

20220821 TIME FOR A NEW ENERGY

Acts 1:1-8

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ 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."

The necessity of a new power for our new life in Christ

When we are born again into the spiritual world, then we are supposed to use the energy that is available in the spiritual world for our spiritual activities.

The main theme of the gospel of Luke (Acts 1:1-2)

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Luke 24:46-53

⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,

⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

⁵² Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Jesus went to heaven. But his work, his plan, and his purpose had to continue to be done by his followers.

To do the work of Christ, to live the life of the Father in this world, the disciples had to receive the power from above as Jesus had done.

The disciples

They grew up religiously.

They had knowledge on the scriptures.

They were called by Jesus.
They had personal experience with Jesus.
They were trained by Jesus.
They were eyewitnesses of Jesus' resurrection.

Yet, interestingly enough, Jesus told them,

"Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

No matter how much they knew the word of God, no matter how close they thought they were to Jesus Christ, no matter how well they thought they were equipped to do the will of God, still there needed one crucial and absolute element to them.

That was "the power from on high"!

The disciples were to love the people in the world.

To love and serve the people in the world, they had to learn to choose, not safety, but suffering.

How do believers wait to be clothed with power from on high?

We gather together, pray together, and worship and praise our God together until we are clothed with this new power from God.

Luke 24:53; Acts 1:14

⁵³ And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Only the spiritual power from above brings about the spiritual result.

The first step for our church family is to get together.