, including excuses from the past. I thought, well, I don't know how to witness. God has given a spiritual gift to those who are to witness.

I'm not called to be a missionary. Let those people leading churches do the witnessing. I don't know what to say.

I don't know enough scripture. Suppose they ask me a question. I don't know what to say.

If I witness, it might cost me my job. If I witness, what will they think of me? If I witness, I might be the laughingstock at work or at university. If I witness, I might lose my friends.

I am embarrassed. I don't know what they will think of me. I don't want to look like an idiot, like a terrorist, an outcast, or be called a right-wing extremist.

Does God not tell me to esteem others better? I have to be respectful of other faiths and not offend them by witnessing to them. I'm afraid to witness. I can't speak well.

I just don't feel like it. I don't really want to do it. Let others do it.

I'll just witness with my life. That will speak. I don't really need to do it.

The Lord will understand. As I reflected on my thoughts, I was horrified. Each thought, when examined, was from my own flesh, the old self.

It was from the world and humanism, and it was from Satan. It was from hell itself. By the thoughts I was listening to, and by not acting in faith, by not sharing the gospel with people, I was denying the Holy Spirit to give me His power and to speak through me.

I was denying the power of God. When I yielded to such thoughts, I denied the power of the Holy Spirit. And, of course, no witnesses were forthcoming.

Let us look at these thoughts and what wicked ways I yielded to. The first thought was, well, I'm not comfortable with this. This is disobedience, rebellion, and denying the power of God.

Matthew 28, 19 says, Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Romans 10, 14 says, How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? By the way, the word preacher here, from the original language, can be also translated as announcer or town crier. Romans 10, 10 says, For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

John 17, 20, the Lord Jesus was praying for future Christians. And he was praying, and he said, I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word. The little word there, means you and I, the Christians, who would, through our word, bring others to Christ, to believe in Christ.

Acts 8, 4 says, Therefore, those who were scattered whenever you were preaching the word. Another thought I had, I don't know how to witness. It is an excuse and denies the power of God.

Everyone can talk about what it means to them to have received eternal life. God then will add words to my mouth through the power of his Holy Spirit. Another thought, God has given a spiritual gift to those who are to witness.

This is a lie from hell. It implies that only a few Christians should be witnessing. We all have received at least one ministry gift from the Holy Spirit to serve the body of Christ, according to 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

But we all are to be witnesses when the Holy Spirit has come upon us. Acts 1, 8. Our thinking denies the power of God. Another thought, I'm not called to be a missionary.

The implication here is that only missionaries are witnesses. This is a lie from hell to deceive us. We are in disobedience if we don't witness and if we deny the power of God.

Another thought, let those leading churches do the witnessing. The implication is the same here, that only leaders are witnesses. This is disobedience.

This is false. This is rebellion, and we deny the power of God. Another thought, I don't know what to say.

This is relying on the old self. It is denying the power of God. He will give the words we need when the time comes.

Everyone can hand out a tract with a loving word. Another thought, I don't know enough scripture. This may be true, but it is a lie and deception from hell for us not to witness.

The witness is about God and what God and his son Jesus have done for me and how it has changed my life. No verse from scripture is needed, although most Christians know at least one verse which can be quoted. This also denies the power of God.

Another thought, suppose they ask me a question. I won't know what to say. The reliance here is on the self, on the humanness, on the human intellect.

Luke 12, 12 says, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say. Again, it is denying the power of God. Then I had another thought.

If I witness, it might cost me my job. This is fear brought on by Satan. We are in God's hand.

First John 4, 4, you are of God, little children, and have overcome them because he who is in you greater than he who is in the world, in China, in Iran, in North Korea, and other parts of the world. It may cost you your life when you witness. Jesus says your reward is great in heaven, great, great.

You will receive a martyr's crown. Now, if the world hates you, you know that it hated Jesus before it hated you. This is becoming the salt of the earth.

This requires the faith of Hebrews 11 and trusting the Lord. Another thought, if I witness, what will they think of me? This is pride, disobedience, and denying the power of God. Another thought, if I witness, I might be the laughingstock at work or in my school.

This is pride. This is not understanding how great your salvation is. It is disobedience and denying the power of God.

Another thought, if I witness, I might lose my friends. This is true, but who is your greatest friend? Second Corinthians 6, 14 says, do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness, and what communion has light with darkness? This is an excuse, disobedience, and denying the power of God. Another thought, I'm embarrassed.

Mark 8, 38, Jesus said, for whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. This is looking at the self. The greatness of salvation has not been fully understood.

Again, it denies the power of God. Another thought, I don't know what they will think of me. I don't want to look like an idiot, like a terrorist, an outcast, or be called a right-wing extremist.

This is pride, selfishness, humanism, disobedience. It shows that I don't understand the greatness of my salvation that is available to me and to others, and it denies the power of God. Another thought, I have to be respectful of other faith and not offend them by witnessing to them.

This is a satanic lie and humanism. It denies the Christian faith and the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation. The person does not understand the greatness of salvation and what God is offering to all mankind.

It is disobedience and denies the power of God. Another thought, oh, I'm afraid to witness. Again, the focus is on the self.

The fear is probably related to what will people think, and it is pride, or it is fear in not being able to share your faith. It is disobedience. It is denying the power of God.

Another thought, I can't speak well. This again focuses on the self and denies the power of God to give the words. It is also disobedience.

Another thought, I just don't feel like it. It is disobedience and rebellion. It denies the power of God.

Likewise, the thought, I don't really want to witness. It is disobedience and rebellion. It denies the power of God.

Another thought, let others do it. This is disobedience and rebellion. It denies the power of God.

Another thought, I'll just witness with my life. That will speak. The Lord also requires us to use our mouth.

You see, we read Romans 10:14 before. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? The word preacher here can also be translated as town crier or announcer. Romans 10:10, for with the heart, one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation.

John 17:20 says, I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, said Jesus. Acts 8:4, therefore, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. These were the Christians from the city of Jerusalem.

Great persecution had started there. They were scattered everywhere. And as they were scattered, they had lost everything, but they started witnessing.

They started preaching the word. We are in disobedience and we are denying the power of God. Luke 12:12 says for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

Another thought, I don't really need to do it. The Lord will understand. This is a satanic lie.

It is Satan speaking and the old self. It is disobedience and rebellion. The Lord will not understand because Jesus said, if you love me, keep my commandments, go into all of the world and make disciples.

With these evil thoughts about witnessing, I realized I had denied him and I had denied the power of God. I had made it all a human endeavor. Yet the Lord is my ability to respond.

He has given me the fruit of the spirit with his love, joy, and peace to serve him in every situation. As he is my ability to respond, he must be present in me in the fullness of his power. There must be less of me so that there can be more of him.

There must be room created for the Holy Spirit in me. God has given us the task of witnessing, but we are not alone. We are not orphans.

We are children of the most high God. We are his ambassadors to carry out witnessing. I cannot make it happen in my humanness.

The Lord is giving himself to us to make it happen through us. He needs my surrender. He needs my submission to him, and he needs my obedience.

Beloved sisters and brothers, when I realized how evil I am and my wicked ways, I repented and I wept. Last year is the first time I wept for neighbors. I wept for unsafe family members, and I wept for the unsaved in the country.

The Lord was breaking my stony heart a little, and I'm asking him to give me a heart of flesh. I again ask the Lord to have mercy on me and to let me be the salt, even so I was ready to be thrown out. You see, God can do still miracles even with salt that has lost its flavor.

I ask the Lord to go before me in witnessing on the streets of New York, in witnessing in hospitals, and in witnessing every day. When I go out for half an hour, I ask the Holy Spirit to help me to witness. God had allowed a serious operation last year that I might draw near to him and learn.

In January of this year, the Lord allowed another serious operation. If I needed to go back to hospital, then I was certain there would be those who needed to hear about the Lord. I ask for prayer from friends and family, but not for my healing.

I ask for prayer that others might be healed for eternity, and that the Lord would give me a bold witness. I prayed that God would speak through me in hospital to anyone that would come near me. I surrendered anew, I repented, I asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to fill me, and here is what happened.

On January 14, 2013, on a Monday, I was brought into the operating room of a hospital in Milton, Ontario. There were six doctors and nurses in the room, covered with white gowns and white hoods. I could hardly see their faces through the shields of their white hoods.

The operations nurse explained that I had received some morphine, but not yet the full anesthetic. I needed to stay awake for a short period of time. She said, to reduce your post-operation pains, we will also give you an epidural between your second and third vertebrae.

For that purpose, we need to expose you, stretch out your hands on each side of the operating table, and arc your back. Then she said we must wait one minute for the anesthetist and the surgeon. I was partially naked, bent over the operating table with arms stretched out wide.

My mouth started to speak. It said, this morphine gives one great joy under stress. It is putting me on cloud nine, but this feeling of joy is temporary.

It will go away, and then I must face the pains and difficulties of life. I just wanted you to know that I know someone very great who gives joy forevermore. It is a far greater joy than given by this morphine.

Such great joy is possible when we make peace with God through his son, Jesus Christ. This joy is from God and far greater than we can imagine. I was drifting away into dreamland.

I don't know what else I said, but I know it was not me speaking. I was highly drugged. I was under stress and partially exposed, yet I believe the Holy Spirit spoke through me and pricked the heart of man.

It was him, not me. When I woke up the next morning, I could not move my lower body. I was heavily drugged and on liquid morphine.

Both my legs were paralyzed. I was terrified, thinking I may never walk again. The man across from me in another hospital bed was staring at me.

He looked very mean. I closed my eyes. The thought came, this man looks mean.

He needs the Lord. I prayed for him. I forgot all about my legs and the paralysis.

Then I heard the nurse saying to the man that he would be discharged that morning. There was not much time. Holy Spirit, I prayed, will you open the door? Will you open my mouth when I am to speak? I opened my eyes and looked at him.

He again was staring at me quite mean. My mouth opened and I spoke saying, Sir, I just heard the good news that you are being discharged from hospital. Congratulations.

He said, thank you. I continued, it is good that you have taken care of your body, but you also need to take care of your soul when you go home. You will live for eternity and it would be wonderful if you spend eternity in the right place in heaven.

I have a folder here. Would you be willing to read it? He said grumpily he would. I said, I am sorry, I cannot move, but the folder is here right on top of my Bible.

Could you come over and get it? He glared at me and he came to get it. He read it while sitting on the side of his bed, huffing and puffing. He was not happy.

He started to get dressed and he told me his name was Jim. Just then a hospital chaplain came through the front door into the room asking if anyone had a need. The man across from me shouted, even though we were in a small room.

He shouted, I need a Bible. I need a Bible. Can you give me a Bible to go home with me? I was stunned because he was so loud.

Why had he lost his mind? No, you see the Lord had pricked his heart. This was all the Lord's doing. The chaplain came back to give the man his Bible before he checked out.

Jesus had said when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we will be witnesses. Time does not permit for me to share all of the witnesses. If I may, I'll jump to the 29th witness.

A new night nurse came. Her name was Helena and she had an Austrian background. In Austria, they speak German.

So I spoke to her in German. I asked her what she believed in. She mentioned God, but in many forms.

I asked her which God? She said, I believe in many gods. I have delved into Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam. Each faith has good things and God is fair.

I asked her with so many gods, what is truth? She said she did not know what truth is. I asked her if there was a real God, would he not help us to know which is truth? Would God not help us to know whether we should believe in Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, or other faith? The Holy Spirit had told me the story about John the Baptist and the person that came to be baptized in the Jordan River 2,000 years ago. At that time point, God spoke via a voice from heaven and said, this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

I asked Helena, so who was this person standing in the river Jordan with John the Baptist? Was it the prophet Muhammad? Was it Buddha? Was it a Hindu god such as Hare Krishna? Or was it Jesus Christ? She said it was Jesus Christ. I asked her who said he was God's son. She said it was God himself.

He spoke from heaven to tell us. So I said, God told us the truth. And I added, believe in the son of God and follow him.

She took two tracks and promised to read her Bible and to pray. She came back in half an hour. She had left her work even though she had just started her shift.

She went to the hospital gift shop downstairs to buy me a little angel. She thought the words were from me. There were tears in her eyes when she thanked me for sharing Christ with her and God's truth.

She said the angel was to take care of me that I might tell many more about the truth. God had given the words, not me. The Holy Spirit had pricked her heart so much she had left her work.

I never saw her again, but it was God who testified through me. It was not me. In total, there were 48 witnesses, and I believe the Holy Spirit was with me.

I continue to try and share Jesus daily. Yet I find it very hard, dear sisters and brothers, because I must die to the old self daily. It is still not easy for me to go on my walk daily and then to walk up to a person and tell them, oh, I don't want to disturb you, but I just wanted to tell you that God truly loves you.

I just wanted to cheer up your day, and I have a little tract here that I wanted to give to you. Would you be willing to read it? Only one person in many months said no, so I rely on the Holy Spirit every day asking the Lord to show me the persons where to speak and where to give a tract. And then by now, six of my neighbors now know that I am a Christian, and two of my neighbors have been to church with me.

About 80 percent or 85 percent of Americans and Canadians say they are Christians. If we take 80 percent of about 350 million Americans and Canadians, that would be 280 million people. If each of them witnessed once each day, we would have 280 million witnesses per day multiplied times 365 days for the year.

Would this not change America and Canada? Would we not have an incredibly great revival if every Christian witnessed once a day? That is how the great revival started in the book of Acts. The Holy Spirit came, and then the followers of Christ were obedient. We still have Him, the Holy Spirit, today, but we deny Him.

Ninety-five percent of Christians in North America do not witness. We are denying the Holy Spirit's power. We are disobedient.

We could have a great revival in USA and Canada if we were obedient. Could there not be at least 10 or 20 Christians in every city in the USA and Canada going to work, to school, going out into the streets and door to door on a regular basis to share the gospel of Christ with the lost and dying world? Judgment must start at the house of God. If I deny the power of the Holy Spirit, how can we have revival? Let revival start with me.

How and when will the Holy Spirit come upon me? I first was saved because I was born of the Spirit of God, but then Scripture says, Be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5.18. I need to be filled by the Spirit of God to be able to do His work, including witnessing. He will fill me when I totally surrender. The Spirit will fill me when I ask Jesus to live in me and do His work through me.

Then I need the faith that God has given me, His Holy Spirit. Then I must accept that faith without works is dead. I have to start speaking with people about the Lord.

When I witness through the Lord's power, I don't do it through the old self. The Lord is my ability to respond. It is not my own ability that I use to witness.

Yes, I have tried to witness in the flesh and failed. By permitting opposing thoughts to witness, I failed and I denied the power of God to work through me. My first step back to God was in repentance.

Here were the five steps I took. I repented and asked the Lord to have mercy upon me and to allow me to become the salt of the earth. I asked Him for forgiveness, for accepting evil thoughts, for being lukewarm, and for denying His help and His power.

The second step was I asked Him again to fill me with His Holy Spirit. Step three, I asked Him to give me faith to believe that the Holy Spirit had filled me and that He would give me the words of life and that He would prick the hearts of men. The fourth step was I picked up some gospel tracts and I wrote out on a half a page what I would say in a testimony.

What does my salvation mean to me? It was just a few words and no longer than five minutes. The fifth step was, Lord, faith without works is dead. Draw me near to people and open up my mouth so that I will speak.

Lord, please fill my mouth with your words and then please show yourself strong on my behalf. David Wilkerson said, when you emerge from seeking God full of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to stand with boldness before fellow workers, family, anyone, and your witness will provoke one of two reactions. They will either cry out, what must I do to be saved? Or they will want to kill you.

You will speak a word that cuts to the heart. The difference is found in the power of the Holy Spirit. The songwriter wrote, Lord, possess me now, I pray.

Make me holy. Make me holy thine today. Gladly do I own thy sway.

With thy spirit fill me. Lord, I yield myself to thee. Oh, all I am, all I am I hope to be now and through eternity.

With thy spirit fill me. Lord, commission me, I pray. Souls are dying every day.

Help me, lead me in thy way. With thy spirit fill me. With thy spirit fill me, Lord.

With thy spirit fill me. make me holy thine I pray, with thy spirit fill me. Let us pray.

Father, we come again into your holy presence in the name that is above every name, in the name of your son Jesus. Lord, some of us have fallen short of your glory and we have not witnessed in the power of your holy spirit. We ask for forgiveness and repent of our wicked ways.

We repent of evil thoughts that we have allowed. Lord, we need you and your holy spirit to the fullest in us, your children. Then Lord, we need your holy spirit to bring revival to America and to Canada, but start with us, Lord.

Now Father, you said, if we ask you, you will give. Father, you said, if we seek, we will find. You said, if we knock on your door, you will open the door.

If we ask bread from you, you won't give us a stone. You see, Father, the bread is the living bread we're asking for. We want it to give to others that they might find life and find eternal life with you.

We are not asking the bread for ourselves. Lord, we're asking for fish. We're asking for fish that multiplies, that many might hear the truth of the gospel and repent.

Lord, you said, if we ask for fish, you won't give us a serpent. Lord, we ask for an egg that unfolds new life in another person. Lord, you said you would not give us a scorpion.

You said you are much greater and better than an earthly father. You said you would give us the holy spirit if we ask you. Father, we ask you and you cannot lie.

So Lord, reveal yourself and give us the holy spirit for this service. Fill us anew and then through your holy spirit, help us to be the salt of this earth. Lord, please, please let us be the lights on the dark hill.

With your spirit, fill me for I ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/24/SID24770.mp3>

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