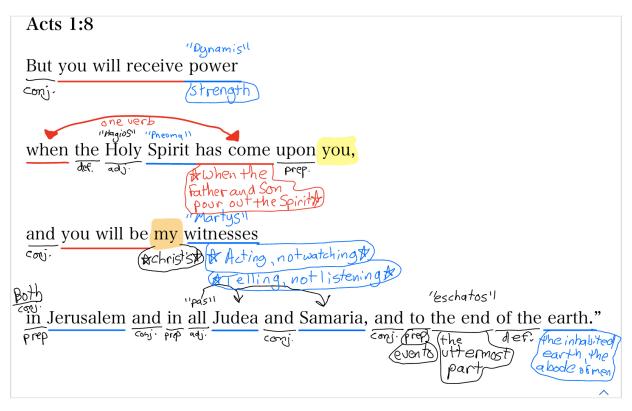
I.XIII THE EMPOWERING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Acts 1:6-11 - Shepherd School

I. OPENING RAYER: All.

III. SERMON:

THE EMPOWERING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Acts 1:6-11.



INTRODUCTION/DOCTRINE. The Christian life is a life empowered by God the Holy Spirit wherein believers are strengthened for a gospel ministry that will expand to the uttermost part of the earth.

CON(TEXT). Acts 1:1-11.

OUTLINE. Four main points of doctrine from this one verse, and we will spend most of our time on the third point which concerns being a witness of Jesus Christ.

I. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A POWERFUL LIFE (Acts 1:8a).

Acts 1:8a "But you will receive power. . ."

II. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS AN EMPOWERED LIFE (Acts 1:8b).

Acts 1:8b "when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,"

III. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A WITNESSING LIFE (Acts 1:8c).

Acts 1:8c "and you will be my witnesses"

BEEKE: "Witness" language is legal and judicial, drawing on Isaiah's theme of God's "lawsuit" against idolaters, in which he calls for witnesses to demonstrate that he alone is God and Savior (Isa. 43:8–13; 44:8–9; 45:20–25). Christ's focusing of the witness on himself implies his deity and sole mediation of salvation."

- C.F. Acts 4:33 "And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all."
- This witnessing is so that the Great Commission would be fulfilled. This witnessing includes proclaiming both the Law of God and the Gospel of God for conversion as well as for growth in holiness. Sinners need to become saints and then grow in holiness as they continually trust and obey God, in Christ, by the power of the Spirit.

LET ME MAKE FIVE CLARIFICATIONS.

- (i) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you for gospel ministry, not for figuring out the secret will of God (Acts 1:6-7).
- (ii) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you for gospel ministry, so that you may take part in fulfilling the great commission to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8c). c.f. Habakkuk 2:14
- (iii) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you for gospel ministry, keeping in mind that the Lord Jesus will return to both damn sinners and save saints (Acts 1:9-11).
- (iv) In a strict sense the Apostles are the witnesses of Jesus Christ, being eye and ear witnesses to His life, miracles, teaching, death, resurrection, and ascension. However, in a more general sense, believers are also witnesses to the truth of Christ as they proclaim the words spoken and written by the Old Testament Prophets and the New Testament Apostles.

This is evidenced by the fact that all the believers evangelized after the Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, not just the apostles. In

addition, Stephen is called a witness of Christ by Paul in **Acts 22:20.** "And when the blood of Stephen <u>your witness</u> was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him."

 (v) Jesus Christ is the Faithful Witness, and by the Holy Spirit's power Christ continues His work through His body, the church (Revelation 1:5; Acts 1:1).

You men must labor to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ in your home, in the church, and in the world, and you cannot be such without the empowerment of God the Holy Spirit.

Now, let me give you 10 specific points concerning how you need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a witness of Jesus Christ in your home, in the church, and in the world.

- I) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be an <u>experiential</u> witness of Jesus Christ—comprehending the love of God in Christ Jesus personally and intimately.
 - Ephesians 3:16-19 "[Paul prays that] according to the riches of [the Father's] glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Remember that you cannot faithfully bear witness about someone you have not seen and experienced yourself by faith.

- If you would be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ, you must be frequently acquainted with Christ in the Scriptures, in prayer, in the assembly of the saints, and at the Lord's Table, depending on the Holy Spirit to strengthen you and enable you to experientially know God in Christ.
 - If you would be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ, you must continually behold the glory of God in shining in the face of Jesus Christ, then ask the Spirit to empower you!
- II) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>faithful</u> witness of Jesus Christ.
 - 1 Corinthians 4:2 "It is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

- III) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>bold</u> witness of Jesus Christ.
 - Acts 4:29 "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness. . ."

IV) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>fearless and</u> <u>courageous</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

- 2 Timothy 1:7 "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."
 - Philippians 1:20 "It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death."

V) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be an <u>unashamed and</u> <u>suffering</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

 2 Timothy 1:8 "Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. . ."

VI) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>reliant</u> witness of Jesus Christ—relying on God alone, who raises the dead.

- 2 Corinthians 1:8-9 "8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

VII) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>content</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

- 2 Corinthians 6:4-10 "4 As servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; 7 by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything."

VIII) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be an <u>enduring</u>, <u>patient</u>, and <u>joyful</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

 Colossians 1:11 "[Paul prays that believers would be] strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy. . "

IX) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>hopeful</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

 Romans 15:13 "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

X) You need the Holy Spirit to empower you to be a <u>doxological</u> witness of Jesus Christ.

- Ephesians 3:20-21 "20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

IV. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS AN EXPANSIVE LIFE (Acts 1:8d).

Acts 1:8d "in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- CALVIN: "Hereby we learn, that the gospel was preached everywhere by the manifest commandment of Christ, that it might also come unto us."
 - BEEKE: "Pentecost was the D-Day of Christ's worldwide assault upon Satan's kingdom. It challenges us to ask ourselves, 'Is it my passion that the nations will glorify God through the gospel?'"

DOCTRINE. The Christian life is a life empowered by God the Holy Spirit wherein believers are strengthened for a gospel ministry that will expand to the uttermost parts of the earth.

III. SONG:

IV. 1689 Confession: Ch 10. Par 1-4 (finish by 7:35pm)

V. DISCUSSION (finish by 8pm)

Reformed Systematic Theology (vol. 3) discussion

Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices discussion

Closing Prayer

SYLLABUS

SHEPHERD SCHOOL - SEASON ONE (2025) - THE ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD

WEEK	Scripture	Book I (read before)	Book II (read before)	1689 Confession	Certificate Essays	Certificate Exposition
1 8/14	2 Timothy 2:1-6 Why Shepherd School + Overview					
2 8/21	Deuteronomy 18:15-22	A Body of Divinity Christ, The Mediator of the Covenant + Christ's Prophetic Office by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices A Word to the Reader, Introduction, Proof of the Point, By Presenting the Bait and Hiding the Hook by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 1-3		
3 8/28	Psalm 110:1-4	A Body of Divinity Christ's Priestly Office + Christ's Kingly Office by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Painting Sin with Virtue's Colors, By the Extenuating and Lessoning of Sin, By Showing the Soul the Best Men's Sins by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 4-6	Short Essay on The Hypostatic Union	
4 9/4	Philippians 2:5-11	A Body of Divinity Christ's Humiliation in His Incarnation + Christ's Exaltation by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Presenting God to the Soul, By Persuading the Soul, By Making the Soul Bold by Thomas Brooks	Ch 8. Par 7-10		First Exposition Due
5 9/11	Galatians 3:10-14	A Body of Divinity Christ's The Redeemer by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Representing to the Soul the Outward Mercies, By Presenting to the Soul the Crosses, By Causing Saints to Compare Themselves by Thomas Brooks	Ch 11. Par 1-3		*Certificate path will meet in the office during 1689 and book discussion this week to discuss sermons
6 9/18	John 4:24 (Omnipresence) Psalm 147:5 (Omniscience)	A Body of Divinity The Omnipresence of God + The Omniscience of God by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Causing Saints to Compare Themselves, By Polluting the Souls Judgements, By leading Men to Choose Wicked Company by Thomas Brooks	Ch 11. Par 4-6		
7 9/25	Revelation 1:8 (Eternity) James 1:17 (Immutability)	A Body of Divinity The Eternity of God + The Immutability of God by Thomas Watson	Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices By Presenting the World, By Presenting to the Soul the Dangers, By Presenting to the Soul the Difficulty by Thomas Brooks	Ch 2. Par 1-3		

SERMON TRANSCRIPT