

**I. Overview:**

In the book of Acts the apostles and the disciples were witnesses of Christ. In the New Testament the meaning of witness is a martyr, primarily to bear a living testimony of Jesus Christ in His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Testifying requires experiences of seeing and enjoyment concerning the Lord or spiritual things, mainly to His person and His living. A witness needs to know Christ in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection. God glorified Jesus through His resurrection and in His ascension. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living, and God-ordained death and points forward to His ascension. As the Author of life, Christ is God's Servant, the Leader and Savior, the Son of Man, God, the Lord of all, the Judge, the object of the believers' faith.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. How do we see the witnesses of the Lord's resurrection in Acts?

In His ascension He carries out His ministry in the heavens, as recorded in Acts, through witnesses in His resurrection life and with His ascension power and authority to spread Himself as the development of the kingdom of God from Jerusalem unto the remotest part of the earth, as the consummation of His ministry in the New Testament. All the apostles and disciples in Acts were such witnesses of Christ.

B. Expound what the witnesses are and what the testimony they give.

In Acts 1:8 the witnesses gave testimony of what they had seen and known. In the New Testament the meaning of a witness is primarily to testify of Jesus in His death and resurrection. The Lord Jesus commissioned Paul, appointed him a witness to testify both of the things in which he had seen Him and of the things in which He would appear to him. Testimony is related to the person, to what the witness is.

Day 2 —

A. How can we say that Christ today is in resurrection?

One day, as the One who existed in eternity, Christ became a man by incarnation. Eventually, He was crucified and buried. Through death He entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection. On the day of His resurrection angels told the women that Christ could not be found in the tomb, for He had risen from the dead. This indicates that Christ is in resurrection.

B. Why's that the Lord's resurrection is the focus of the apostles' testimony?

The Lord's resurrection is the focus of the apostles' testimony. It refers back to His incarnation, humanity, human living on earth, and God-ordained death, and points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back. Thus the apostles' testimony of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, is all-inclusive, as depicted in the whole book of Acts. They preached and ministered the all-inclusive Christ as revealed in the entire Scripture.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the resurrection and the ascension of Christ in detail.

The resurrection of Christ enables us to be regenerated. It imparts Christ Himself into us as our life and nature, but His resurrection is not sufficient to equip us, qualify us, and authorize us. Therefore, we also need His ascension. Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority.

B. Describe how Christ works out His heavenly ministry in His ascension.

Christ's ascension was His inauguration with initiation in His heavenly ministry. It brought Him into a new stage of a resurrected man living in the heavens to execute the things God determined on this earth. This resurrected One is now sitting in the heavens to execute God's administration. Christ in His ascension has been made the Lord, the Christ to work out the spreading of the gospel and the building up of the church.

Day 4 —

A. Explain the Lord Jesus being the Author of life.

He is the origin or Originator of life, the holy and righteous One; He was killed by the Jewish leaders, raised from the dead by God, and witnessed by the disciples. The Greek word rendered “Author” is “author”, “origin”, “originator”, “chief leader”, “captain”. Peter indicates that Christ is the source, the origin, and the Initiator of life; He is the Author, the Chief Leader, in life.

B. Explain the significance of Acts 3:14, “the Lord is the holy One”.

Here holy indicates that Jesus, the Nazarene, the One despised by the Jewish leaders, was absolutely for God and separated unto Him. Furthermore, He was absolutely one with God. According to the denotation of the word holy in the Bible, it signifies one who is absolutely unto God, who is absolutely for God, and who is absolutely one with God. In all of human history only the Lord Jesus is such a One.

Day 5 —

A. What does it mean that Stephen saw the ascended Christ as the Son of Man?

This means that the Christ who is in the heavens still has His humanity; He still possesses a human nature. Stephen saw the glory of God. This was a great vindication and encouragement to the persecuted one. Sitting is for resting, whereas standing is for working. Because a member of His Body was suffering on earth, the Son of Man was seen standing at the right hand of God.

B. How can the Lord’s blood redeem the sinners and give the eternal efficacy?

The blood, redeeming fallen human beings, is the blood of Jesus, the Son of God. Being a man, the Lord Jesus could fulfill this requirement. The Lord is also the Son of God, so with His blood there is the element of eternity, and this element ensures the eternal efficacy of His blood. Therefore, as a man He has genuine human blood, and as God He has the element that gives to His blood eternal efficacy.

Day 6 —

A. What does it mean that Christ is the Lord of all in Acts 10:36 Peter mentioned?

Peter speaks of Christ as the One who is “Lord of all.” All refers here to all men, all peoples. Christ in His ascension is the Lord not only of the Jews but also of the Gentiles. He is the Lord of all the different races and peoples on earth. With Him there is no respect of persons. As the Lord of all, Christ is the Lord of the Jews and the Gentiles for all of them to be saved.

B. How can Christ be the object of the believer’s faith in Acts 16:31?

He is the object of the believer’s faith for the salvation of the believer and his household. To believe in the gospel is mainly to believe in Jesus Christ. To believe is to believe on and stand on the Lord Jesus to be saved. We believe not only into Christ but also on Christ. This is to take the ground and stand on the person of Christ and all that He has achieved. These two constitute the belief of God’s New Testament economy.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Being the Propagated, Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ, the Lord needs to gain a group of people as His witnesses. They are willing to bear a living testimony of Jesus Christ in His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, even to be His martyrs. How much testimony we can bear for the Lord depends on how much we know, experience, and enjoy Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the faithful witness of God; whatever He speaks, does, and lives will express that God is. Before Stephen’s martyrdom, he prayed, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!”. Although brother Watchman Nee was imprisoned for twenty years, he not only maintained the joy within but also martyred for the Lord who he loved; he is really a living witness of Jesus Christ in His crucifixion and resurrection.