

Power Not Our Own

Acts 1:1–11

Big Idea

The Christian life and the mission of the Church are only possible through dependence on Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. Jesus Is Still Leading the Mission

Acts 1:1–2

- Acts is not the story of the Church replacing Jesus
- It is the story of **Jesus continuing His work through His people**
- When we forget Jesus is leading, we begin to live as if everything depends on us
- We are not substitutes — we are **coworkers** with Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9)

Key Thought:

Jesus is still acting, teaching, saving, and reigning.

2. Formed in the Waiting

Acts 1:3–5

- Jesus spent **40 days** teaching and forming the disciples
- He then commanded them to **wait**
- Waiting is not wasted time — it is **preparation**
- God often forms character and dependence **before** releasing influence

Biblical Pattern of Waiting:

- Israel in the wilderness
- Joseph in prison
- David before the throne
- Jesus before public ministry
- The disciples before the Spirit came

Key Scripture:

Isaiah 40:29–31 — God renews strength in the waiting

Key Thought:

Fruit from us always follows fruit formed within us.

3. Learning to Trust God's Timing

Acts 1:6–7

- The disciples ask, “Is this the time?”
- Jesus does not shame their hope — He redirects their trust
- We live in the **now and not yet** of God’s kingdom
- Discipleship means trusting God even when timing is unclear

Key Scriptures:

- Proverbs 3:5–6 — Trust the Lord, not your understanding
- Isaiah 55:8–9 — God’s ways are higher than ours
- 2 Peter 3:8 — God’s timing is purposeful

Key Thought:

Disciples don't live by timelines — they live by trust.

4. Power That Makes the Mission Possible

Acts 1:8

- Jesus promises **power**, not strategies or self-effort
- Without Jesus’ power, our witness becomes weak or ineffective
- Obedience without abiding leads to exhaustion
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to live, love, and witness

Key Scriptures:

- John 15:5 — We can do nothing without Jesus
- Psalm 127:1 — Work without the Lord is in vain
- 2 Corinthians 12:9–10 — God’s power is perfected in weakness
- Zechariah 4:6 — Not by might, but by God’s Spirit
- Ephesians 3:20 — God works powerfully **in us**
- Luke 1:37 — Nothing is impossible with God

Key Thought:

The mission is impossible without Jesus — but nothing is impossible with Jesus.

5. Jesus Reigns — The Mission Is Secure

Acts 1:9–11

- The ascension is not absence — it is **enthronement**
- Jesus is reigning now as King
- Our salvation, mission, and dependence are secure
- The angels correct both passivity and control

Key Scriptures:

- Daniel 7:13–14 — Jesus receives dominion and glory
- Revelation 22:13 — Jesus is the Alpha and Omega
- Colossians 1:17 — All things hold together in Him
- Hebrews 1:3 — Jesus is seated at God's right hand

Key Thought:

Jesus reigns. Jesus will return. Jesus leads His Church.

Reflection & Response

Take time to slow down and reflect.

Personal Reflection

- Where in my life am I still trying to stay in control?
- What am I carrying in my own strength that Jesus is inviting me to release?
- Where am I exhausted because I've been disconnected from Jesus?
- Where might Jesus be inviting me to trust Him more deeply?

Discipleship & Missional Reflection

- How might my life look different if I remained more dependent on Jesus?
- In what areas do I need to stop striving and start abiding?
- Who might God be inviting me to love, serve, or point toward Him as I walk in dependence?

Response Invitation

- surrender control
- rest in the presence of Jesus
- receive fresh strength and power
- be refueled in your walk with Him
- receive Jesus as Lord and Savior for the first time