

Jesus Promises to Empower the Apostles

Acts 1:4-9 “And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

❖ Recap/Intro: I am So Excited About this Book...

➤ God is stirring in my heart a heart for:

- Purity
- Teaching Believers
- Reaching Lost People
- Growing Closer and Closer to Jesus

❖ The Acts of the Apostles

➤ Written by Luke:

➤ Written during:

- Written about the times AD33 to AD64
- Likely finished after AD 60

❖ The Importance of this Book:

➤ Why it was written:

- It was written to give a faithful representation of what the early church looked like

➤ How Should We Use it Today:

- 1) Compare
- 2) Re-Capture:
- 3) Challenge

❖ Is it Possible?

- 1) These guys left all to follow Jesus by making disciples
 - Most of us have not
- 2) They were very close to Jesus daily for three years
 - Most of us do not spend quality time with Jesus daily
- 3) They took what Jesus had given them and began to invest in others
 - Few of us are trying to pour what God has given to us into others
- 4) They were extremely generous
 - Only 2%-4% of Christians actually tithe
 - I am unsure of the percent for us but it is somewhere around 40%
 - This tells me... that people have not followed Jesus.
 - You can tell those who are of the faith because they are generous and they make disciples...
- 5) They prayed relentlessly
 - We pray when we want to
- 6) They relied on the Holy Spirit for everything
 - We hardly know who He is

❖ Last Weeks Outline:

➤ 1) Luke's Introduction and the Work of the Holy Spirit

- In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- **2) Jesus is Alive and Still Teaching**
 - ³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- **3) Jesus Promises to Immerse Them with the Holy Spirit**
 - ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- **4) Jesus Words Cause the Apostles to Respond with a Question**
 - ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

❖ **Today’s Outline:**

- **1) Jesus Promises to Immerse Them with the Holy Spirit**
- **2) Jesus Gives Them Their Mission**

❖ **1) Jesus Promises to Immerse Them with the Holy Spirit**

- ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- **So... what exactly is Jesus talking about here...**
 - What does He mean by baptizing them with the Holy Spirit
 - I think He makes it very clear with three phrases...
 - 1) He says: wait for the promise of the Father:
 - 2) He says: Which you heard from Me
 - 3) For John Baptized with water
 - 4) You will Be Baptized with the Holy Spirit
- **In Explaining to them what is about to happen in regards to be baptized with the Holy Spirit**
 - He says... :
 - 1) it was a promise of the Father
 - 2) You heard it from me
 - 3) Contrast and compare it to John Baptizing with water...
- **1) Being Baptized with the Holy Spirit was a promise from the Father**
 - As we will see Peter quote this promise from Joel
- **2) Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is something Jesus had already told them about**
 - Jesus had already told them about this promise...
- **3) Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is compared and contrasted to John the Baptist’s baptism**
 - **Luke 3:16** ¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - **John’s baptism was one of repentance...**
 - When a person realized they had been living an ungodly life and wanted to turn from that
 - They repented... and the baptism was a sign of repentance
 - They were immersed under water in a symbol of cleansing
 - A symbol of turning from their sins...

- **They were professing to everyone around...**
 - ◆ I am sorry for my sins...
 - ◆ I need to be cleansed
 - ◆ I want to live for God
- **Jesus Baptism is different and similar...**
 - The apostles are going to be immersed in the Holy Spirit...
 - It is similar in that fashion of a person repenting and being immersed in water
 - The apostles are going to be immersed in the Spirit
 - **There would be more to their coming baptism than just water...**
 - ◆ And to be realistic... Anyone could go down into the water and be baptized by water...
 - ◆ But you can not fake the baptism of the Holy Spirit...
- **There is a lot of confusion about this I think...**
 - And that probably makes sense because so many people say different things...
 - Lets keep it simple and look at what we do know...
- **To understand it more fully let's look at what happens... When it actually happens**
 - **Acts 2: When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.**
 - **1) A sound like a mighty rushing wind filled the entire house...**
 - ◆ Jesus had likened the Holy Spirit to wind when He spoke to Nicodemus
 - **2) Divided tongues of fire appeared to them and rested on each of them**
 - ◆ This reminds me of the Spirit coming in the form of a dove on Jesus at His baptism
 - ◆ The way the Spirit reveals Himself is important I believe
 - ◆ The dove a symbol of peace... As Jesus has come to bring peace b/w man and God
 - ◆ He is born with this promise of "peace among those with whom he is pleased" Luke 2
 - **3) They began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance...**
 - ◆ So the Holy Spirit directed them in their speech...
 - ◆ And they were allowed to speak in the languages of other nations
 - ◆ When the Holy Spirit gave them "utterance" The ability and desire to speak something
- **People are amazed by their speaking...**
 - They do not know what is going on...
 - **Some even mock saying that they are drunk**
 - ◆ (Last time I checked... Drunk people get dumber not smarter...)
 - ◆ Ever met a person that got smarter after they got drunk...
 - ◆ Ever met a person that could speak better after they got drunk?
 - **So Peter explains more fully...**
 - And it is a good thing... because we need more info...
 - Peter says... these guys are not drunk... rather...
 - **Acts 2:16-18 ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ " 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.**
 - ◆ So Peter is telling them... God has fulfilled His promise to pour out His Spirit
 - ◆ He is showing them and telling them...

- ◆ God is moving... He is speaking through people... He is allowing them to prophecy...
- ◆ To tell the truth about God...(inspired utterances by God)

➤ **What was the fruit of this outpouring of the Spirit...?**

- This... I think is where we get a much better understanding of what it means...
- **If you look later in other places where it speaks of disciples being filled...**
 - There isn't always the sound of a rushing wind
 - We never see again divided tongues of fire resting on the disciples
 - We do not always see them speaking in other tongues
- **What We Do See is A Powerful Witness**

➤ **A Powerful Witness for the Salvation of Souls...**

- We need to look no further than the example of Peter's sermon to understand what happened that day...
- **At the end of Peter's quoting of Joel he quotes this verse from Joel... and we see it in**
 - **Acts 2.21 "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**
- What was the result of Peter's Sermon plus the work of the other 120 disciples in Acts 2
 - 3,000 people were added to the faith...

➤ **Peter Prophesied**

- **If you look at Peter's Sermon you find something very interesting...**
 - He is preaching the Gospel...
- **Prophecy and people prophesying sometimes trips people up...**
 - They get confused by it...
 - They think it is like Silvia Brown... And it must be like this psychic thing... only its from God...
 - That there must be some extra revelation that we hadn't heard before...
 - Not true...
 - We do see a bunch of places in the Bible where a prophet would tell the future...
 - ◆ But here we see prophecy in a much different way...
- **Peter uses Joel to explain what was happening...**
 - And Joel says God was going to pour out His Spirit and His children were going to prophecy
 - ◆ Men and women...
- I believe we get a great and specific example of this by reading what Peter says
- The Spirit had been poured out on Peter
 - And Peter also is prophesying... and what does He say...?

➤ **Peter Preaches the Gospel (His Sermon went like this)**

- God Sent His Son Jesus
- He proved Himself before you
- You had Him Killed
- But God raised Him from the dead
- Cause death can't hold Jesus
- And now Jesus sits at the right hand of God
- And we that are preaching to you... We are witnesses of these events
- This Jesus is the Christ...
- And You guys need to repent...

➤ **Simple right...?**

- But powerful!

➤ **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit = A Powerful Witness and The Salvation of Souls**

- **A Very Special and Unique Day in the history of the Christian Church**
 - The first time this had ever happened...
 - And I believe to large degree there are things about that day that have never been repeated
 - And may never again be repeated...
- **But, the main thrust of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
 - Continued throughout History even until today
 - And it is needed more and more even now....
- **I believe we should pray for a special moving of the Holy Spirit...**
 - If you notice there continued to be special times of the Holy Spirit filling the disciples...
 - In Acts 4 Peter is again filled with the Spirit to speak with Boldness to the Jewish believers
 - Again in Acts 4 other disciples are filled and they continued to Speak the word of God
 - After we see Paul filled with the Holy Spirit at His conversion in Acts 9:37
 - We see him again filled with the Spirit in Acts
- **Let me End this section by making a few more points**
 - About this Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1 and 2
 - **1) I do not believe it refers to the Apostles being saved**
 - I believe they were already saved
 - **2) I also do not think this refers to the Holy Spirit coming to live in and dwell in the believer**
 - Although we do use this same terminology to describe what happens when a believer repents
 - ◆ And places their trust in Jesus
 - ◆ And the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in them...
 - **Jesus had already breathed on them and told them to Receive the Holy Spirit...**
 - ◆ We see that in **John 20:22**
 - **Also... Peter could have used Ezekiel 36:24-36 to describe the what was happening to them**
 - ◆ Where Ezekiel speaks of taking out their heart of flesh... placing His Spirit within them...
 - ◆ I do believe as a result of the disciples preaching this occurred in the lives of the 3,000 who believed that day...
 - ◆ Rather... He used what Joel said... where the actions were
 - Prophesying about God
 - And People getting saved
 - **3) This filling with the Holy Spirit happened again and again...**
 - Remember what I shared a few moments ago
 - So... they were certainly not getting saved over and over again
- **Rather it seems God was Filling them with who He is**
 - And when the believer is so filled with God
 - He can not help but to burst out
 - In praise and adoration
 - In exalting the name of Jesus
 - In speaking forth the glories of the mighty works of God in Jesus Christ...
- **The baptism of the Holy Spirit = A Powerful Witness and The Salvation of Souls**
 - Can we not pray for this...?....Can we not beg God for this...?
 - He has done it at various times in various places where He is people were gathered and praying
 - He has already given us the promise of His Spirit...
 - He dwells within us from the moment we are Born Again...
 - Let us pray for Him to move in our hearts and stir us up
 - Let us pray that we not quench the Holy Spirit
 - That we not pour cold water on the fire of the Holy Spirit with our sinful and reckless behavior

- **Let us not forget the fertile ground of those whom God chose to use...**
 - I think we would be in error not to consider this...
 - I think we would be in error to just think God will use a group of believers that were worldly
 - **Remember they were:**
 - 1) These guys left all to follow Jesus by making disciples
 - 2) They were very close to Jesus daily for three years
 - 3) They took what Jesus had given them and began to invest in others
 - 4) They were extremely generous
 - 5) They prayed relentlessly
 - 6) They relied on the Holy Spirit for everything

❖ 2) Jesus Gives Them Their Mission

- **⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
- **But.... You are not to know when God will do what your asking... But...**
 - **In b/w these two points from verses 4 and 5 to verse 8... the disciples had asked:**
 - If this was the time that Israel would be restored...
 - And Jesus tells them it is not for them to know the times God has fixed..
 - Rather... their job is different...
 - **You have to reach the World...**
 - ◆ I say: Something greater than the restoration of Israel...
 - ◆ The restoration of mankind to God
- **Luke restates what He had previously said :**
 - **Luke 24:45-49 ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."**
- **1) BUT....You will receive power**
 - In luke 24:49 he said they would be clothed with power from on high
 - This is what we saw when the Spirit had come...
- **2) When the Holy Spirit has Come upon You**
 - Synonymous with receiving power...
 - Synonymous with the promise of the Father...
- **3) Be My Witness**
 - **Luke 24:46-48 ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name.....⁴⁸ You are my witness of these things**
 - **You will be my witnesses...**
 - **The word witness is the greek word that we get martyr from...**
 - Because being a witness for Jesus usually meant that you would die...
 - But the word witness means they would tell people Who Jesus is and what He did...
 - **The word witness means:** one who has knowledge or information about something and therefore could bring to light the truth about that particular thing...
- **Mission: Called to Be His Witnesses**
 - Think back to Luke 5 if you would...
 - After the great haul of fish... Jesus says to these guys...
 - Don't worry... for Now on you will be catchers of men...

- **4) Where: Jerusalem, Judea and Ends of the Earth**
 - **Luke 24:47⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.**
 - **God's Target is worldwide...**
 - God is the Father of all men...
 - And therefore desires all men to be saved...
 - No matter what group of people they are from
 - **Peter learned this first hand when He was instructed by God to go to Cornelius**
 - Who was a Roman... a Gentile
- **The Disciples began at Home...**
 - And they branched out to the whole world...
 - Jerusalem:
 - Judea: the surrounding Region
 - **Samaria: An area of outcasts... people that the Jews would have nothing to do with..**
 - A supposedly ungodly people...
 - A group that followed after false gods in their past
 - A group that Jesus had already went to...
 - ◆ When he met up with the woman at the well
 - And Jesus calls them out by name...
 - **To the Ends of the Earth...**
 - He wants to leave no misunderstandings as to where the gospel is to be taken...
 - He wants His witnesses to know where they are supposed to go witnessing...
- **I Believe we Continue to have the Same Mandate**
 - This is why we want to reach our surrounding area...
 - We want to be faithful to the mission
 - We want to reach a little out into the Region surrounding us...
 - And we want to reach out into the World...
 - Doing what we can as God leads and provides...

❖ Invitation

- Are you a part of the work
- Do you know yourself to be being faithful to the call of God in your life
- To go out and make disciples...
- I want to say... I know it is a daunting and overwhelming task...
 - So your hope is to ask God for His help...
 - Ask God for the filling of His Spirit so you will be filled with power and boldness
- **Remember the fertile ground of the apostles hearts...**
 - And you too can be so filled with the knowledge of God that you do not care what anyone thinks...
 - You will not be able to contain yourself when it comes to telling others about Jesus