**WE ARE WITNESSES** (Part One)

1. **INTRODUCTION**
A Chinese farmer, after having cataracts removed from his eyes, made his way from the Christian compound where the surgery had taken place to the interior of China. Only a short time had passed when the missionary doctor who performed the surgery looked out his window and noticed the formerly blind man holding the front of a long rope. In a single file line and holding on to the rope behind him were several poor blind people that the farmer had told about his operation. They all new that the farmer used to be blind and that he could now see. He told them of the doctor who had cured him; naturally, all of them wanted to meet the man who made this miracle happen.

The blind man could not explain the physiology of the eye nor the science behind his surgery, he could only tell others that he once was blind, but now could see. This was all the others needed to hear. Holman New Testament Commentary: Acts 1 page 7
2. And so it is with our Christian lives. We need not all be trained theologians. We need not all understand the intricacies of God’s mysteries, nor be perfect examples of flawless Christian living. We all have a story to tell, a story of what Christ has done for us and we must all tell this story.
3. And so it was with our author Luke and all of us. We are to live as witnesses to Christ.
4. **COMMENTARY:** We Are Witnesses (Part One)
5. **Witnesses of the Lord’s Life:** Acts 1:1-5
6. **Acts 1:1** 1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach
7. Luke referred to his Gospel as "the first account.”
8. Theophilus means lover of God. It seems more likely that Theophilus was a real person. There is no reason he could not have been. Such is the implication of the address, and Theophilus was a fairly common Greek proper name.
9. **Acts 1:2** 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.
10. Apostles are by definition "sent ones." However, this term here has specific reference to the few disciples Jesus gave this command to personally. Their calling was unique; these men laid the foundation of the church. All Christians are "apostles," in the sense that Christ has sent all of us who are believers on this mission. Yet the 12 apostles (and Paul) were a unique group with special powers the Lord did not give to the rest.
11. "Each of these four factors—the witness mandate, the apostles, the Holy Spirit, the ascended Lord—is a major emphasis that runs throughout Acts; each receives special attention in chapters 1 and 2." Dr. Tom Constable
12. **Acts 1:3** 3After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.
13. "The fact of the resurrection was to be the solid foundation of the apostles' faith and the chief ingredient of their early message." Dr. Tom Constable
14. **Acts 1:4-5** 4On 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. 5For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
15. **Witnesses of the Lord’s Message:** Acts 1:6-8
**Acts 1:6-7**
6Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.
**Acts 1:8**
8 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.”
16. **Witnesses of the Lord’s Ascension:** Acts 1:9-11

**Acts 1:9**
9After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.
**Acts 1:10-11**10They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

1. **CONCLUSION**
2. **The Seven Last words of Christ …** NIV “and to the ends of the earth.”