

May 12, 1977

Acts 1:1-12

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He wants us to look at evidence. We cannot prove everything, but we can and should look at evidence. And the greatest evidence in any direction is the evidence of those who have actually seen something, or heard it.

In court when people are convicted of a crime on circumstantial evidence, it is always felt there is a certain amount of doubt. It is felt that the evidence of those who actually saw is the most important evidence. We have in the Bible the evidence of the resurrection and all the other == and the evidence on all the other matters that are so vital for our lives.

Evidence is stressed not only here. It is stressed at other places in the Bible. The 19th Psalm: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night shows knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard, their line is gone out throughout all the earth, and their words to the end of the eart." God says He has placed evidences in the universe that a person who looks at them intelligently can see that the hand that made them is Divine.

In Rom. 1, Paul says: "The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and godhead, so that they are without excuse." People do not ordinarily lose their faith in a non-Christian institution of learning because they are given proofs that Christianity is wrong. They lose their faith because they are ridiculed, or because they are made to ~~think~~ to think it is only the peculiar person who believes those things. But if we will look at the evidence, look at the facts, we find that the evidences ~~are~~ are there. So that by many infallible proofs He gave the evidence of His resurrection.

Now the most important evidence, as we said, is the evidence of a witness. God wants us to witness to Chr\$st. The evidence of a Christian life is the greatest evidence there can be for Christ. The evidence of the change it makes. How often we hear of the member of a family who has been converted and the others have seen the change in that person and have come to realize that the change has been produced by their faith in Christ and have themselves turned to Him.

God is not looking for us primarily to go out and give proofs of His existence, proofs of these facts. He is one who can do that. But He is looking primarily for us to give evidence in our lives and show by the way we stand adversity, by the way we show a Christian attitude toward all, even toward those who may injure us, by the way He shows His love through us He wants us to witness. The Christian life is the greatest witness, but the Christian life without words is no witness at all. A life that does not explain what the source of power is is no witness. We must witness with our lives, and we must also speak out our testimony or our lives do not witness to Him. The testimony not backed by the life will accomplish nothing; the life not explained by the testimony will accomplish little.