

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~READ TEXT~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of [\(Acts 2:1-4\) NLT](#)

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled todays message: **“Don’t Be Confused”**

~INTRO~

Warren Wiersbe said this in his [\(Acts\)](#) Commentary

*“Prayer is both the thermometer and the thermostat of the local church, for the spiritual temperature either goes up or down, depending on how God’s people pray.”*¹

I’VE FOUND THIS TO BE TRUE...

- In my personal life as well as in the church.
 - And... I’m glad we’ve had the chance to start 2023...
 - With a greater focus on seeking God in prayer.

NOW...

- As we talked about last week...
 - God has given us a *rhema* word in [\(Ps. 32:8\) NKJV](#)
 - Indicating **He** wants to do more for us.

*“I will INSTRUCT you and TEACH you in the way you should go;
I will GUIDE you with My eye.”*

BUT HOW DOES GOD DO THIS?

- [\(Isa 30:21\) NLT](#) – You will hear Him speak to your heart
- [\(1 Kings 19:12-13\) NLT](#) – A gentle whisper
- [\(John 14:26\) NLT](#) – Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus said

¹ The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: New Testament © 2007. Dr. Warren Wiersbe comments on Acts 1 (p.324).

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

GOD SPEAKS TO US...

- Thru His word and overtime we learn HOW to hear Him more clearly...
 - Above the other noises and competing voices.
 - His whisper is so close & effective for guiding us.

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS TODAY:

- Read [\(Acts 2:1-4\) NLT](#)

HERE'S A FEW THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

#1 – PRACTICAL POWER:

FOLLOW ALONG WITH ME...

- And capture the flow THUS FAR in Acts.

- I. The promise of power [\(Acts 1:4-5\) NLT](#)
- II. Power needed before doing the work [\(Acts 1:8\) NKJV](#)
- III. Power given for the work [\(Acts 2:4\) NKJV](#)

NOW... LET'S CONSIDER FIVE WAYS...

- The power of God plays out practically: ²

- 1) **Our Lives** = We impact others by depending on God's grace.
 - We're different... we bring life into the room.
 - [\(2 Cor. 1:12\) NLT](#)
- 2) **Our Words** = We speak comfort, hope, & healing to people struggling.
 - We share what God has done for us personally.
 - We lift the head of those who know they're spiritually sick.
 - [\(Mark 2:17\(b\) NLT](#)
- 3) **Our Service** = What we do for the Lord changes life for others.
 - Anytime we serve others... we're ministering For & To Jesus.

I love how present Jesus is... with suffering & sickness!

² The Book of Acts Commentary by Chuck Smith. Published by The Word for Today 2013. *Outlets of Power* (pp. 23-24).

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

- (Matt. 25:44-45) NLT

- 4) **Our Money** = Financial giving invests into the Kingdom of God...
 - And advances God's will here on earth.
 - (Matt 6:10 (b) NLT
- 5) **Our Prayers** = Any worthwhile work for God is always rooted in prayer.
 - Without prayer nothing is accomplished in heaven.
 - ALL Christians are to participate in private...
 - And corporate prayer (1 Tim 2:8) NLT

SO...

- (Acts 2) is the beginning of the church...
 - And the empowering promise of the Holy Spirit falls...
 - Enabling men & women to live with new strength!

#2 – HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN THE BELIEVER:

Let's summarize the concept into three simple movements:

- 1) *Para* = He comes alongside to convict of sin & lead to repentance.
 - (John 16:7-11)
- 2) *En* = He comes in when we accept Jesus as Lord & Savior.
 - (John 14:17) & (1 Cor. 6:19)
- 3) *Epi* = This is the empowering of the Spirit to be a witness for Christ.
 - (Acts 1:8) = empowering / baptism / or infilling.

POINT BEING...

- The Holy Spirit gives strength for spiritual work!
 - It's NOT that you have more of the Spirit...
 - BUT... the Spirit has more of you!
- It's personally embracing God's gift and using it for ministry.

THAT'S A POWERFUL POINT!

- A soul-searching question for us individually this morning.

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

OK... LET'S TALK ABOUT...

- The conflict that surfaces among well-meaning Christians...
 - Regarding the baptism seen in [\(Acts 2:4\)](#) and beyond.

THREE POPULAR BELIEFS:

1) SOME PEOPLE...

- Read into the book of [\(Acts\)](#) things that are NOT there.
 - AND come away making this passage **super-scary!**
- They demand that a person MUST have an ecstatic gibberish display...
 - Of speech... to have the baptism of the Spirit.
 - I believe this is **dangerous!!!** (e.g. brother at 10-yrs old)

2) OTHERS...

- Go to the opposite extreme and dogmatically express...
 - That the power of the Holy Spirit... is ONE & the SAME...
 - With being born-again.

I BELIEVE THERE'S **DANGER** IN SAYING IT THIS WAY...

- Because it assigns ministry into the wisdom of man.
 - Instead of the super-natural equipping of God...
 - (i.e. – spiritual gifts).

3) THIS FELLOWSHIP...

- We take a middle of the road approach.
 - We believe that a person is sealed by the Holy Spirit...
 - When they're born again!
- Then at a different time OR maybe even the same time...
 - An empowering of the Spirit is supplied / it's recognized...
 - AND put into use for ministry.

NOW...

- No matter what your stance is...
 - Please know this topic is a secondary issue...
 - AND not an essential belief to divide over.

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

*Essential Doctrines = Birth / life / death / & resurrection of Christ.

W.C. STATEMENT OF BELIEF SAYS THIS...

“We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominations as such, only their over-emphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the Body of Christ”³

~IN CLOSING~

NEXT WEEK WE DIVE DEEPER INTO...

- The three pillars of spiritual gifts:

- I. (Rom. 12:6-8) Motivational gifts – Gifts to get the church moving.
- II. (1 Cor. 12:7-11 & 28-31) Manifestation of gifts – Variety in the church.
- III. (Eph. 4:11-16) Roles of the gifts – Equip / edify / unify the church.

- *Pastor & teacher*: Purpose of this is **protecting & instructing...**
➤ By guarding & guiding the church into the truths of scripture.

IF YOU BEEN...

- Instructed in the word OR convicted by the Spirit today?
➤ May I encourage you to respond to God...
 - With an open & willing heart right now.

BY A SHOW OF HANDS...

- Who needs forgiveness of sin?
- Who has a need for circumstantial help?
- OR who needs power for obedience & participation in the church?

~LET'S PRAY~

³ Westminster Calvary Statement of Beliefs © 2012.