

**Week 2: A Power We Must Receive - The Comfort of the Holy Spirit**

**Day 8: The Final Promise**

**The Passage:** Acts 1:1-11

**The Focus:** "He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 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. After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.'" (Acts 1:7-9)

**The Meditation:** "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

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**Empowering Truths:** Uncertainty is a power drain. When you know for certain the game is over in sixty minutes, you can go hard every minute. But imagine a game without a clock and with no defined length. The uncertainty of how long you have played and how long you still must play will drain you.

This is the uncertain reality the disciples face. Their very last question to Jesus is a timing question:

"Is your kingdom coming now?"(1:6). How long do we have to play? Instead of giving them a certain date, Jesus promised them his presence through his Spirit, and the power to face whatever and whenever for as long as it takes.

In fact, after Christ ascends, the angel answers their question with a question, "Why are you all still standing here?" As if to say, "I think I heard Jesus say, 'It's go time!'" Then the angel continued his answer with a certainty that will compel them and an uncertainty that will confound them: "He is definitely coming back. For real. But he's not saying when."

Through life I have found myself asking God a lot of timing questions: "How long until I get married, get a ministry, get a bigger ministry, have a kid, buy a house, make a name for myself, get a real sabbatical, write a real book, overcome this one big sin, have a truly powerful prayer life? . . . Lord, is it now!?"

And the Lord answers, "You shall receive power when my Spirit is upon you." This is the power of his Spirit with me. He is with me on the journey, and his presence and promise change everything. It's his final and best promise.

Do you remember being a kid on a road trip and repeatedly, ad nauseum, piping up from the back seat, "Are we there yet?" But if my best friend was with us and we were playing in the backseat, the question was hardly ever asked. I once heard it said, "If you are riding with the one you really love, you no longer have to ask, 'Are we there yet?'"

As a kid on a road trip without a clear concept of time and distance, trips seemed really long. It was all about the destination. On the Mount of Olives Jesus said, "The destination is certain, but you have a mission to accomplish along the way. For this, you will need the power of my Spirit."

The daily reception of the Spirit's power is the only way to journey through life and to be the effective witness Jesus has commissioned you to be. Enjoy this promise, this person of the Spirit of Jesus. He is your certainty and strength. Employ this promise to be bold for Jesus whether you are in your Jerusalem or the ends of the earth.

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**Power Truth:** The presence and power of the Spirit give us certainty and boldness in life.

**Our Prayer:** Jesus, forgive me when I am locked into questions of timing and you are focusing me on your presence. Forgive me for not enjoying you more on this journey of my life. Thank you for your personal presence with me. I receive your fresh and full power today to communicate your presence to my world. Focus me on my destiny today more than my destination *tomorrow*.

