

**We had** such a great **beginning** to the Book of **Acts** last week  
The msg was called ***“Preparing to Be the Church”***

**& we tried to make 2 things very clear as we began Acts – we said:**

- 1) **ACTS** is about Jesus Christ building His church,  
**BY** the Power of the Holy Spirit,  
**THRU** the Believers,  
**FOR** His Glory
- 2) Acts Is Written **To Us**  
Acts Is Written **About Us**  
Acts Is Written About Us **Today**

Acts is not only how the **Historical** Church Started

Acts is about how the Church **Starts**, **Grows**, & **Functions** – **TODAY**

Acts is about how you & I are Living ***“as the church”*** – **TODAY**

That was ***“Preparing to Be the Church”***

**TODAY** – the subject is ***“Preparing for POWER”***

But **before we start** today

I'd like to **PRAY** that we would understand – that:

w/o **the Power** Christ gave the church, **in the person** of the Holy Spirit  
& w/o our **TOTAL DEPENDENCY** on Him . . .

We are **destined** to be cold, lifeless, religious people

& we'll **never** be **true witnesses** to the Life Changing Power of Jesus

**Let's Pray**

& in last week's msg  
we saw the beginning of today's message

**It was in Acts 1:8 (esv)**

***8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

- 1) You will receive **POWER**
- 2) You will be my **WITNESSES**

**In THAT ORDER !!**

Receive the **Power FIRST**  
**THEN** go & be **Witnesses**

I think that's why I love the book of **ACTS**

**Regular**, Ordinary people, just like us  
are filled with **GOD-SIZED** Power

& **out** of their lives flow **RIVERS** of **Living Water**

& the **Transforming** Life of Christ - **ERUPTS** out of Jerusalem  
& begins to **SPILL OVER** – to the Ends of the earth

& if you are **saved** today  
then **YOU** have benefitted from that **River of Living Water**

that has been making **WITNESSES** from Jerusalem to the ends  
of the earth – **since 50 days after** the Resurrection of Christ

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## **In Acts 1:4 – we read last week**

***4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;***

**Jesus reminds them – You HEARD from ME about the Promise of the Father**

& then – in V.5 – He tells them very clearly

## **Acts 1:5 (esv)**

***5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”***

**BAPTIZED = BAPTIZO – it means – “*To be Immersed Into*”  
WITH - (Grk Prep) = EN – really means – “*Placed IN, or INTO*”**

Jesus says – you are going to be Immersed IN, or INTO the Holy Spirit - Not many days from now

& HE says -You ALREADY HEARD this from me

In John 14 Jesus had promised the Father would send “***Another Helper***” – *LET’S TURN THERE*

## **Jn 14:15-17 (esv)**

***15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.***

***16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,***

***17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.***

The Phrase “**Another Helper**” is another **FAV** Greek Phrase  
**ALLOS PARAKLETOS**

It means Lit – “***One of the Same Kind & Quality,  
Called alongside to Help***”

**Jesus** says – He’ll ASK – & **The Father** will send **The Helper**  
*Do you see the Trinity in there ?*

Then – in **V.17** Jesus says – the World **CAN’T** receive this Helper –  
Because it **doesn’t know** Him (meaning Don’t know God)

then He says – But **YOU** know Him –  
He dwells **WITH** you, & will be **IN** you

& back in **ACTS 1** – Jesus says - this **HELPER** is so important  
that it would be **BETTER** for the Kingdom

if we would just **SIT STILL & NOT** do a thing –  
until we’re Operating IN “**The Holy Spirit**”

**WHY ??**

Let me tell you **WHY**  
Then I want to show it to you here in **Jn 14**

Why is it better for us **NOT** to do **ANYTHING**  
until we are **BAPTIZED** in the Holy Spirit ??

**Because the Holy Spirit is GOD living in US**

Let’s see it here in **Jn 14** – then we’ll go back to Acts

## **John 14:18–19 (ESV)**

**18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.**

**19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.**

Guys – **Jesus** is referring to the **Holy Spirit** Living in You when He says ***I will come to you***

& when He says – ***because I live, you also will live***

He’s **referring** to **His** Life in **you**, in the Person of the **Holy Spirit**

**& then – down in John 14:23 Jesus says (esv)**

**23 . . . “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”**

**ALL** of this – is referring to the **ROLE** of the Holy Spirit

The **Holy Spirit** is the **Person** of God who Lives **IN** us  
& **EMPOWERS** us to live **Transformed** Lives

**Without** Him – all we have is **Cold, Dead Religion**

& Back in **Acts 1** Jesus tells His Disciples

It’d be better for you to **NOT** do anything – than go out there  
**WITHOUT** the Power of the Holy Spirit coming UPON you

& if we’re going to **Prepare for this POWER** we need to **Understand**

- 1) **WHO** the Holy Spirit is, &
- 2) **WHAT** His **ROLE** is in our lives

I’ve **already mentioned** our entire **Holy Spirit collection**  
which you can ask for anytime

But I'd **especially recommend** the 3 part series called  
**"Under His Influence"** - - part of our **ROMANS** series

Which will **really help** you understand our Critical Need to be  
**Living** constantly **Under the Influence** of the Holy Spirit

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**OK** – there's a little **"Refresher Course"**  
on what Jesus meant in **ACTS 1:4**

when He told His Disciples – **WAIT** for the Promise  
that you **HEARD** about - from me

So let's head back to **ACTS**  
to ask the question – **HOW** do we **Prepare for this POWER** ?

**Again – picking up the text in Acts 1:8 (esv)**

***8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

& then – in **V.9** – When Jesus said this –  
**AS** the Disciples were looking at Him

The **Shekinah Glory** of God Descends in a Cloud – **Picks** Jesus up  
& **HE ASCENDS** into Heaven - - **WHILE** they're watching !!

You **KNOW** – That was **Jaw-Dropping** – **Incredible**  
& **THAT** was the **Exclamation Point** – Jesus **left the Disciples** with

& **AFTER** the ANGELS showed up & told them – ***"Hey, don't stand here Gawking – He's COMING BACK the same way"***

& **AFTER** they picked their Jaws up off the ground . . .

**We pick up the text in Acts 1:12 (esv)**

***12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.***

They **Picked** up their Jaws – **Settled** their Emotions  
& started **heading back** to Jerusalem

& **RIGHT HERE** is a great place to talk about  
**one** of the **Most Important “Preparations”**  
for **Receiving** the Power of the Holy Spirit

In the **40 days** between the Resurrection & the Ascension  
**EVERY** time Jesus **appeared** to His Disciples

a greater & greater **EXPECTANCY** was built in them

With Every **Miraculous** Appearing  
With Every **New Resurrection** Teaching . . .

Their **EXPECTANCY GREW**

& the **CRESCENDO** was this last moment

with the **Promise** of the Holy Spirit  
& then the **Grand FINALE** of the **ASCENSION**

Some of these Apostle's **FEET** Weren't even touching the Ground  
they had to be so **OVERWHELMED** with what was happening

& **AS** they were **heading back** to Jerusalem  
they were **EXPECTING** something GREAT – to say the least

When **WE** see Jesus for **WHO** He is ?

When **WE** really count ourselves – **ALL IN** – as His Disciples

When **He tells us** in His Word – that He will send **ANOTHER HELPER**

Who will be the **Divine Power** of God living in us . . .

**Are WE EXPECTANT ??**

Are we **Looking Forward** to being **IMMERSED**

in the **Life & Power** of God

& are we **EXPECTING** to Truly Surrender our lives

to Let the Life of God Truly **LIVE** in us, & Truly **EMPOWER** us ??

There **comes a time** when we must **REALLY** Believe !!

When we must go from believing in **PRINCIPLE** - to believing;

that God's **Divine Power** will actually **FILL US**

that God will actually **USE US** - **EVEN US !!**

**R. Kent Hughes;**

*The primary problem with believers in this matter of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is their lack of believing expectancy . . . We simply need to really believe—and so act upon—what we say we believe. Do we truly expect Christ to fill us with His Holy Spirit and thus empower our lives?*

Do we **BELIEVE** it – Do we **DESIRE** it ??

Do we **EXPECT** it – Do we **LONG** for it ??

For the **NEXT 10 DAYS**

**THAT** is exactly what the Disciples did

**They Left** - from the **Ascension** on the Mt of Olives

**They Returned** to the **Upper Room** . . .

- probably the **SAME Upper Room** as the Last Supper



**They Waited** in **EXPECTATION** for the Promise to come

*Just as Jesus told them to do !!*

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**Let's Re-Read Acts 1:12–13 (ESV)**

***12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.***

***13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.***

The Mt of Olives is just across the KIDRON Valley  
from Jerusalem – Just a **“Sabbath’s Day”** Journey

A **“Sabbath’s Day”** Journey is the distance allowed by  
the Jewish Law that a person could walk on the Sabbath

This distance is a **1/2 to 3/4** of a **mile**  
which gives us the **general area** of the **Upper Room**

& again – this is very probably – **THE** Upper Room  
**where** they shared the **Last Supper** with Jesus

& so now – they **return there**  
& all **11 Apostles** are listed – Minus Judas Iscariot

Which **LEADS US** – to our **SECOND Preparation for POWER**

#1) is **EXPECTANCY**

#2) is **UNITY**

Let's Read **V.14** - & consider the need – for **UNITY**

## **Acts 1:14 (esv)**

***14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.***

**WOW** – this is a **DIVERSE** & Previously **STRAINED**  
**Group** of Believers

Most of the **Disciples** were **Strong-Willed** Men  
who **Argued** & **Jockeyed** for Position

Who **thought** they were the best – **stronger** than all the others  
then who **fell** the worst – before they **ALL** scattered

& it's not just these **Misfit Disciples**  
But **MARY** the **mother of Jesus** was also there

This (by the way) is the **last mention** of **Mary** in Scripture

Not only **MARY** – but also **Jesus' Half Brothers** were there

These are the **same brothers** who gave Jesus  
such a **hard time** during His ministry

at one time **even saying** Jesus was "**Out of His Mind**"

But **JAMES** (the brother of Jesus)  
would soon be **leading the Jerusalem** church

& **not only** Jesus **Mother** & **Brother's**

but when Luke says in V.14 – "**THE WOMEN**" were there  
he's **referring** to the **women** who followed Jesus

Including the **Adulteress** Mary Magdalene

& Sisters Mary & Martha (*tho Martha was prob in the Kitchen*)

Prob along with the Pharisee Nicodemus  
& the wealthy – Joseph of Arimathea

All together – there would be 120 Disciples in this room  
all from Various Religious Backgrounds & Personalities  
all with Various Sins

But all coming together – with ONE ACCORD – in UNITY  
& DEVOTING themselves to Prayer – TOGETHER

The Phrase “*With One Accord*” means LIT -  
“*With One Heart, One Mind*”

A Diverse & Difficult & Strained group  
of Rag-Tag Believers

Were gathered “*In One Accord*” &  
“*Devoting themselves to Prayer*”

Waiting Expectantly – for the POWER from on high  
The Promised Holy Spirit – to be POURED OUT on them

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Guys – I can tell you FOR SURE

One of the Enemies Most Productive Ways  
to STOP the POWER of the Holy Spirit in the church

is thru DISUNITY & DISCORD & DISSENTION

The Holy Spirit WORKS in UNITY  
& so the enemy works HARD to bring the OPPOSITE

So often – the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit is **BLOCKED**  
by **CONFLICT** in Relationships

Far **too many times** to count – I’ve seen a person get mad  
at a **Pastor** – either **me** or **some other** pastor

& then – the **next thing** that happens is – that **person** becomes **critical**  
& is totally **UNABLE** to hear **from God** thru that Pastor

& so **they figure** it’s the Pastor - & so they **go to another church**  
**where** the pastor hasn’t **offended** them - - **YET**

& **they praise** that pastor for being **such an instrument** of God

But **really** – what was happening is **they** were **HARBORING**  
something **against** the previous pastor

& **so** they **couldn’t receive** anything of the **Spirit** from that Pastor

& **I promise** you – **MOST** of the time –  
the Pastor has **NO IDEA** this is even going on

but the **internal conflict** in the person is totally **preventing them**  
from **hearing anything** from their Pastor

**Lloyd Ogilvie** (Bible Scholar) calls these relational conflicts  
**BLOCKAGE** in our **Spiritual “Plumbing”**

& he **addresses this** in his study of this text

### **Lloyd Ogilvie**

*I’ve known the same kind of cleaning out of the blockage in my  
spiritual and emotional plumbing repeatedly. And a fresh  
Pentecost follows. The Lord wants to bless us with His Spirit.*

***Prayer and reconciled relationships . . . are the place to begin and then begin again and again all through our Christian adventure.***

**UNITY** in Relationships

is **KEY** to **PREPARING for the POWER** of the Holy Spirit

**UNITY** in **BOTH** your **VERTICAL** relationship (with God)

**AND** in your **HORIZONTAL** relationships

**I wish** I could **spend** more **time** here – but we have to move on

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In **Preparing for the Power** of the Holy Spirit . . .

**#1) EXPECTANCY**

**#2) UNITY**

**#3) DEVOTED PRAYER**

**Let's Re-Read the beginning of Acts 1:14 (esv)**

***14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer .***

**..**

**The Word** Translated **DEVOTING THEMSELVES** means **LIT**

***“Adhering Firmly To”***

They were **EXPECTANTLY** Gathered – in **UNITY**

***ADHERING FIRMLY TO PRAYER***

The idea is that they were **Continually Committed to Prayer**

for **the Promise** of the Holy Spirit

The Picture is that of **PERSISTENCE** - -

**PERSEVERANCE** in Prayer

& this is how I'd like to close today

If you have experienced the Regular  
FILLING to Over-Flowing of the Holy Spirit

You KNOW – that it requires a Continual Commitment to PRAYER

Walking in the Power of the Holy Spirit is NOT a One Time  
“Slip up your hand & you're good to go” type of Prayer

For you & I to be Continually FILLED with the Life & Power of God  
we must learn to be Continually DEPENDENT on God

It's NOT that God is holding BACK – It's not that He doesn't FEEL  
like giving us the power of the Holy Spirit

It's that He wants us to learn to be TOTALLY, & COMPLETELY  
DEPENDENT on Him for HIS Power in our lives

If we do not Clearly See Ourselves  
as TOTALLY DEPENDENT on God

then we will far too easily TAKE CREDIT for anything God does in us

God WANTS to pour out the Power of the Holy Spirit into your Life

But He wants to teach you to be completely Dependent on Him  
for everything of Eternal Value that occurs thru you

The Disciples here in Acts 1 – were totally dependent  
on the power Christ promised

they knew without it they could not go forward –  
& so they waited - in total dependence – Devoted to Prayer

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**Jesus** gives a **perfect Picture** of this in **LUK 11** –  
Let's **Finish** over there

**Let me** tell you up-front  
**this parable** is about **PERSISTENCE** in **PRAYER**  
it's about our **NEED** to learn to be **TOTALLY, COMPLETELY,**  
**CONSTANTLY DEPENDENT** on God

for **HIS Life** to be **poured into us** by the Holy Spirit

**THAT'S** what it's about . . .

These Vs's **come** right on the **HEELS** of Jesus **teaching** the Disciples  
**HOW** to pray with the **Lord's Prayer**

### **Luke 11:5–8 (ESV)**

**5** *And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, 6 for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; 7 and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his *impudence* [shameless persistence] he will rise and give him whatever he needs.*

& in the **Very Next VS**

Jesus **EXPLAINS** what He means by the Parable

**Luke 11:9–10 (ESV)** (*verb = present, active, imperative*)

**9 And I tell you, ask (& keep asking), and it will be given to you; seek (& keep seeking), and you will find; knock (& keep knocking), and it will be opened to you.**

**10 For everyone who asks (& keeps on asking) receives, and the one who seeks (& keeps on seeking) finds, and to the one who knocks (& keeps on knocking) it will be opened.**

Guys – **the ONLY WAY** for us to Avoid **SELF-DEPENDENCY** is to be **Constantly, Totally, Completely,** Dependent on GOD

& **THAT** is what Jesus is teaching here

But **He wants** you to know – the Father **WILL** absolutely **Give** you the **BEST GIFT**

it's **NOT** that God is **stingy** with His **Gift**  
**It's that** it only **works** when we are **DEPENDENT on Him**

& so **Jesus** ends this teaching  
with some incredible **ENCOURAGEMENT**

### **Luke 11:11–13 (ESV)**

**11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;**

**12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?**

**13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

**WOW** – All that teaching about **PERSISTENCE** in **PRAYER**  
was about **Receiving the Holy Spirit** ??

God **WANTS** to give you **the Holy Spirit**  
He **WANTS** to **Empower** you to be His WITNESS to the world



But you **CAN'T** do it **WITHOUT HIM**

It's not that He doesn't **WANT** you to - - - **YOU CAN'T !!!**

So He **MUST** make you **Dependent** on **HIM** – for **HIS POWER**

But if you will **LEARN** to be **Constantly, Totally, Completely,**  
**Dependent on GOD** for **HIS POWER** in the Holy Spirit

He will **Continually** Pour His Power into your life

& you **WILL** Receive **POWER**  
to be His **WITNESS**

& **then** - & **only** then – will you be a **GOOD WITNESS**

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**THREE Ways** to **PREPARE for the POWER** of the Holy Spirit

### **1) EXPECTANCY**

Expect God to Pour His Life into you – to Use you

### **2) UNITY**

Make sure there's nothing **BLOCKING** either your **VERTICAL**  
or **HORIZONTAL** Relationships

### **3) DEVOTED PRAYER**

Learn to be **Constantly, Totally, Completely, Dependent on GOD**  
for **HIS POWER** in the Holy Spirit

and - ***you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.***”

**Let's Pray**