

Signs of His Love - Part 9

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.”

These are the last words of Jesus before His ascension. Jesus had spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection and is fittingly with His disciples right before He leaves to ascend back to the Father. I’m sure the eleven were still somewhat unsure of the future without the Master right beside them. So, Jesus gives them this last statement before He leaves.

The first part is a promise of power. You will receive power. This word in the Greek text carries with it the picture of the power of an explosion. In other words, Jesus was telling them that the power that they receive when the Holy Spirit comes will be extremely potent; so much so that it will move obstacles that seem to be immovable. We get the word dynamite from this word.

The second part of this promise is a promise of partnership. He was telling them that they wouldn’t have to go forward alone. He would still be with them through the indwelling of His Spirit. The phrase “comes on you” pictures the washing over of the Holy Spirit. It means you will be drenched with My Spirit; completely covered. What a promise He was giving them and us. We can’t and don’t have to carry out this command in and of our own power. It would be impossible. Mt. 19:26, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

The third part of this promise is a promise of proof. In other words, Jesus was telling them that as witnesses, they would be the proof for the power of God in them. These men had all been changed. Anyone who has accepted Jesus has been changed. Paul puts it like this in 2 Cor. 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” We are new creations; a new species that has not existed before.

In essence, Jesus was telling them not only could they not do this without Him, but that they wouldn’t have to do this without Him. He would empower them, partner with them, and prove to others through them, that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life! The end result is that there was nowhere on earth that would not be affected by their message. And here we are over two thousand years later in various parts of the world; and we are still hearing the message of salvation. So what is our message? The very same as theirs. 2 Cor. 5:20, “We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

Dear Father, thank You for Your Spirit that You sent to help us carry out Your command. Thank You for Your power, Your partnership, and Your proof through Your Spirit. We could never do this without You, nor would we want to. This is all for Your glory. In Jesus Name, Amen