

## Articles and Sermons :: The Holy Spirit Gives Power To Witness Under Great Persecution

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God has given us the Holy Spirit not only as a comforter and guide but also as a life-changing power. Any work done in peoples' lives, without the Holy Spirit is void of any life-changes. In Zechariah this truth is shown where it says: "So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.'"

Yet many are denying the life-changing power of God and His Spirit: "Having a form of godliness but denying its power."

The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness, as in Acts 1:8, but we must ask Him and we must surrender to Him.

Brother Enguan from the Lixin underground house Church network gives this testimony: "We were one of the most heavily-persecuted Churches in all of China. The police regularly swept through our area and conducted sting operations. Every year more than one hundred leaders would be arrested. Christians in our area were not Christians for long before they were rounded up by the police. You would have one believer who had been a believer for six years and had served five and a half of those years in prison. It was not uncommon to have believers that were baby Christians only being saved for a month or more before being martyred for their faith. This was life in those days. Those were hard days."

Let us suppose we were being threatened with jail and beatings for proclaiming the Gospel. Would we do it? Many of us hardly witness now. The early Christians after being threatened did not pray for protection, or for safety, or for God to punish those that were threatening to hurt them. Here is what they prayed: "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your Word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the Name of Your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly.

God the Father was pleased with their prayer and shook the house and gave them boldness. God and His Holy Spirit's power was with them. Beloved sisters and brothers, do you want that? Ask the Father, He wants to give you His Holy Spirit, but it requires your full surrender. Pray as our sisters and brothers did in the Book of Acts. Pray as our persecuted sisters and brothers do in China and wherever they are persecuted. God wants to send, through you and me, the Gospel and signs and wonders through the holy Name of His Son Jesus.

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