

The picture behind me is obviously from a Nike campaign. It is centered around Lebron James. The ad campaign was when Lebron was a young phenom who was drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers straight out of high school. The ad campaign encourages fans to bear witness to the greatness of Lebron.

It's really a waste of time, this campaign. Sports fans are the last people you have to convince to share their experiences. When they see something, or someone, amazing they are quick to repeat the story. Sports have got to rank in the top three among subjects discussed by men.

While Nike encourages us to be witnesses to the athletic giftedness of Lebron James, who has been called a king by men, God commands us as his children to bear witness to the greatness of Jesus Christ who God himself has deemed the King of kings.

As we begin a new sermon series focused on evangelism, we must understand that we are God's ad campaign. The primary means of spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus is not billboards, or T-shirts, or TV commercials. It is the lives and words of those who have received God's gracious gift that are to serve as the means of witness.

And God, knowing the difficulty of living the life to which we have been called and the importance of the message we have been commanded to share, has given us a great helper in the person of the Holy Spirit. So let's look at a passage that touches on both our responsibility to witness and our equipping to do so.

Scripture: Acts 1:8

I. The Edict and Equipping for Evangelism

A. The Receipt of Power

1. Coming of the Holy Spirit

- a) At time of profession of faith (Acts 2:38)**
- b) To teach (John 14:26)**
- c) To guide (John 16:13)**
- d) To empower (Luke 24:49)**

B. The Responsibility of Christians

1. Bear witness of Jesus

- a) **With our lives**
 - (1) **Obedience to Scripture (John 14:21)**
 - (2) **Love for others (John 15:17)**
 - b) **With our words (Luke 12:12)**
 - (1) **Present the Gospel (2 Cor. 4:5)**
 - (2) **Testimony**
- C. The Regions of Missions**
- 1. **Home**
 - 2. **Local Area**
 - 3. **Regional Area**
 - 4. **World**

Shortly after Christ's ascension and the arrival of the holy Spirit, men and women eagerly went about fulfilling the call of the Lord in evangelizing the world. The disciples followed the command of Jesus and began in their homes and worked outward.

Paul was called as an apostle out of season to spread the good news to the Gentiles and the worldwide growth of the kingdom of God began.

But as time has passed we have shirked our responsibility of preaching the gospel. We have bought into the idea that we can simply win people to the Lord by living good lives. No wonder so many people believe that their salvation lies in the type of life they live. We have not only allowed this lie to go forth, we have promoted it through our silence.

It's time for that to stop. We must continue to live righteous lives, obeying all that Christ commanded. But we must add to the testimony of our lives the truth of the gospel. Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. We must proclaim his incarnation, his sinlessness, his sacrifice to the point of death, his resurrection from the dead, and his imminent return.

God understood the importance of the edict that he gave to us, to evangelize the world. So he sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfill the mission.

Witness. Just Do It.