

THE MEASURE OF MISSIONS

ACTS 1:8

Text: Acts 1:8

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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:

In this one verse we see the secret of success when it comes to the work of missions.

Notice with me 3 things regarding the “Measure of Missions.”

1. THE POWER – YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER

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.

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 did not simply witness the Resurrection of Jesus Christ; they did so with great power.

Sadly we know very little of this great power that was so evident with these on this first century church.

So often we as God's people are looking for some formula, some plan or some strategy to do the work of the Lord.

We have forgotten that there is a real Person, the Holy Spirit who alone empowers us to do God's work.

We face 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 has designed.

Some think that they can do the work of God with:

A. Physical Power

Some rely on physical power thinking that they muscle their way through life without needing God.

B. Financial Power

It's sad to see that some Christians think that their ability to buy or give is a substitute for the power of God.

Some feel that the more we give the more we can accomplish. But I remind you we can give millions of dollars to God's work and neglect His power and God's work will never be accomplished.

C. Mental Power

Many depend on mental power. They think the answer to everything is some sort of knowledge or education, but this is a poor substitute for the power of God.

Note what god's power did for these in the early days of the church:

- It Changed Their Speech

Acts 2:1-8

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ⁶ Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? ⁸ And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

- It 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.

2. THE PURPOSE – YE SHALL BE WITNESSES

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.

A. Witnesses of Him

3. THE PLACES – JERUSALEM, JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH

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.

A. Jerusalem

Even though Jerusalem was not most of the disciples' hometown (with the exception of Judas), this was the

most obvious place for the gospel to begin. This was the place that they were in.

Our Jerusalem is where we live.

B. Judea

This was the region around Jerusalem.

C. Samaria

Most of these had no problem going to Jerusalem or even Judea, but Samaria was a different. Jews despised Samaritans and Samaritans despised Jews.

John 4:1-9

¹ When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, ² (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) ³ He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee. ⁴ And he must needs go through Samaria. ⁵ Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. ⁶ Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour. ⁷ There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. ⁸ (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) ⁹ Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

Often it's easy for us to go to our Jerusalem, and even some will go to Judea, but sadly many won't go to

those in Samaria, those that we have nothing in common with or even those who annoy or bother us.

D. Uttermost part of the earth

We learn from this that there is no place or time to stop.