

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS: Be My Witness!

Scripture used: [Acts 1:8 \(NIV\)](#); [Acts 12:1–5 \(NLT\)](#); [Matthew 6:9–13 \(NLT\)](#)

OVERVIEW

At the heart of practicing our faith is Jesus' call to be His witnesses wherever He sends us. The disciples were not naturally fearless people. After Jesus' crucifixion, they hid from the authorities in fear. But everything changed when they encountered the resurrected Jesus. They had seen for themselves that He lives, forgives, loves, saves, and wins. That same calling belongs to us today. Pastor Hurmon pointed to Golden State Valkyries player Veronica Burton, whose daily practice of worship, Scripture, prayer, and time with God has remained central even as her career has grown busier. She speaks openly about her faith in both success and disappointment. Like the first disciples, we are called to tell people about Jesus, and also to show them Jesus by the way we live, love, endure, and praise God.

KEY POINTS

1. **Jesus calls every believer to be His witness.** A witness is someone who testifies to what they have seen, heard, and know. Before returning to heaven, Jesus told His followers, "You will be my witnesses" ([Acts 1:8 NIV](#)). The disciples had encountered the resurrected Jesus over a period of forty days ([Acts 1:3 NLT](#)), and that experience transformed frightened people into courageous witnesses. Jesus has placed each of us on His team as well. Whether we are construction workers, executives, parents, students, or athletes, wherever God places us becomes a place where we can represent Him.
2. **We bear witness in seasons of success.** The early church experienced extraordinary growth, generosity, unity, and favor ([Acts 2:43–47 NLT](#)). When God blesses us, bearing witness means publicly recognizing that He is the source. Veronica Burton models this by openly sharing the practices and faith that anchor her life. Giving God credit also protects us from building our identity around achievements, titles, possessions, or recognition that will eventually pass away. Success becomes a testimony when it points beyond us toward God.
3. **We bear witness in seasons of suffering.** The disciples eventually faced persecution, beatings, imprisonment, and even death, yet they continued to proclaim Jesus ([Acts 5:40–42 NLT](#)). Bearing witness in suffering means remaining faithful when we are tempted to quit and continuing to choose God's will over our own. After being cut from her first WNBA team, Veronica returned repeatedly to [James 1:2 \(NLT\)](#), learning to see hardship through the lens of faith. She later joined the Golden State Valkyries and earned Most Improved Player honors. Our response to hardship may become one of the strongest testimonies we ever give.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Jesus does not call us merely to believe in Him privately. He sends us into the world as His witnesses. The message is simple: Jesus lives, forgives, loves, saves, and wins. We testify to that truth through our words, but even more powerfully through the way we live. Whether life brings success or suffering, people should be able to see something of Jesus in us.
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - If someone observed your life without hearing you talk about your faith, what would they learn about Jesus? When God gives you success, are you comfortable giving Him credit? When life becomes painful or disappointing, do you respond with faithful submission?
- 3) **DO** - Ask God to help you be a witness wherever He has placed you, in both success and suffering. Make this your prayer: "**Lord Jesus, give me the power to be Your witness in word and in deed!**"