

Acts 1:12-26 You Will Receive Power

Book of Acts – The Acts of the Holy Spirit working through ordinary people to do extraordinary things

A)Jesus likened the ministry of the Holy Spirit in John's gospel to the wind

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

B)The work of the Holy Spirit is like the wind – can't see it but you see the affects of it!

C)Reminds me of the story of the little boy who was talking to his grandpa – old fisherman.

Grandpa what is the wind? – The old fisherman responded – "Son I can't explain the wind to you but I can teach you to raise the sails."

That is a good description I think of the book of Acts

A)The book of Acts doesn't seek to explain to us all the nuances of the Holy Spirit.

B)But it shows us how we can have the wind of the Holy Spirit moving our sails.

C)The Person of the HS – Empowering our lives

As we close out Chapter 1 today we will see 5 principles that led to the apostles being in a place to receive this empowering.

Set up the scene: We saw in V.1-11 how Jesus commanded his disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. { Baptized by the Holy Spirit

D)They saw Jesus ascend – Angels said – quit Gawking – and do what Jesus told you to do.

Pick up reading V. 12 -14

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. ¹³ And when they had

entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son of Alphaeus* and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son of James*. ¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

#1 They were Obedient!

A)Jesus told them to go into Jerusalem and wait and they did.

B)And Luke 24:52 says they returned with Joy!

C)You might think – well why wouldn't they?

But Think about this: Jerusalem was a Dangerous place for them to be!

A)People there that Hated Jesus – Hated His Followers and were very Upset – Resurrection talk

B)There was already a growing hostility toward these followers of Christ

1)It was a Dangerous place for them to be – but Obedient

C)They returned with Joy!

What about in your life – are you reluctant in your obedience? – If I have to Lord – I will. I must

A)Or is there a Joy – because you so trust God.

B)Are Obedient even when it is Dangerous ?

1)Face opposition – work – family – friends

Life is often full of hard decisions!

A)Is there something in your life right now God is calling you to – Dangerous decision.

B)You will not see God's power and blessing until you are obedient to do what he is calling you to do

C)So First thing we note is they were obedient.

#2 They were waiting!

A)V.14 They continued { The Empowering didn't happen the moment they got back – 10 days

B)They were waiting – met in an upper room – waiting on the Lord.

1) HOW MANY OF YOU LIKE WAITING FOR THINGS?

C) Most of us don't like to wait on things or wait for things –

1) but waiting is important spiritual Discipline

D) Great Promise for those who wait Isaiah 40:31

Isaiah 40:31 "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

SO What does healthy waiting look like?

A) IT IS NOT: - Waiting at a Red light when you are in a hurry. – Tapping steering wheel – yelling

B) In other words it is not an agitated – impatient complaining – situation

C) Nor is it a lethargic – just going to sit on the couch and watch sports center – play video games

1) Wait for them to call.

When the Bible talks about waiting on the Lord – it is always referring to a REST – PEACE

A) GOD is working – God is in Control – God is faithful

B) But it is also an active Rest: -

1) Doing what we can –

C) Waiting for a Job – filling out applications

1) Waiting on parking – making phone calls

We see this Active Rest at work in the apostles

A) Doing the things you know that God wants you to do to.

B) Being obedient in the areas that He has already revealed while you wait for further instruction

C) Attitude of submission and surrender to His plan and His timing! –

1) Not seeking to rush or Divert

The early Church was a great example of that Waiting on God.

#3 V.14 They continued in one accord – Not Honda

A) One accord = One mind – One heart – Unity of purpose!

B) They continued in that direction:

C) The Power plays of the past – James and John Are gone –

D) No hidden agendas – thing of the past now seemed to be gone.

1) THEY WERE NOW ONE

120 in that upper room – One Agenda! – JESUS

A) The Phrase one accord appears all over the book of Acts in Describing – the early Church.

B) Chapters 1:14; 2:1, 46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25;

C) And Acts 2:44 says they had all things in common – by THAT time – 3,000 believers

1) All things in Common – How can that be!

D) They had what mattered in Common.

Unity is not Uniformity

A) Uniformity think – Uniform – all say same thing

Dress the same – Unified.

B) There is Uniformity at IN AND OUT – All in the same uniforms HATS – all make 2BL 2BL

C) There might be Uniformity in a company – but there is not necessarily UNITY

1) This department competing with that one

D) This group hates their boss!

There isn't and shouldn't really be Uniformity in the Church.

A) The Church is a place for varying opinions Diversity of gifts personalities – passions.

B) It is one of the things that makes the Body of Christ so beautiful – DIVERSITY!

1) That is healthy –

C) But where there needs to be Unity in a Church – is area of Essential Doctrine.

1) And Methodology – Direction of ministry.

D) What are we called to do!

Essentials – Unity
Non Essentials – Liberty
All things – Charity.

E)Respect someone else's opinion and choose to agree to disagree on Non essentials.

Unity should be natural: - THE CROSS

A)All sinners in need of a Savior

B)All sinners – saved by Grace –

C)All broken – in the process of transformation

D)We are different but we appreciate the work Jesus is doing in all of us!

Unified in Purpose!

A)Know Jesus and to make Him Known!

B)So in the body of Christ – Unity exist – we celebrate that – all Christian Churches

1)National Day of Prayer

C)Celebrate our unity – and appreciate our Diversity

1)Different flavors – Different emphasis

D)All one body – JESUS IS THE HEAD

Now – v.13 mentions that the disciples were present – v.14 Jesus mother and Brothers

A)Interesting because in Mark 3:21 we are told of a time when his Bros – “ He is out of His mind.”

B)Now Believers – Why? Resurrection

His 1/2 Brother James when on to write the book of James and Jude – book of Jude

A)I point this out because . If anyone could have questioned the deity of Jesus Christ, it would have been His own brothers,

B)Imagine growing up with Jesus –

1)Jude why can't you be more like Jesus – He always picks up after himself.

C)That alone might have turned them off -

1)yet here are James and Jude, numbered among the believers.

D)**JAMES calls his brother his LORD**

I AM HIS SERVANT

#4 They were given to prayer! V.14

A)They continued in one accord in prayer and supplication.

B)Prayer produces unity, and unity empowers prayer.

C)When you pray with people, you experience a glorious unity that allows a greater release of blessing.

That is why Jesus said, “If two or three of you agree in prayer, there’s a dynamic released, and things will happen” (see Matthew 18:20).

A)As a result of this prayer meeting, the church would soon no longer consist of one hundred twenty believers hiding away in an upper room,

B)but would, in a single day, explode to number over three thousand

C)Prayer was a big part of who they were.

This word prayer appears 27 times in the NT and it means to pray earnestly, or fervently.

A)**Passion connected to it** – a sense of desperation.

B)**Lord we need you!** – We cry out to you.

C)The word supplication actually means to plead and to entreat.

The Reason that Prayer is a huge part of setting ourselves up to receive – Empowering

A)Prayer – communicates a posture of dependency upon God.

B)The More dependent you are the more you will pray!

1)Pray communicates – I can't do anything w/out U!

Prayer communicates: I need help!

A)Don't know where I GOING – don't know what I am DOING

B)Lord I need your help your guidance – your direction – Your empowering

C)Jesus always responds in a positive way toward the desperate heart!

1)Jarius/ Leper/ Woman with ...Blood – man with the Demon possessed son

D)Prayer – communicates a desperate Heart

Our problem is the more comfortable we get in a situation – the less we pray

A)1st married – Dwell in understanding – Help – I prayed that prayer a lot

B)But after the first year – We kind of got into a groove!

1)Got comfortable – I understand her now

C)My prayers for understanding decreased

Until about 4 years ago – Menopause – Men Pause

A)Who is this woman – She was changing – she was a lot more emotional –

B)My first reaction was this stinks – I want my wife back again!

C)It got me praying like I did when we were first married

1)It was one of the best things for my Walk with the Lord

D)Put a dependency back in my marriage –that has been really HELPFUL

EVEN IN MINISTRY:

A)I have Prepared 1,000's of Bible studies – and 1,000's of hrs of counseling

B)But I realize – this is a high and holy – undertaking

1)Jesus help me –

C)The measure of your Empowering I think is going to directly connected to your Prayer life

1)More desperate you realize you are – the more you will pray –

D)The more you pray the more you will receive power from on High

E)Ephesians 5:18 – Be continually being filled

1)Matthew 5:3 – **Poor in Spirit** – A posture of spiritual bankruptcy – DON'T HAVE THE GOODS

So these are the things that were happening to set up what took place next in Ch. 2.

#1 Obedient

#2 Waiting

#3 Unified

#4 Praying

#5 They were given to the Word. Read v.15-26

¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶ “Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷ for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. (**Graphic**) Contradiction: Matthew 27:5 Judas Hung himself? – Rope Broke.....

¹⁹ And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ “For it is written in the Book of Psalms: (**Psa 69:25**
Psa 109:8)

‘Let his dwelling place be desolate,
And let no one live in it’; and,

‘Let another take his office.’

²¹ “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. (**Matthias gets picked**)

Now the first thing I want you to note is this:

A)Peter is an ordinary guy – fisherman – he is not a seminary student –

B) But he has a handle on the word of God – He pulls from two Psalms - proof text –

1) They needed to pick a replacement

C) Encouragement to all of us – People of the Word!

Having said that - there has been a lot of debate over this:

A) Was Peter right in suggesting that they pick a replacement for Judas.

B) Some very good Bible teachers argue that Paul was God's choice -

1) Argue – Peter jumped the gun – because this guy Matthias was never heard from again.

C) Here is how I would answer those remarks

a) Scripture doesn't commend or condemn what took place here. – Just states it.

b) Aside from Peter, James and John none of the other apostles listed in V.13 are mentioned again

in the book of Acts.

c) Paul would not become saved or an apostle for at

least 6 years.

d) Barnabas is also called an apostle in Acts 14

²³ And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴ And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵ to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles"

Now this is another thing that people wrestle with

A) Everything was making sense PR until – this roll the dice thing pops up here.

B) OK, we want to find out God's will. Who has the dice? Let's throw dice.

1) Oh, snake eyes, OK, so that means so-and-so gets in.

C) This seems strange to a lot of people

1) Is that how they discovered God's will

Well in the Old Testament there was a method that the priest would use when somebody wanted to discern God's will.

A) There were two stones. One was called the Urim and the other was called the Thummim,

B) We don't exactly know what they were, but they were some kind of a way to look at a stone,

1) two stones, black and white it is believed and discern what the will of God is by casting lots.

C) And if you think, well, I still think that's a horrible way to discern God's will.

1) How about this?

D) In Proverbs 16:33 it says the lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

1) In other words – We trust the Sovereignty of God

Now it is interesting to me – that this is the last time that casting lots is ever mentioned or practiced in the scriptures.

A) You'll never read of it again. Last time.

B) The early church will not do that after the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

C) There is no need. The Holy Spirit as Jesus promised will guide you into all truth all truth,

1) So He's going to direct them. So were they making a mistake?

D) I guess that's up to you to decide!

We will find out in Heaven!

A) Revelation 21:14 tells us that the names of the apostles are written on the twelve foundations in heaven.

B) Will the 12th be Matthias or Paul – or someone else

1) Barnabas is also called an Apostle

C) Which brings up another question: Are there Apostles today?

or have they vanished off the scene?

That is a question I've been asked on many occasions. Are there apostles today?

A)Here's how I answer it, and you're not going to like it. Yes and no.

In the strictest sense there are no more apostles today. But in a functional sense there are.

A)You say that didn't help. OK, so let me explain myself.

B)Consider the Criteria for Apostleship

- #1 With them from the beginning – John Baptism
- #2 They saw Jesus resurrected

C)In the strictest possible sense, there were only Twelve Apostles who #1were with Him during His earthly ministry.

➤ #2 saw the resurrected Christ,

Well, nobody can claim that today. Nobody today alive was with Jesus during His earthly ministry.

A)So in a strict sense, there are no more apostles.

B)The, 12 apostles, laid the foundation of the Church.

1)Paul said that the Church was laid by the foundation of the prophets and the apostles.

C)And in chapter 2 Verse 42, we read they devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine.

1)That is, these 12 gave teaching, doctrine, that became foundational for the church from this day - forward.

D) So that's foundational.

So in the Strictest sense of the term – No there are no longer Apostles

A)But in a broader sense: The term Apostle means sent ones

B) 75 times in the New Testament you will find the word "apostle."

1)many of those times-- many of those times they do not refer to the Twelve Apostles that were with Jesus from the beginning.

C)For example, Barnabas is called an apostle. Paul called an apostle.

- 1)Timothy was called an apostle.
- 2)Silvanus was called an apostle.
- 3) Andronicus and Junia-- you go who? They were apostles, that's who.

All of these in the New Testament were called apostles. Why?

A)Because they had some apostolic function.

B)You see, the word apostle, apostolo or apostolos if you're talking noun or verb,

1)means a sent out one or a messenger-- a messenger.

C)The original classical Greek word referred to an expedition or a fleet of ships that were sent out.

Apostles are Pioneers – those who blaze new territory for the Cause of Christ

A)Greg Opean – Apostolic ministry in Hungary

B)He was involved in most of the church plants in most cities

C)So in the strictest sense – no

1)But in a broader sense – Missionary or church planter – Yes

What led to the Apostles being empowered?

#1 They were Obedient!

#2 They were waiting!

#3 V.14 They continued in one accord

#4 They were given to prayer! V.14

#5 They were given to the Word.

Next week see how this all comes together!