

IT'S HARD TO WAIT

THE WIND OF CHANGE

CENTRAL QUESTION:

What do we do when we know what God has called us to, but the power to do it hasn't come yet?

I. SETTING THE STAGE

Series: The Winds of Change — Week 2

Last Week's Focus: Living in the in-between — the space between the promise and the power

This Week's Focus: What we do in that space, and why waiting is so hard

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 1:1-8 — Luke writes to Theophilus, recounting the final words of Jesus before His ascension
- Luke 24:49 — "Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high"

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which he was taken up..." — Acts 1:1-2

II. THE DISCIPLES HAD CLARITY — BUT NOT POWER

Key Truth: Knowing who Jesus is and being empowered by the Spirit are two different things.

What the disciples understood:

- Jesus had risen from the dead
- He had shown Himself alive through many infallible proofs over 40 days
- He had spoken to them about the Kingdom of God

What they still lacked:

- The power of the Holy Ghost

- The full understanding of how Jesus would deliver — not from Roman rule, but from the grip of sin

Peter's Confession — Matthew 16:

- Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?"
- Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
- Jesus replied that this was not revealed by flesh and blood, but by the Spirit of God

Key Insight: You cannot truly come to Christ on your own decision alone. The Spirit must draw you.

The Mission Was Clear:

- Go to Jerusalem
- Wait for the Holy Ghost
- Then witness — in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)

III. THE COMMAND TO WAIT

Jesus did not ask — He commanded.

"But wait for the promise of the Father... you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." — Acts 1:4-5

The gap the disciples lived in:

- They were called, but not yet empowered
- They knew the mission, but had not received the means

This is where many believers live today:

- Knowing what God has promised
- Knowing what they are supposed to do
- But not yet seeing it play out in their lives

IV. WHY WAITING IS SO HARD

We live in a culture that hates to wait:

- Microwaves instead of stoves

- Fast food instead of home cooking
- Instant results instead of patient process

We misread waiting as:

- Failure
- Lack of progress
- Delay or punishment
- Abandonment by God

The Real Problem — We want:

- The calling without the preparation
- The platform without the process
- The outcome without the work

What actually happened at Pentecost:

- Hundreds — possibly thousands — came to Jerusalem to wait
- Most left because the wait was too long
- Only 120 remained when the Holy Ghost fell (Acts 1:15)

Key Insight: How you wait reveals how much you actually trust God.

V. THE BROWNSVILLE REVIVAL — A MODERN EXAMPLE

Background: A church was dealing with division and internal struggle

What the pastor did:

- Called the church to prayer and waiting on God
- The first prayer meeting had only him, his wife, and a few others
- Weeks turned to months
- He grew tired and called a friend to preach one Sunday night because he felt he had nothing left to give

What happened:

- That Sunday night, revival broke out
- It lasted for years
- Millions came through the doors
- Thousands upon thousands gave their lives to Christ

"He decided: I'm going to wait for the power of God to move."

VI. WHAT WAITING ACTUALLY DOES

Waiting is not inactivity — it is obedience.

God does His deepest work in us while we are waiting and preparing.

Waiting teaches us:

- Obedience
- Trust
- Dependence on the Spirit rather than our own strength

Dangers during the wait:

- Getting ahead of God
- Becoming spiritually distracted
- Comparing ourselves to others
- Becoming judgmental of those who seem further along

"Maybe they've been waiting longer than you. Maybe they prepared longer."

Illustration — The Pastor's Son:

- A young boy waited patiently for his father to return
 - When asked how he knew his father would come back, he said simply: "Because you love me."
 - That is the kind of faith God is building in us during the wait.
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VII. LIVING IN THE LEAN

The posture of waiting is not passive — it is active faith.

- Are we living in the now?
- Are we leaning forward toward what God has promised?
- Are we letting God know through our waiting that we want Him to move?

Key Insight: Waiting on God is not the absence of faith — it is faith in action.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Waiting is not a punishment. It is preparation. God does not waste the in-between seasons. The disciples who stayed in Jerusalem were the ones who received the power. The ones who left missed it.

- Do not rush ahead of God
 - Do not check out in the waiting
 - Trust that what He promised, He will deliver
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FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Are there areas of your life where you know what God has called you to, but you have been running ahead of Him instead of waiting?
 2. Have you been reading waiting as punishment rather than preparation?
 3. What would it look like to obey God's command to wait this week — practically and spiritually?
 4. Are you ready for what God is about to do? What preparation do you still need?
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Scripture References for Further Study:

Acts 1:1-8 | Luke 24:49 | Matthew 16:13-17 | Acts 1:15 | Acts 2:1-4 | John 10:11-14