

The Assembly

21 Days Of Prayer And Fasting

DAY 15

Empowerment has become one of those words that people may use without fully grasping its entire meaning.

To me, empowerment describes a specific capacity for us to accomplish tasks and overcome challenges in a way that would not be possible otherwise. Empowerment may involve permission, authority, or a specific assigned ability for us to act on behalf of someone else.

In God's Word, the Bible, Jesus has already authorized and delegated believers to continue the work of spreading the Gospel in His creation. In Acts 1:8, Jesus challenges believers, *"And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Not many of us will have opportunities to travel to the "ends of the earth," but the challenge remains the same for wherever we may be. I have come to learn that my own application of "to the ends of the earth" is within my own sphere of influence. For some of us, our application of "the ends of the earth" may be our place of employment, the school we attend or the neighborhood where we reside.

I recently visited a widow in a nursing home whose personal ministry has been writing personal handwritten cards of encouragement to others who have visited our church for over forty years. I recall receiving one of those handwritten cards when I was a first-time visitor at the Assembly years before I transitioned my vocation to full-time ministry. I remember being overwhelmed at the extension of thoughtfulness behind the carefully worded hand-written card; I knew that the motivation for the thoughtful expression was a deep heartfelt commitment to the Lord, Jesus. What a witness this precious card writer has demonstrated to so many people. She once confessed to me that she prayed over each and every card before applying postage to the envelope.

Many people figuratively refer to the group of believers who populate churches in today's culture as the "body of Christ." It is true that we are representative of the character and person of Jesus to the world, but it is significant for us to understand that a body has components that do the work. As believers in Jesus, we become the arms and legs to propel the movement of the Gospel to a world that needs Jesus. God always equips us for what he calls us to accomplish. Acts 1:7 describes that equipping through the Holy Spirit as "you shall receive power."

God has given us permission, authority, and capacity to be his witnesses in a world needing Jesus. What a blessing and a privilege that God trusts us to further the cause of the Gospel to the world!

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