

We may witness to the forgiveness of sin, and to the indwelling peace of God—we may testify to the conquest of Christ in ourselves and in others. "Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord." A witness must know that whereof he affirms. In Christian witness-bearing there needs to be testifying power—the power which is unaffected by the opposition of the world or by indifference in the church, and which can speak for Jesus always and everywhere.

Could the Peter of the Judgment Hall stand in the streets of Jerusalem without the baptism of the Spirit, and testify of Jesus and salvation? He could as easily have created a world. In the Judgment Hall he was cowardly: on the day of Pentecost he was courageous: not with the courage of natural strength, but with that of spiritual power—because he was filled with the Holy Ghost.

That same power is needed now to bear emphatic testimony for the Lord Jesus. Without it there shall be cowardly silence, or at best faltering tones, which are little better than spiritual dumbness. With this power filling our hearts, there shall be witnessing in the home, in the workshop, in the social party, in the counting house, in the market: in a word, everywhere tongues touched with the Spirit's fire shall utter words of power in testimony of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then indeed the testimony shall be clear, convincing, persuasive, and influential for good. The world is listening to hear the Church's testimony. Let it be heard, not in apologetic tones, not in faltering accents, but in power and love, and they will hearken and believe, and accept our glorious Saviour. This personal testimony for Christ is what is needed for the conversion of the world. The good Lord does not ask us to do anything that is complex or difficult. All that is difficult in salvation He does, only asking that we shall declare what he has done for us.

Do I hear some one saying, "But how may I get this power of the Spirit for service?" I answer, Tarry, wait, look up into the face of the ascended Lord until ye be endued with power from on high. Jesus may keep you waiting until you are ready to appreciate and utilize the blessing. Mark, I do not believe that God will give us this power of the Spirit just that we may be happy and in a sort of Tabor ecstasy exclaim, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." God gives it for work, and for work only. If we are prepared to serve the Lord, we may have it in its fulness for efficient service.

Do you ask me how it comes to a waiting soul. There is no fixed form for the incoming of this power. It may come gently as comes the morning light, or noiselessly as falls the evening dew, or it may come like a rushing, mighty wind, as on the morning of the day of Pentecost. Let it come as God may choose, but oh, let it come to all the workers for souls. It comes with as great variety of form as comes converting grace to sinners. To no two does the grace of conversion come alike, but the change in its essence is the same in all cases. The same mighty change was wrought in the