

THE POWER OF THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH ACTS 1

Text: Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Introduction:

We see today an effort to attempt things without what the Lord said that was necessary to do the work he established, the church.

He stated that they would receive power. Many today have ignored this power and have in turn relied on programs, promotions, and personality. It does take a lot of observation to see the results of these human and fleshly efforts.

Where did the first century church get its power to endure hardness as a good soldier, power to go into all the world and preach the gospel, the power to suffer persecution and not give in and quit, the power to cease not under all kinds of trials?

The Bible says in Acts 4:33

Acts 4:33

³³ And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

They didn't simply witness but they did it with great power. Today we know very little of this great power that was so evident in the first century church.

We face so many temptations today in the Lord's work, and all of them translate into doing God's work in some way other than the way God designed.

Many work through:

- Physical Power:

They think that through their own strength they can muscle their way through life.

- Financial Power:

So believe that if they give more than they will receive some sort of special power.

- Mental Power:

Some depend solely upon mental power.

But with all these may I ask where is our dependence upon God and the Holy Spirit?

As we look through the Bible we see some obvious things. You see that this power, the Holy Spirit, changed these people.

1. HE CHANGED THEIR SPEECH

- A. No doubt before their speech was about everything but the Lord.
- B. I get deeply concerned about some professing Christians who never talk about the Lord
- C. What is it that we spend the most time discussing?

2. HE GAVE THEM COURAGE

Acts 4:13

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

3. HE GAVE THEM VISION

- A. We will move from ourselves to a world that is lost and headed for Hell.