

1. This morning we are going to begin talking about the third person of the trinity. The Holy Spirit.
2. We believe that God is represented in three persons who function as one.
3. God the father. God the son. And God the Holy Spirit.
4. We can see pretty clearly the three persons of the trinity in...

TEXT: **Acts 1:4-8** 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^[1] 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."

TITLE: **Power for Purpose.**

INTRO:

1. In this passage we have Jesus the son of God talking to his disciples, and he gives them a command.
2. And the command is for the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Gift that God the father has promised.
3. And that gift is given a name and the name is the Holy Spirit.
4. So God the son, mentions a gift that God the father has promised, and the gift is God the Holy Spirit.
5. In verse 8 we find part of the reason why waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit is so important. With the infilling of the Holy Spirit will come power.
6. Power to do what? Power for the disciples to be Jesus' witnesses in Jerusalem (city) and Judea (county) Samaria (state or country) and then to the ends of the earth.
7. So, the Lord wanted to give the disciples power through the Holy Spirit so they could carry out Jesus' purpose.
8. To be witnesses.
9. I believe this purpose mentioned here also ties very closely to the purpose Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 28.

- 10.** Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- 11.** Again, we notice the idea of going all over the world, of all nations.
- 12.** And this time the command is to make disciples. To see people accept Jesus Christ as savior by the disciple's witness.
- 13.** To baptize those who believe. And to teach them to obey everything Jesus has commanded.
- 14.** So, the command to be Jesus' witness in Acts chapter 1 is a part of the process of making disciples.
- 15.** How many are still with me?
- 16.** So, let's connect what we are reading here with where we are in 2022.
- 17.** We know that the original 12 disciples were successful at going into all the world and making disciples, because almost 2,000 years later, everyone here in the building and all those watching online have received a witness to the fact that Jesus is the son of God.
- 18.** And because we have received the witness, and because the Lord's plan is that we obey the same commands that Jesus gave the 12, then we know that our purpose, just like the purpose of the 12, was to make disciples of all nations through our witness of what Jesus Christ has done in our lives.
- 19.** You see, each and every one of us has purpose in Jesus Christ.
- 20.** You may not have known that you had purpose. You might not know how to live out that purpose, but the purpose still exists.
- 21.** The purpose of our receiving Jesus as our savior is not just so we can be saved FROM the old life of sin; we are also saved by faith in Jesus FOR the purpose of being His disciples.
- 22.** From is past tense, and for is present and future tense.
- 23.** Being saved from a life of sin is highly important, but simply being saved from something is highly incomplete.

24. The purpose that Jesus has for us to live out can only come to fullness when we are not only saved from that old life, but we are being used for the purpose of being a witness and making disciples of others.
25. The power that saved us from sin is seen through Jesus' death on the cross. But the power that helps us live for God's purpose is seen in the person and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
26. You and I need power in order to live victoriously for Jesus by being disciple makers.
27. Back last summer I got up early one Friday morning and I was ready to get great things accomplished that day. The night before I had made a list of all I wanted to get done.
28. I had it all planned out. I was going to get up early, read my bible and spend time in prayer, then I had an early haircut appointment, then I was going to come home and start tackling all the projects on my list.
29. I had it planned out. I had calculated about how much time each thing would take me, I know if I kept at it all day that I could get all those things done.
30. I went to bed at a decent hour, set the clock, jumped out of bed the minute the clock went off, but I have to tell you the minute my feet hit the floor I knew something was wrong.
31. I don't know if you are aware or not, but over the past two years there has been a lot of sickness going around. And when I hit the ground running my body didn't respond.
32. As bad as I hated too, I felt so terrible that all I could do was lay around all day long doing nothing.
33. That was very uncharacteristic of me because normally if I get up and I don't feel good I'll just push on through and keep going.
34. Physically, though our bodies change over the years and the strength and energy seem to diminish the older we get, we learn to just know our bodies.
35. But how many days do we get up out of bed and because it's a little bit more difficult to be in tune spiritually with our spiritual walk than it is with our physical walk, how many times do we get up and the spiritual energy and power we need just isn't there.

36. And like pushing through with our physical bodies, spiritually we just keep on going. But one day we wake up and realize spiritually, man I am weak, I am spiritually worn out, I don't have any energy, any power.
37. How did we get that way?
38. Well first of all we get that way because that is part of the plan of the devil for our lives. The enemy hits us with a difficulty and our struggle with that difficulty uses up spiritual energy.
39. Then he comes along, and he brings a temptation in our life, and our resisting that temptation again drains us of spiritual energy or power.
40. Then he comes along, and he accuses us, and he reminds us of our failures or some mistake that we have made and while he is playing judge and jury and we try and process it all, more power and energy are leaking out.
41. Then after we are worn down and weak, he comes along with some struggle and waves it in front of us and if our power hasn't been replenished as it should, we tend to stumble and fall.
42. How does that happen? It happens when we fail to realize that we need an endless supply of power that doesn't come from within ourselves, it only comes from God.
- 43. That power supply that God has designed for us to have and operate with is the power of the Holy Spirit.**
44. Jesus had been with his disciples for a period of about three years. In those three years he was forming them and making them into disciple makers who would have what it took to obey his commands.
45. He had taught them and loved on them and spent a considerable amount of time with them.
46. But he was preparing to go back to heaven to be with his father. Now for these three years Jesus had been their source of power and strength. Just being around him energized them.
- 47. But in his absence Jesus knew they would still need power. Jesus told them about this power in Acts 1:4 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."**

48. I don't believe that it was in any way accidental that Jesus spoke to his disciples about the power of the Holy Spirit while he was sitting and eating with them.
49. As they were sitting there eating after a hard day, getting refreshed and nourished by the food Jesus knew that the effect of the physical food they were eating would be a perfect illustration of the spiritual nourishment he wanted to give them.
50. Jesus knew if they were ever going to be successful at making disciples of all nations and witnessing to all nations, they were going to need some serious power.
51. So as they are sitting around the table enjoying a meal Jesus tells them.
52. You know that gift of the Holy Spirit I have been telling you about. Well I want you to have it. It's just about time. But before I give you this power, I need to lay some ground rules.
53. And that is exactly what Jesus does here in Acts 1. He prepares them to receive this promise of the Holy Spirit.
54. Today I want to do the same thing Jesus did. I want to help prepare us to receive this promise of the Holy Spirit and the power that is available with it.
55. The first thing we have to do to receive the power of the spirit is...

We have to wait.

1. Acts 1:4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait.
2. I don't know if the command of Jesus was any harder then than it is now, but I can tell you that what Jesus commanded them to do is one of the more difficult things for many humans to do and that is wait.
3. We know that Jesus was later going to just disappear from their sight and that they would never physically see him again. And Jesus knew that their first reaction would be to set out doing many different things in many different directions, but instead he told them to not leave Jerusalem but to wait.
4. Waiting is the first key to receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. Let me say that wanting is not the first key, waiting is the first key.

5. I don't know about you, but I want and need daily spiritual power. But the power of the Holy Spirit doesn't come because we want it; it comes when we wait for it.
6. Now that's a problem for many of us, I know it is for me, because I really am just not that fond of waiting.
7. I ordered something online on February 10th. I was told when I ordered that the item would probably arrive on or around March 4th. That was this past Friday.
8. Because I couldn't get the item anywhere else any quicker, I decided I would wait.
9. On Thursday when I realized I hadn't received a shipping notice; I pulled up the order and saw these bold words. Backordered.
10. And then right below that it said. Now expected to arrive April 8th.
11. I'm kind of ashamed to say I started to get discouraged a little.
12. And it took me several minutes to put this news into perspective. My life will not end if I don't get this thing tomorrow.
13. But I had to talk to myself because I don't like to wait.
14. I have a set of cordless tools at home that I absolutely love. I can go anywhere in my house and anywhere in my yard and do anything I want, without having to be connected by cord to an outlet somewhere.
15. But there is only one problem. And that is that those tools, that run without cords, have to be re-charged from time to time.
16. And what I have found is that the only way for all those tools to have the power they need to function is to connect them to a power supply and leave them there till they are fully charged.
17. That's what Jesus was telling his disciples. I want to give you this spiritual power. I want to give you the power of the Holy Spirit, but the only way you are going to get it is if you get plugged into me and wait for it.
18. The same is true for our spiritual lives. Without connecting with the Lord on a regular basis and waiting, giving him and us the time necessary to allow him to work, we never get fully charged and we never receive the power that we desperately need.
19. If we are not careful, we can come to church and we want to quickly get plugged in and we want God to do something for us, but if he doesn't do it quickly then we just disconnect and go on our way.

20. Or we whisper a little prayer, or we just think about God throughout our busy, hectic week and we never really connect long enough for some real power to transfer from God to us.
21. Then we try and take on the struggles and the difficulties of life and we try and live for God but we're just running on empty, we are powerless.
22. And don't even mention living out our purpose of being used by the Lord to be his witnesses and make disciples.
23. If we don't have the power to just survive then how will we have the power to thrive?
24. Could it be that many of us charge our cell phone battery more than we charge our spiritual battery.
25. The power of the Holy Spirit only comes through waiting.

Conclusion:

1. In the first few months of the pandemic which is now 2 years old. I finally came up with a description of what life was like.
2. I feel like I'm working twice as hard and getting half as much done.
3. Since then I have talked to many people who said they feel the same way about their lives.
4. Life has been exhausting. Not to mention the losses and the mourning and the crying over those who have gone on to be with the Lord.
5. In the last 6 months or so I have been personally challenged by the Lord. And the theme of this challenge goes something like this.
6. Are you going to just survive? Or do you want to thrive?
7. I believe we know from the scripture that the Lord's desire is that we thrive.
8. John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
9. That doesn't sound like survival language to me.
10. Romans 8:35, 37 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
11. That doesn't sound like survival language either.
12. We were created to thrive. So how do we thrive?
13. We must come back to our purpose. We were saved for the purpose of being his witness and making disciples.

14. But we can't fulfill our purpose without the power of the Holy Spirit.
15. And the power of the Holy Spirit comes as we wait upon the Lord. Seek the Lord. Trust the Lord.
16. **Isaiah 40:30-31** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: **31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint. (KJV)
17. This morning I want to offer you an opportunity to thrive.
18. Come back to your purpose to be a witness and make disciples.
19. You may not know how to do that. It's ok. Right now we are committing ourselves to God's purpose for our lives.
20. Ask the Lord for the power and infilling of the Holy Spirit.
21. Wait on him. Don't be in a hurry.
22. Let's find a place with the Lord and do just that.