

TITLE: You Shall Receive Power

Acts 1:6-14

So when they met together, they 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. [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."

[9] After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

[10] They 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."

[12] Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. [13] When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. [14] They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

To prepare the apostles to be his instruments he does four things:

1. He gives them a Spirit authenticated commandment
2. He verifies his resurrection by appearing to them for 40 days
3. He teaches them about the kingdom of God
4. He promises to baptize them with the Holy Spirit

When the apostles hear the promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit

What do they do?

Do they run for the door – Not that...Jesus you're not going to make me into one of them tongue talking Pentecostals

Do the resolutely fold their arms – The day you get me full of the Holy Ghost will be a cold day in

Did they say “Why don’t you know that’s of the devil, I’m not going to have anything to do with it

Did they say, You know I’m OK just the way I am

OR

Doesn’t he realize who he is talking to, I AM AN APOSTLE

It’s amazing the different response modern people have to this promise

Many people believe “Well the Holy Spirit was Just for those First Century Christians..

and not for us today

ILLUSTRATION:

I imagine the disciples sitting before the Lord on that Day

convinced of their commission
convinced of Jesus’ reality
convinced of the Kingdom and the plan

So Convinced That to respond negatively to Jesus promise of filling them with the Holy Spirit **was the farthest thing form their mind**

I imagine they were like “Yea Lord We want it”

But then a curios thing happens

They begin to think about all the teaching they have heard,

and all the memory verses they have learned,

something Jesus has just said didn’t seem to line up with what they have believed.

And they ask, In verse 6 - "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

EVERY TIME I HAVE READ THIS PASSAGE I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THIS QUESTION WAS OUT OF PLACE

I began to assume that they were just preoccupied with the subject of the restoration of Israel

But that's not it

YOU SEE

They were keenly aware of Old Testament promise that we may not know of

They were aware that an outpouring of God's Spirit was a prophetic promise Found in many places in the Old Testament

They were aware that it was a promise for the last days when God would establish his kingdom on the earth and restore his people.

FOR EXAMPLE

Ezekiel 39:25

Therefore thus says the Lord God, "Now I shall restore the fortunes of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I shall be jealous for My holy name.

Ezekiel 39:29

I will no longer hide my face from them, for **I will pour out my Spirit** on the house of Israel, declares the Sovereign Lord."

So when Jesus says that the long awaited outpouring of the Spirit –

the baptism with the Holy Spirit –

Is just a few days a way,

They asked for a clarification:

"DO YOU MEAN THE END IS THAT CLOSE?"

The final kingdom is about to be established in just a matter of weeks or months?"

NOW WE already determined that Jesus had been with them for 40 days talking about the kingdom of God.

Jesus had told them that the kingdom would be restored to Israel –

LUKE 22 records that They were told that they themselves would sit on thrones as rulers along with Jesus

So I guess it makes sense that they would have viewed the Baptism in the Spirit as ushering in the end

HOW DOES JESUS RESPOND TO THEIR QUESTION?

He says in Acts 1:7

"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

In other words,

Don't assume that the long-awaited outpouring of the Spirit will immediately bring in the kingdom

God has appointed the times and the seasons for everything

He keeps them

It is his plan

They are not for us to know.

They would not be good for us to know

My kids were watching a program with this man who receives a paper for the next day, then he goes around trying to correct things,,,, and gets into trouble

It is not good for us to know the future

What if you knew the day you would die
Or what was going to happen tomorrow

We would probably sit down on the spot and never accomplish anything for the Kingdom of God

SO the pouring out of the Baptism in the Spirit does not mean the ushering in of the final Kingdom and judgment...

But then Jesus goes on to tell them

What the baptism with the Spirit will mean for them.

Acts 1:8

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."

It means they will HAVE POWER –

Till when UNTIL the end of the earth!

Notice four things here That make ACTS 1:8 this an incredible verse

First Jesus outlines his **GOAL** for world Evangelism

From Jerusalem to the end of the earth

Second, there is the **MODE** by which it will be carried out

Who is going to carry this out

You are

For YOU shall receive this power

Third, there is the Holy Spirit That works along with the disciples
He is the **AGENCY**

And fourth, there is the power -- power to be witnesses.

Power is the **CATALYST**

THAT BRINGS IT ALL TOGETHER

The **POWER** we receive is the Miracle Working Power we talked about this morning

The power to prophecy

The power to raise the dead

Heal the sick

And cast out devils ...

ACTS 1;8 is a blue print for our life and ministry in the church

And it is an important plan

It is so important in fact that it occurs more than once

TURN TO LUKE 24:47-49.

What we have in these last verses of Luke are on overlapping of events that took place in the last 40 days with Jesus

So we get the ascension twice

At the end of Luke and the beginning of Acts

Picking up the words of Jesus in verse 47 he is telling the apostles about

THE GOAL

and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

What is the Goal – to take the gospel to the whole world From Jerusalem

NEXT WE SEE THE MODE –

Luke 24:48

You are witnesses of these things.

Who are the witnesses – YOU ARE

Finally in Luke 24:49 we have the Agency – the Spirit
And the Catalyst – POWER

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; (SPIRIT) but stay in the city until you have been clothed with POWER from on high."

In both cases the very next event of

Luke 24

Acts 1

Was the Ascension of Jesus:

Acts 1:9-11

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

[10] They 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."

The importance of these last words of Jesus is clear

They were meant to be words to guide us in the time between his Ascension and his return.

In other words we are supposed to be Pentecostal Christians until he comes again

The Life as a Christian filled with Power is so different from the Normal Christian life

Standing on this side of the experience...I don't see how people can go on with out it.

After all – God wants to cloth us with POWER

And keep on filling us over and over again

In the Old Testament "being clothed" with the Spirit was an extraordinary time of empowerment

When there was an important job to be done,

God chose a person to do it,

and the Spirit gave that person the needed power and ability.

The Spirit gave Bezalel artistic ability (Exodus 31:1-5),

The Spirit gave Jephthah military prowess (Judges 11:29),

The Spirit gave David power to rule (1 Samuel 16:13),

The Spirit gave Zechariah an authoritative word of prophecy (2 Chron. 24:20).

2 Chron. 24:20

Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.' "

The Spirit came upon individuals in order to accomplish specific goals.

Beginning at Pentecost, however, the Spirit became available for all believer to empower them to do God's day by day

He makes an amazing Difference in the life of a believer

Let me use an illustration from Martin Lloyd-Jones in his book Joy Unspeakable to describe the difference between common Christian living and what happens when the Holy Spirit "clothes" a person with power

He says it is like a child walking along holding his father's hand. All is well. The child is happy. He feels secure. His father loves him. He believes that his father loves him but there is no unusual urge to talk about this or sing about it. It is true and it is pleasant.

Then suddenly the father startles the child by reaching down and sweeping him up into his arms and hugging him tightly and kissing him on the neck and whispering, "I love you so much!" And then holding the stunned child back so that he can look into his face and saying with all his heart, "I am so glad you are mine." Then hugging him once more with unspeakable warmth and affection. Then he puts the child down and they continue their walk. This, Lloyd-Jones says is what happens when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit. A pleasant and happy walk with God is swept up into an unspeakable new level of joy and love and assurance and reality that leaves the Christian so utterly certain of the immediate reality of Jesus that he is overflowing in praise and more free and bold in witness than he ever imagined he could be.

The child is simply stunned. He doesn't know whether to cry or shout or fall down or run, he is so happy. The fuses of love are so overloaded they almost blow out. The subconscious doubts -- that he wasn't thinking about at the time, but that pop up every now and then -- are gone! And in their place is utter and indestructible assurance, so that you know that you know that you know that God is real and that Jesus lives and that you are loved, and that to be saved is the greatest thing in the world. And as you walk on down the street you can scarcely contain yourself, and you want to cry out, "My father loves me! My father loves me! O, what a great father I have! What a father! What a father!"

I think this is basically what happened at Pentecost.

And has happened again and again in the life of the church.

They were so filled with the fullness of God –

they were overwhelmed with the length and breadth and height and depth of the love of Christ –

that they began (as Acts 2:11 says) to speak "the greatnesses of God".

Their mind was full of a fresh new, breathtaking vision of God and their mouth overflowed with prophetic praise –

And it is for sons and daughters, old and young, slave and free.

I believe that this kind of experience is what Jesus meant by the "witnessing" in Acts 1:8

This is the experience that will be able to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8 says "You will receive this power . . . and you will be my witnesses."

In other Words

You will no longer be merely advocates who can prove like a good lawyer that Jesus rose from the dead.

But under the influence of this power –

This experience of the Spirit of the risen Christ –

You will speak with the unwavering assurance AS one who has tasted and knows the reality of God's empowering presence

You move from being an advocate of Christianity to being a witness of the living Christ.

You move from simply deducing Christian truths from valid premises to
Proclaiming them boldly as experienced realities.

This is the power

and the witness that will take Christ to the end of the earth.

So I ask

Coming back to my original observation

It's amazing the different response modern people have to this promise

Many people believe "Well the Holy Spirit was Just for those First Century
Christians..

is it for us or just for the first generation that Jesus was talking to?

No way

The promise of this extraordinary power –
this extraordinary experience of the fullness of God –
is given, Jesus says, to enable his witnesses to take the gospel to the end of
the earth or, as Luke 24:47 says, to all the nations.

But we have not completed that assignment yet.

Therefore I do not think he has withdrawn the promise yet either.

If the promise was given to empower the church to complete the great
commission,

then the promise is valid till the great commission is complete, and the
witness to Christ has been planted among all the unreached people groups of
the world.

Therefore, I conclude that the power promised here –

the extraordinary experience of being "clothed with power" -- is for us.

And if we love the glory of God,
and if we long for his kingdom to advance,
and if we have compassion on the lost and hurting people of the world,

we will increasingly want this power and we will seek this power.

Which means very simply that we will cry out for it like the woman in the parable who wanted the judge to vindicate her cause (Luke 18:1-8).

This is what Acts 1:14 says that the disciples did until Pentecost came:

"they devoted themselves to prayer". So should we.

that all the world might know that God is real.