

Title: Is There Power In Your Life?

Text: Acts 1: 4-11

We are in the book of Acts chapter 1. Would you turn there, please.

The Book of Acts chapter 1.

Now, we learned last time, at least I believe we did, that the book of Acts, Number one, is a continuation of a former ~~Account~~ ^{Book}. That is in Vs 1. This "former book" literally "THE FIRST ACCOUNT", I composed, Theophilus. This was a book who probably held some important position. A man who was a christian. He was probable led to the Lord by Luke, himself who wrote the book of Acts. As well as the Gospel of Luke.

And in this first account, which is the Gospel of Luke, he recorded all that Jesus began to do and teach. "Until the day when He was taken up", Vs 2.

So, Acts is beginning at that point. Where the former left off. The life of Christ up to the ascension. Now..WHAT HAPPENS.

- (1) So, number one, Acts is a continuation of a former book.
- (2) Secondly, we learned last week that Act^s is the Great Commission in action. According to Vs 2 it says that "he had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the Apostles whom He had chosen."

The word "orders" is not in the plural. It is simply the verb..HE ORDERED THEM. A participle that is simply referring to one order.

"He ordered the Apostles whom he had chosen"....The word "chosen" means "to pick out for yourself".

Jesus called these men unto himself. And ordered them.

We learn from ~~Acts~~ ^{Hebrews} chapter 2 that the Apostle Paul said that He had learned and received ~~this~~ this from these who heard Christ's commands. And the result ~~is~~ is that we, now, as believers, to whom the book of Hebrews was written, should also accept this command which was given from Jesus to the Apostles, especially the 11, and then to Paul and now to us as believers. We have an order. It is the Great Commission in Act^son.

- (3) We learned, also, in Vs 3 that Jesus showed himself alive. The phrase "SHOW HIMSELF ALIVE" means "to bring himself along side of"....

And the idea is that they carefully examined the resurrected Christ. He gave them proof. He spent forty days. And most of those days were spent with these 11 men. Following his resurrection, He showed himself. They could touch his hands and the wound in His side. He said to Thomas who doubted, "reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into my side. I spirit has not flesh and bones, as you see me have."

(3) Now, the third thing that I want to point out to you, beginning today, about the book of Acts is that it is not only a continuation of a former book, and the great commission in action, but, third, it is a commentary on the power of Almighty God in human lives.

I don't believe there is a person who doesn't want power in his life. You may have a certain understanding or meaning as to what power is all about, maybe power means to you ~~in your business~~ the ability to control people, maybe power to you means the accumulation of wealth, or maybe it means popularity or position or being accepted, or enjoying life and having happiness and being free from trials, but, all of us are concerned about the whole spectrum of what power means.

So, the question that I would ask you this morning is: IS THERE POWER IN ^{your} OUR LIVES?...

The Bible speaks about this power. And the book of Acts is a complete commentary on the power of Almighty God in people's lives. And I challenge you and my own life today with this question: is there really power in your life and in mine?

Do you experience, daily, the power of God?

(2) Now, ^{To answer that question} in relation to this power of God, there are several things that I would like to share with you.

(1) Number one, according to Vs 4, there was a promise made that we would have this power. A promise was made.

Now, notice Vs 4..."And gathering them together"...

Now, I would like you to notice at this point a little comparison with Vs 6. In Vs 6 it says "when they had come together."

Obviously there are two different occasions, here. It is interesting that the words "gathering them together", can also be translated "eating together." According to Luke 24, Jesus ate with the 11 and some of the ~~inform~~ information that you would think of as the great commission was given at that time. That is they were eating together.

omit

However, the final ~~the~~ time, which begins Vs 6 "when they came together" they are at the Mt. of Olives. Where Jesus ascended into heaven.

So, these remarks right now, the command that he gave to them was given on more occasion than the Mt. of Olives. I have heard people ~~say~~ say that the only time that Jesus commanded people to go into all the world was when He was standing on the Mt. of Olives ready to be ascended. That is not true. He was conscently telling and commanding his followers to go into all the world and preach the gospel. And we have evidence of that from Luke 24 ^{to} ~~and~~ Acts 1. He had a meal together with them on one occasion; and then they were coming together on another occasion.

Now, what was this promise? Vs 4 ... "And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which.' He said, "you heard of from me:"

omit

This isn't new. You have heard this from me. A promise of the Father.

Now, will you turn back to the Gospel of Luke, please. Luke chapter 24. Luke 24 beginning at Vs 45....

(Read Vs 45-48)

Do you know what occurred to me as I was reading these Verses? According to Vs 45 Jesus opened up their understanding.....NOW, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

It says specifical that He showed them that Jesus was to go to the cross, to die, to be ~~resurrected~~; AND, Vs 47, that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be ~~preached~~ proclaimed.

I say to you that if we do not see that, we should be preaching in all nations the Godpel of Christ, if we do not see the tremendous need to be a witness, then we should come back to Vs 45 and and pray unto the Lord:

"Oh, God, is it possible that my understanding has never been opened?"
 He opened up their understanding so that they could understand the scriptures
 AND WHAT WAS IT THAT THEY WERE SEEING?.....That Jesus did come to suffer, to
 die, to be resurrected, AND, Vs 47, that this should be preached in all the
 world.

Now, Vs 49.....(Read Vs 49-53)

One other fact that you should clear up in your mind about Acts. A
 little later in chapter 1 we will learn that they went up into an upper room
 to pray. I have heard many folks say for 10 days they were in the upper room
 praying. I believe that to be true. They were there. But, they were not
 just simply in one room ~~praying~~ ^{praying} for 10 days until Pentecost. That is not
 what the Bible says. According to Luke 24:53 they were continually, daily,
 in the temple praising God. WHICH MEANS WHAT?....The most exciting thing
 that turned these men on was the resurrected Jesus. He convinced them. He
 showed ~~them~~ himself alive with many infallible proofs for 40 days. In other
 words, the one intention of Jesus was to convince 11 apostles that he was alive.
 He knew that would revolutionize them.

But, there was still one thing missing. He said to stay in Jerusalem
 Vs 49, until you are clothed with power from on high.

The word "clothed" does not mean a continual clothing. It is in a verb
 form meaning that it will happen "once" to you. It will come upon you ~~at~~ at
 a definite point in time. You will definitely at a point in time be clothed
 with power.

I point that out to you because it is extremely important to what happens
 in Acts. You will be clothed with power in one moment of time. So, stay in
 Jerusalem until it happens.

These men, excited with what they heard, they saw Jesus ascend into
 heaven, they were convinced that it was the resurrected ~~Jesus~~ ^{messiah} Jesus, they were
 continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. It was ~~an~~ exciting days
 And they were waiting in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father.

NOW, WHAT WAS THIS?

Turn back to John chapter 15. John chapter 15.....

Forward

Now, from chapter 13 thru chapter 17, you ^{have} one continuous lesson by Jesus in one day. It was not spread out over a number of days. There is only one day under consideration. It was the night before he went to the cross. They had been at the Last Supper. Jesus began teaching them. He kept teaching them. The Bible says that they then arose and went to the Garden of Gethsemana.

During the course of this teaching on that night, Jesus reminds them of this: Vs 26 of John 15..."When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He(not you) He will bear witness of me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with me from the beginning."

I am sending to you the Helper.....Now, chapter 16, please, verse 13 -14. Chapter 16 verse 13.."But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you."

The Lord Jesus clearly predicted that the Holy Spirit was ~~going~~ coming. He was coming.

Turn back to John 14 verse 26. John 14 verse 26.."But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

Back to Vs 16 of the same chapter..."And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."

Now, come back, please to the book of Acts chapter 1.....

Jesus told these 11 men to stay in the city of Jersualem until the promise of the Fther would happen. The promise of the Father is non other than the persoanal coming of the HolybSpirit into ~~our~~ peoples lives permanently.

In the book of Acts you see a miracle happen that you do not see anyother time in the O.T. In the O.T. the Holy Spirit of God came upon people, but then He left them. He annointed them for various functions and responsibilities such as Prophets and Priests and Kings, He came upon men to empower them for service, but never in the entire O.T. did the Holy Spirit come to take up His permanent place in the life of every believer

out

And from the day of Pentecost until now, every person who comes to believe in Jesus Christ as the son of God, that He is the saviour of the world, that He is the only ~~one~~ one who has paid the price of my sins, at the moment that you accept that fact, believe the Gospel and receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, at that moment the Holy Spirit comes to live in you.

ought to be

I don't think there is another teaching in the Bible that ~~is~~ so thrilling to a christian, then to learn that God has come to live in our lives. God the Holy Sprit, the promise of the Fahter, will come. Wait~~x~~ in Jersuaalem He is coming. And He certainly did.

So, the promise of this power is in Vs 4...

00) Now, ~~Vs 5~~ Acts 1:5...In Vs 5 ^{Secondly} Jesus clearly indicates HOW THIS POWER IS is going to be provided. HOW IT IS ACTURALLY GOING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

Acts 1:5 says ..."For John baptized with water, but you shall be ~~b~~aptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Baptized with the Holy Spirit. The word "with" is simple the word "in". BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

John the Baptist put people in ~~water~~ ^{water}. You are going to be put in the Holy Spirit. And of course water baptism is a representation. If you have been baptized in water, my friend, for any other reason than for spiritual reasons, or, before you came to Jesus Christ, I say to you...you're baptism has little meaning in the N.T. To be baptized means to give public testimony that God the Holy Spirit has come to live in my life. Just as I am immersed in water so, I have been immersed with the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. And as that person goes down into the water, he pictures his ~~identification~~ identification with Jesus christ in death, in burial, and resurrection to new ~~life~~ life. ~~It~~ It pictures ~~God's work~~ the work of God's Holy Spirit. And the moment you accept Jesus, God's Holy Spirit comes and literally immerses your life with his own presence and power

or

You say,.. "Do you understand that?" No, I don't understand that. But I know what the Bible says about the evidences of the Spirit's work. And I see those evidences. And I have had the experience. I know now what it means to have God's Holy Spirit in my life.

But when I did not know, he was still in my life. Many of you have accepted Jesus Christ into your life, and perhaps you have said.. "I don't really know that God's Holy Spirit is in me. How does any person know that?"

Well, only as we get into the Word of God and see what the Holy Spirit is doing can we even discern that we possess the Spirit. But, I remind you that any person who does not have the Spirit of God is not of Jesus. That is what Romans 8 says. So, you must possess the Spirit of God to truly be born of God and in His family.

To be baptized by the Holy Spirit is the same thing as physical birth. The Bible says in 1 Cor 12:13 "by one Spirit we are baptized into one body in Christ." We are now a member of God's spiritual family. And just as we are born physically into a physical family, the moment you accept Jesus into your life, you are born into the spiritual family of God. *And God gives his power - The H.S.*

Now, our key issue this morning is this: DO YOU HAVE THE POWER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE?

I know, number one, that there wasn't any power until the event of the day of Pentecost. Because Jesus said to the 11 men, "You stay in Jerusalem because in a few days from now you will experience the coming of the Holy Spirit. You will be clothed with power from on high."

(3) Alright, now, the third thing that I want to show concerning the fact of the power of God is Vs 6 and 7. The disciples, in view of what Jesus had just said, came up with a problem that was really facing them.

Vs 6..says.."And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, 'Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the kingdom to Israel.'"

Now, to "restore" means "to bring back to a former state." It is used of parts of the body that are restored to health. It is used in the Bible of the man healed of blindness. It is used in the Bible of a restoration of a disturbed order of events.

And the disciples say to Jesus, "Are you going to bring the kingdom now? Are you going to restore it back to us like we had it under David?"

WHAT DID JESUS SAY?.....

Vs 7.. "He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times (that is chronological time) or, the epochs (that is periods of times in which God is working). So, this kingdom that you want is definitely a season. It is a period of time that is coming. But it is not for you to know the chronological order of events. We do not know our tomorrows, only God does.

And we don't know

OR, the periods of time that God is working in. Because this is according to His own authority. The word "authority" is the word of "power".

And I like that. Do you ever get distributed at what is going on in your life? OH! I know you don't. But, I do...

You get troubled and a lot of things are happening and you're pressured on every side. We worry about the future and wonder what is going to happen. And we are so like those 11 disciples. What is going to happen to me, to my family, to my future, to my decisions.

Hey! isn't it encouraging to hear from Jesus that all the times, the chronological order of events....All the seasons which God has planned...are all under his own control?

Who is man who thinks that he is the controller of his own destiny? My friend, God, is in complete control. And what Jesus said here means..."Don't you worry, God is in complete control." The Father knows all these things and they are under his authority.

There is a little poem in our Hymn book which says it so well. It is number 93....Turn there please....Number 93 in your Hymn book

The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. — Psalm 14:1

We search the starlit Milky Way,
A million worlds in rhythmic sway,
Yet in our blindness some will say,
"There is no God controlling!"

We probe the atoms for their cause,
Explore the earth for nature's laws,
Yet seldom in our searching pause
To think of God controlling.

But as I grope from sphere to sphere,
New wonders crowd the eye, the ear,
And faith grows firmer every year:
"My God is there, controlling!"

Each flash of fact from out the night,
Each burst of truth upon my sight
That quickens awe or adds delight,
Reveals my God controlling.

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William H. Reid

Don Friends, God the Father has planned everything. It is in his hands. It is under his control..There is nothing to worry about.

(80)

SO, WHAT THEN OUGHT TO BE ~~my~~ ^{an} CONCERN?

IF God has everything under control, what ought to be our concern

Vs 8 tells us....And it starts off with a word of contrast....BUT...

In other words, what Jesus is saying to these men." I know you want the kingdom to come. And most of us would say the same thing. "I wish Jesus would return and set up the kingdom on earth so that there would be peace."

Well, it is coming. But it is under the Father's control. He knows when it is coming. He knows when Jesus is coming back. He has chosen to hid that knowledge from all of us.

WELL, WHAT THEN IS TO BE MY CONCERN? And in Vs 8 Jesus tells us what ought to be our concern. "You shall receive power"...This word "power" is the word "Dynamite." "YOU SHALL RECEIVE EXPOSIVE POWER WHEN?.....

WEHN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU."

Now, please remember. Jesus said to those disciples..."stay in Jersualem until you be clothed with power.'

Now, he is saying "you are ~~going to~~ going to receive exposive power in your life, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

AND WHAT WILL BHE RESULT BE?....."You shall be My witnesses"....NOT.. I hope you will....or, I think you will....BUT, YOU SHALL BE WINNESSES BOTH IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND EVEN TO THE FURTHEREST PART OF THE EARTH."

And the principle that I am constantly challenged with in my own life, is this purpose of power, *Why God gives us the power of H.S.*

You know, I find that so many of us want power for our own ends. I hear the cry that we want the abundant life...WHY?...So that we will be more happy.

Folks, God never intended to give us power simply to make us happy. He gave us the power of the Holy Spirit for witness...that multitudes would come to know Jesus through the power of God. Not through human programs. We don't have any power in ourselves. Who are we to even presude men. And the reason why many of us fail to witness is because we are tryigg to do so in our own power. HAY! God has gæven us His power. The power of the HOLY Spirit.

And there are three places where we are to be His wntness...

First of all, in Jerusalem. That is our city...Namely, Alameda....

Secondly, in Jüda and Samaria....that is referring to one's country.

And third, through out the world...

You know, I remember that during my college days at the First Baptist church of Downey, I had hundreds of reasons why this Great commission didn't apply to me. And I reember my Youth Pastor challenging me with this verse to be a witness on the college campus....Yet, I had all kinds of reason why this didn't apply to me. But, the more I read it, the Lord keep speaking to me, and you know, folks, there is no way of getting around the fact that the Great Commission was given to every believer. THIS IS THE PRIMARY TASK AND MAJOR CONCERN OF THE BELIEVER.

Vs 8 is so simple to understand....It says that Jesus wants us to go anywhere at any time, beginning at home, to share the Gospel.

Dear Friend
Folks, I want to share with you this morrowing a deep conviction.... I believe that we have developed in our century, in our nation, in our churches among christian people, the kind of philosophy in our thinking that says that God has many task for the believer. Some folks are to feed the poor..Some folks are to care for the homeless....Some are to witness and win the lost... Some are to work on special committees for world peace...nuclear disarmementand on and on....

Oh..No....The primary task of the christian is to win his friends... his family....the stranger on the street...to Jesus Christ. And we do this not in our own power, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now These other things are important. And the church should speak to the issues of the day....But, we only have a right to speak to these other issues if we are fulfilling our primary task....if we are presenting the Gospel to the world.....If every believer in the church is constantly sharing...winning.. inviting....people to Christ and His church. Then, you see, we have a right to speak in love to these other issues.... *We are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, and Jüda and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

(4) Now, let me share with you this fourth thing about the book of Acts.

Number one, it is a continuation of a former book. Secondly, it is the story of the Great commission in action. Third, it is a commentary on the power of God in people's lives.

But, fourth, according to verses 9 thru 11, the book of Acts is a conviction that Jesus Christ is coming again. This runs through this book like a ~~third~~ thread. Notice what it says.....(READ Vs 9-11)

Don't you wish you were there?....I wish I could have been there to have seen this. Vs 10 says that they were "gazing intently." In other words, they couldn't take their eyes off of Jesus. Jesus was ascending into heaven and they were "gazing intently". They couldn't take their eyes off him.

And while these disciples are watching Jesus, two men suddenly appear. And they stand right by them. And they say, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

What assurance for the soul....Then they returned to Jerusalem to do what Jesus had commanded. That is to wait for this power.

Oh, there much we could ~~point~~ point out here.....But, the one fact that is so clear is the return of Jesus. He will return in just the same way that He departed. This speaks to the ~~physical~~ bodily return of Jesus Christ.

And friends, do you know that it is ~~so~~ important to believe in the bodily return of Jesus. Paul says that if we do not believe in the return of Jesus, our Preaching is in vain, and we of all men have no faith....

Oh, friends, a belief in the personal return of Jesus will give you, like these 11 Apostles, assurance and confidence and faith in times of stress and doubt....

Jesus is alive....He arose from the dead....And he is coming back.

I wonder, does that do anything in your life about power....I wonder if that does anything to me to know that Jesus is coming back again.

IS THERE POWER IN YOUR LIFE? If you are a christian, there is power in your life. WHY? Because the Holy Spirit is in your life. The moment you ask

The moment you ask Jesus to come into your life, you have power. Vs 8 says you have power when the Holy Spirit has come. So, you have power.

O.K. what is the matter? Why am I not witnessing? Why am I not experiencing this power?

Number one, if you want to experience that power because of selfish desire then forget. That is probable the basic reason why we are not experiencing it. If we want power so that we can say, "boy, the abundant life is fantastic," then no God will not give you this power. You will not experience it.

Friends, what is the power of the Holy Spirit for?....

It is so that God might work through us to be witnesses before the world.

Will you turn over to Ephesians 3. And with this we close. Ephesians chapter 3....I am hoping and praying that someone here, I hope many, will become so concerned that the power of God is in their life that they are going to ask, HOW AM I GOING TO GET IT?.

You know you have it. But, like it has been often said, "You have the Holy Spirit, but does the Holy Spirit have you?"

Are you controlled, are you filled by the Holy Spirit? Are you experiencing this power for witness?

Well, what is the key?.....Paul says in Ephesians 3:15.."that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts throughf faith."

Now, the Greek text says "through the faith". Not just faith in general, but through"THE FAITH". When you have the definite articule"THE" before the word "faith", it is not talking about "my faith". It is talking about the sum total of the faith as revealed in God's Word.

The point is that the Holy Spirit will strengthen me with power in the inner man, by means of "THE FAITH".

And here is the point. There is only one way to experience this power in your life. Only one way...And it comes through the Holy Spirit using "THE FAITH"...THE WORD OF GOD.

And that is where the strength, the power comes for witness. And if a christian is really concerned about having the power of God for witness, and seeing this commission fulfilled in his own life, he must recognize that you cannot live ~~apart~~ apart from this blessed book and then hoope to experienc it.

Oh, you can make ~~it~~ believe. But, you will never experience God's power apart from the Word of God. It is Jesus dwelling in your life through THE FAITH. The Holy Spirit strengthening the inner man through theWORD OF GOD.

POWER! Oh, yes, there is plenty of power. The Holy Spirit is in our lives HOW CAN I LET IT OUT? By going to the Word of God. Because the Holy Spirit takesthe ~~the~~ Word as we look into this mirror and see the glory of the Lord, and changes our lives from our glory to the glory of Christ...

You can experience God's power....Don't be content with second best....

Let's close in prayer