

# 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.*

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## 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.*

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## 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.*

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### 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.*

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### 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.*

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## 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.*

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## 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