

EMPHASIS:

TOPIC: **WAIT FOR POWER**

Main Emphasis Idea:

What does Jesus mean when he said, wait to be clothed in power?

Acts 1: 6-8

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. 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.”

Questions That Need Answers:

1. Why wait for power?
 2. What is power?
 3. How should we view the gifts of The Spirit.
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Intro

Its pentecost Sunday today, and as the Church shifts out of Easter, we move into this incredible day of remembering when the apostles were clothed with power. The empowerment of The Holy Spirit.

So tonight, I want us to think about this... "What does it mean to receive power?"

What is Acts 1 saying?

verse 8 is not a changing of the subject by Jesus... but actually a true answer to the question...

You see the apostles are still dealing with their own understanding of who the Messiah should be, and so naturally they assume it must be time to restore this kingdom. Jesus checks them by letting them know that is not for them to know, but then in verse 8, Jesus actually answers their question.

You will receive power from the Holy Spirit, and you will be my witness to the end of the earth.

What does power mean?

This word for Jesus and Luke is chosen specifically...

The word for power here is *dunamis* and it means

- * divine enablement,
- * spiritual effectiveness,
- * supernatural empowerment.

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Now there is another word for power and its exousia and its meaning is

- * authority
- * right
- * jurisdiction
- * delegated rule

This word describes a sense of more political power or power in the sense of over others. But Jesus does not use that word and Luke does not write it that way. Instead the word used is dunamis.

The reason for the power of The Holy Spirit

The power of the holy spirit, is unto something, not for its own purposes.

It sounds when I say this like "well duhh"... But actually for a lot of us, if we did a self audit, we mostly want the gifts of the spirit to move, for the gifts of the spirit of to move.

Here is something we all need to clearly understand and keep at the forefront of our brains... "The manifest power of The Holy Spirit, has only one goal, it is to lead people to the person of Jesus and be transformed into people of Love."

The gifts need to shift in our brain

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

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Paul first illustrates, the gifts of the spirit are for the common good of the body of Christ, it helps advance us further into our transformation into looking like Christ. They are designed to push us further into love and being love.

That's why Paul says this...

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

You see all of this is about love... Jesus is love, and all of this is about becoming like Jesus, which means becoming people of love.

What is success?

We can't miss that the goal of our lives is to be with Jesus, be like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. The power of The Holy Spirit plays into that, but it's not the exclusive way in which we encounter God.

"We meet God in the ordinary, the simple, the everyday."
— Eugene Peterson

"To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."
— Karl Barth

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The moment we see success or a true move of God, by the demonstration of the gifts of The Holy Spirit instead of experiencing Jesus, we have missed the goal. Jesus can encounter us in anyway he choses, that includes the gifts of The Holy Spirit, but that also includes through someone, through worship, through community, through silence, and mainly through love. I would also say that throughout history the church fathers have always seen personal prayer as the greatest door to encounter God.

We are contemplative charismatics

We use the language here "Contemplative Charismatics" here, because one thing is deeply true, both are needed. We are both meant to have lives that are contemplative in nature, spent alone with Jesus learning from him and who he is, and we are called to be those who use the gifts and power of The Holy Spirit to draw and invite those in who need Jesus to experience him personally.

"The power of the Spirit is not meant to make us impressive, but to make Jesus visible."

— Francis Chan

How do we see this power correctly?

We see the gifts of The Holy Spirit as a spiritual tool belt, for those who are hurting. Then we use the guidance of The Holy Spirit on when to use them.

Closing

I believe as a church we are called to show a healthy way of seeing people who live contemplative lives, we are rooted in spiritual disciplines, we are built on prayer and silence, we think deeply and act slowly... but we also will show people that the power and gifts of The Holy Spirit are real, and The Kingdom of God is real, powerful, and leads people to freedom.

Rule of Life Practice #2

Weekly Rooting

The practice of intentionally placing ourselves in rhythms of discipleship alongside believers who have a common pursuit of formation in Christ.

To participate in the practice we ask that you commit to participating in one of our deeper levels of formation, either in participation in joining us weekly at Mid-Week for deeper biblical teaching, or joining our deepest levels of discipleship sessions (1 on 1 discipleship) or Cohorts (discipleship done together in community.)
