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TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Power to Witness

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | April 30, 2023

"He told them, 'This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'" **Luke 24:46-49 (NIV)**

"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'" **Acts 1:4-8 (NIV)**

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." **Acts 4:13 (NIV)**

"Do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." **Matthew 10:19-20 (NIV)**

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." **Colossians 3:12 (NIV)**

Reflection Questions:

Read Acts 1:8

- 1) What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?
- 2) How have you experienced the Holy Spirit using you to be a witness for Jesus? Share a story if you have one?
- 3) What are some of the barriers or challenges you have experienced in being a witness for Jesus? What can make you reluctant to share about Jesus? Where do you need the power of the Holy Spirit in your life to be a better witness?
- 4) What is your next step in growing as a witness for Jesus?
- 5) Who are some specific people that God has placed in your life that you have the opportunity to be a witness to? How can you move toward them this week?