

# Getting Ready For The Next Big Thing (Part One)

*April 30, 2017*

## I. Introduction

**Luke 24:49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

**Acts 1:4-5** On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Luke 24:50-53** When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

## II. Getting Ready For The Next Big Thing

### 1. Place

**Acts 1:9-11** After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

#### A. A Place of Obedience

**Acts 1:12** Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city.

- Blessing flows from obedience.

#### B. A Place of Expectation

- You won't receive if you don't believe.

## 2. People

**Acts 1:13-14** When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

*A. Who you are with affects who you will be.*

1. People who share your values
2. People who share your hope

**Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## 3. Praise

**Luke 24:52-53** Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

*A. You will worship something.*

1. What you worship determines who you will be.
2. Praise should be the natural response to a supernatural God.
  - Praise God for past faithfulness.
  - Praise God for present confidence.
  - Praise God for future hope.

*B. Praising God with my mouth*

- The lips steer the life.

**Hebrews 13:15** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

### *C. Praising God with my heart*

**Romans 1:21-23** For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

**Psalm 36:1-4** I have a message from God in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is no fear of God before their eyes. In their own eyes they flatter themselves too much to detect or hate their sin. The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful; they fail to act wisely or do good. Even on their beds they plot evil; they commit themselves to a sinful course and do not reject what is wrong.

**Psalm 36:5-9** Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

1. Praise protects my heart.

- *You will either worship or be critical of those who do.* - H. Maurice Lednicky

2. Your attention determines your attitude.

### *D. Praising God with my mind*

**Psalm 97:9** For you, Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

1. Praise changes fear to faith.

2. When I praise, my blessings become bigger than my challenges.

3. When I praise, I think about the Eternal God instead of earthly circumstances.

### *E. Praising God with my life*

**Psalm 97:10-12** Let those who love the Lord hate evil, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked. Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.