

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 today's 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.”*<sup>1</sup>

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

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

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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: <sup>2</sup>
  - 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!

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

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- (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.

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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.

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\*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”<sup>3</sup>*

**~ 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 ~**

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<sup>3</sup> Westminster Calvary Statement of Beliefs © 2012.