

Who We Are: People of the Word & People on Mission

Acts 1:6-11

Read Acts 1:6-11 together:

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

- ? How does Jesus reassure his disciples when he gives the Great Commission?
- ? Who is to be included in the Great Commission?
- ? Is the Holy Spirit calling you to foreign missions? If so, where?
- ? Is the Holy Spirit calling you to local missions? If so, where?
- ? Is there a difference between regeneration and baptism of the Holy Spirit?
- ? What are some reasons the Great Commission is an urgent matter?

"Go, Send, or Disobey" (John Piper).

Context:

Jesus presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs. He committed the work of gospel proclamation to his followers. He instructed them to "wait" for the promise of the Holy Spirit in order for them to have power for the work. The disciples were looking to the future restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Jesus wanted them to fix their attention on the present power of the Holy Spirit.

- ? What did the disciples do while they waited for the promise?
- ? What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
- ? Do you wait for the power of the Holy Spirit before doing the work?
- ? Does prayer prepare a person to receive power from the Holy Spirit? How?
- ? Does lack of devoted prayer inhibit Jesus from giving the Spirit in greater measure? Why or why not?

Content:

As Christians, we are people of the Spirit, people of the Word, people of prayer, and most importantly, people on mission.

- ? Whose job is it to penetrate the darkness with the gospel?
- ? Have you placed your hope in pastors and professionals only to be let down? Describe the circumstances.
- ? What are the individual components of the Great Commission?
- ? According to Ephesians 4:11-12, what is the pastor's job?
- ? What were the characteristics of the Acts 2 Church?
- ? Is the Church the same today? Should it be?
- ? Has American culture impacted the Church negatively? In what ways?
- ? Have you contributed to the decline of the Acts 2 Church? In what ways?

Application:

The primitive church was one of unity, devotion, simplicity, and gladness. They experienced personal transformation and sought to share their experiences with the community around them and to the ends of the earth.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:42

Three points to apply and a few questions to stimulate application:

1. Pray for one person. Wait for the power. Share Jesus with that person when the power comes.
2. Pray for your pastors. Not part of a church? Why not try Berean?
3. Trust the voice of the Holy Spirit. Heed not the voice of the devil.

- ? The primitive church was devoted. What does it mean to be devoted?
- ? What areas of your spiritual life are lacking devotion?
- ? What are you willing to give up (take up your cross) in order to reach more people for Christ?
- ? What platforms are available to you that you can use to carry out the Great Commission?
- ? How does a person obtain the power of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of doing the work?
- ? What are you doing specifically in order to carry out the Great Commission?
- ? Are you seeking more and new opportunities to reach people for Christ?
- ? How can you make better use of the platforms you already have?