

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 11



THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED

Scripture Text: Acts 1:1-14

The world needed the Gospel. Why did Jesus not allow His disciples to begin immediately to carry it to them? Because they had to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. They needed His power, love, wisdom, and insight. They were spiritually blind, ignorant, and weak. We are the same without Holy Spirit baptism. We need not wait, as they, for these

attributes. A saved person need wait only long enough to dedicate himself fully to God, and the Spirit will come in.

We are trying in these studies to find points which will help us, the church of today, to better serve the Lord. This is the most important—that each one is baptized with the Holy Spirit. No one is properly equipped to work in the Gospel until he has this filling.

MEMORY VERSE: *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.—Acts 1:8*

Jesus Proves Himself Alive

We live in a day in which many people have little regard for the significance of scriptural belief. What does it matter what a man believes, many say, provided he is sincere? Well, the answer to that is that godliness will rest upon no other foundation but spiritual truth. Faith is more than belief, but there can be no true faith without belief.

Acts 1:1-3 Jesus **showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs.** There was no question but that Jesus had risen from the dead. He was seen and heard many times by the Apostles during the past forty days since He rose. Now it was time for Him to leave them, and He had some very essential, last minute commands for them.

Acts 1:4-5 **Being assembled** with the Apostles near Bethany (**Luke 24:50**), Jesus gave them a command and a promise. They were to **not depart from Jerusalem**, but wait for something. He explained, **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.** He would send **the promise of the Father** as in **John 14:16; John 14:26; John 15:26.**

Acts 1:6-7 The Apostles were not as interested in that as in earthly, material matters. Their thoughts were of the flesh rather than the Spirit. Palestine was under rule of a foreign power—Rome. In their minds were thoughts that Jesus had come to free Israel from this domination. They thought the time had arrived. **Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom of Israel?** They thought Jesus had come to set up an earthly kingdom. But Jesus closed the door on this false assumption. **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons;** His future plans are **in his own power.** They would find the answer to this question clearly when they received the Holy Spirit. When He comes, He brings the answer to many questions men never find without His guiding. The Holy Spirit wants us to know the answer.

The Important Thing

Acts 1:8 Then Jesus drew their minds back to the thing that really mattered. **Ye shall receive power.** Here they received the promise of that which would prove so essential to all who would be a disciple of Christ. They needed power of understanding, of wisdom, of love, of faith, of influence, power over sin and the flesh. These and more would be given. They were to receive the source of power. The **Holy Ghost** was to **come upon** them.

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And ye shall be witnesses unto me—Christ—everywhere. This is what the church is—witnesses unto Jesus Christ to the entire world. They are not spectators, pleasure seekers, entertainers, actors—but witnesses. First, **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria**—at home—**and unto the uttermost**—other —**part of the earth**. This means at home and abroad.

Every activity of the church should be carried on to contribute to the effectiveness of this witnessing. Real witnessing is the most heroic work there is. Dead to self and fired with the passion to rescue souls for Him, witnesses have endured neglect, hardship, heat, cold, imprisonment, torture, and death. They are glad to do it for the sake of bringing glory to the Savior's name.

A Message From God

Acts 1:9-11 While they beheld, he was taken up. It was visible, not secret, and another proof of His deity. He could not return to Heaven by way of death, for, having risen, He could not die again (**Romans 6:9**). His body was deathless and everlasting, as ours will be at the Resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:20, 1 Corinthians 53-54**). **A cloud received him**—hid Him.

They looked steadfastly—absorbed in awe and wonder. **Two men . . . in white apparel.** Messengers from God appeared. **Why stand ye gazing . . . ?** Because they did not know where He had gone, what He would do, or if He was coming back. Jesus had talked about this before, but their minds were darkened beyond understanding. It was a message from God, for only God could know. They could not now be mistaken or wonder about His whereabouts. They had the assurance of these facts.

They Continued in Prayer

Acts 1:12-14 Assured, they returned from Olivet to Jerusalem. They were obeying Jesus' command in **verse 4. They went up into an upper room, where abode** all the Apostles except Judas Iscariot (**Matthew 27:5**). The eleven Apostles, women who had come along from Galilee (**Matthew 27:55-56**), and Jesus' relatives, **continued with one accord**—unity, agreement—**in prayer and supplication**. They were drawing near to God while waiting for HIS PROMISE.

With no command but to wait, why did they pass the time in prayer? They did this because they wanted to. These were people who had their sins forgiven. Their hearts hungered to obey God, to have more of Him. When we are in the same attitude of heart as they, God will fill and use us.

JUST A THOUGHT

No other activity welds fellowship like working together.