

# FOLLOW-THROUGH

“Testify from the Heart” (Acts 4:1-22)

Sermon I in a Series Titled, “Testify”

April 15, 2007

## Introduction

1. Share a time when your being a witness and testifying to an event was crucial. What was the event and what made your testimony so important?
2. Think for a moment about being a witness to the truth about Jesus Christ. Then share which of these terms best describes you? a) silent witness; b) infrequent witness; c) reluctant witness; d) sometimes witness; e) avid witness d)other (create your own description). Explain your response.



## Putting the Passage to Work

1. Read Acts 4:1-22 aloud. Try to answer the following:
  - Vs. 2: To what did the disciples especially testify?
  - Vs. 8: To what does Luke, the writer of Acts, attribute Peter’s bold testimony?
  - Vs. 12: To what important truth Peter testify in vs. 12?
  - Vs. 13: What does this appraisal of Peter and John tell you about their testimony?
  - Vs. 20: What does this verse tell you about the motivation and power behind the testimony of Peter and John?
2. Sometimes we make testifying to Jesus Christ a difficult burden. What signs in these verses tell you that it was “natural” for the disciples to witness to Christ and required little struggle?

## Digging Deeper

1. Testifying to the truth about Jesus is not a choice but a command, a task we share with the Holy Spirit. What does each of these passages say about testifying?
  - John 15:26-27
  - Acts 4:33
  - Acts 20:24
2. What’s behind or underneath a Christian’s witness according to each of these passages?
  - Acts 4:13, “...they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”
  - 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Peter 3:15
  - Ephesians 3:16-17
3. Crucial to a Christian’s witness is testimony regarding the difference Jesus Christ has made, in their life, especially in difficult times. When has the risen Lord been there for you, especially when you needed Him, maybe when He was all you had? Share this testimony with your group.
4. Whose testimony or witness, especially from weakness, has recently touched your heart?
5. How can a testimony take a wrong turn? That is, what might take a testimony off course?
6. What makes every testimony unique? What needs to be a part of every testimony?
7. Close with a prayer that the Spirit would bring motivation, wisdom, and courage for our witness to Jesus Christ.