

HOPE for NKY

There is HOPE: The Gospel Through You...

The NKY Baptist Association is collaborating in prayer, messages, and action to proclaim the Gospel in our community. There is an epidemic in society and culture pulling people's hearts, minds, and spirits away for the only HOPE they could ever have. The result of that epidemic is a community filled with our own family, friends, and neighbors who lack faith, lack hope, and lack an eternal home. But, there is HOPE. And, when we understand the glory of the Gospel and the tragedy of unbelief, we will develop a deep burden for the lost.

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Luke 19:10

God delights to use us to bring HOPE! The Church is God's designed and commissioned means for sharing the Gospel and is equipped with the Holy Spirit who provides the power, guidance, and conviction necessary in the work.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

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

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

We've established the critical peril our family, friends, and community face in their separation from God in sin and lack of faith. We've seen God's compassionate nature on display in sending Jesus to seek and save His lost children. These verses in Acts show us that, while the redemptive work on Jesus on the cross is complete, the work of seeking the remaining lost is passed to us. The critical work spreading the Good News continues with the same sense of urgency to those in peril today.

Let us not become paralyzed in our waiting, in our fear, or in our complacency. Let us go forth in power, proclaiming the Good News to all.

Not by my power, but Yours God

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; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Acts 1:4-5

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. John 14:16-17

The church must prioritize seeking the Holy Spirit's rather than relying our own.
Embracing this reality frees us from fear and performance-based witnessing.

What's the Point?

What is God doing in all this? And how does He want to use me?

Who does God want to speak to through me? Who does God want to invite through me?

With both commission and power, let's not just sit staring at the sky. Rather, let's get to work!

Continuing Jesus' Ministry

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.” Acts 1:8

21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” John 20:21

The goal for believers is to reflect the compassion, words, and actions of Jesus.

The church's purpose is not to invent a new mission but to continue Jesus' established work.

The gospel is not simply about what Jesus did in the past, but also what He is doing today.

What's the Point?

It is not you, but He, who does the work. That is why you feel unprepared. Why is that good?

How has God equipped you? What part of your story is He using to reach others?

It is a special responsibility and blessing to join God in His work. We do so, with the power of His Holy Spirit, expecting His final victory to come.

Our Shared Celebration

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Acts 1:9-11

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

The church must maintain a balance between local and global outreach.

We are not called to be passive bystanders gazing at the sky but active participants.

This protects us from inward-focus and gives importance/urgency to the God's work.

What's the point?

Ask God, “How do You want to show your power through my witness this fall?”

Seek His Spirit, “By Your strength, who needs to hear my testimony?”

Follow Jesus, “Who needs to receive Your invitation through me?”

The peril is great, but God's grace is greater. He is calling YOU today to reach those you love the most...because, HE loves them even more. Don't let them perish without knowing HIM.

He has done what we could not.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – What is God doing in all this? And how does He want to use me?

Who does God want to speak to through me?

Tuesday – Who does God want to invite through me? It is not you, but He, who does the work.

That is why you feel unprepared. Why is that good?

Wednesday – God made you and put you here at this time for a purpose. How has God equipped you? What part of your story is He using to reach others?

Thursday -- Ask God, “How do You want to show your power through my witness this fall?”

Seek His Spirit, “By Your strength, who needs to hear my testimony?”

Follow Jesus, “Who needs to receive Your invitation through me?”

Friday – There is a face and a name on your spirit. God is calling you to love them enough to tell them, show them, and invite them. If not now, when? If not you, who?