

BE A WITNESS

Lesson 12 – Outline

I. Jesus told His disciples, *you* will have power to be a witness.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

- A. The Lord would never give you a position without also giving you the authority to execute and accomplish what He told you to do.
- B. So, with this power to be a witness comes an authority to be a witness—and all the responsibility that goes along with it.

II. Peter exercised this power and authority to be a witness when he followed God's leading to Cornelius' house.

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Acts 10:1-6

- A. Angels don't have the authority to preach the Gospel—we do.
- B. God has limited Himself to preaching the Gospel through people.
- C. God's plan is for us to preach the truth of the Gospel and for people to hear it and be born again through the incorruptible seed of God's Word.
- D. You can't pray a person into the kingdom of God.

III. You have to be born again by the incorruptible seed of God's Word.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:23

- A. God's Word is the seed.
- B. It must be planted in the ground that is a person's heart.
- C. You can't be born again without faith, and that faith comes through the seed of God's Word.

Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

IV. Many Christians are praying for people to be born again, but they're not praying about the planting of the seed.

- A. There are ways you can pray to speed things up and enable the Holy Spirit to minister to this person more, but just praying and asking God "Please save them" is useless.
- B. Prayer may help once we've already shared the Gospel, but it's not a substitute for doing what God has told us to do.
- C. The Lord knows that as people receive the truth into their hearts, it will make them free.

Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

V. God moves on this earth through His people (Eph. 3:20).

- A. He moves as we preach, teach, and act on His Word.
- B. He moves through us as we obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- C. God told us to influence our nation by ministering His Word because the number one power of the church is the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel (Rom. 1:16).

It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching [the Gospel] to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:21, brackets mine

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Lesson 12 – Discipleship Questions

1. According to Acts 1:6-8, we shall receive power after _____ has come upon us.
2. What was the child's name in 1 Samuel 4:21?
3. What does this name mean?
4. In Acts 10:1-6, who was described as a devout man?
5. Who came to him in a vision?
6. Who was he told to send for?
7. What shall this man tell him?
8. According to 1 Peter 1:23, what kind of seed is the Word of God?
9. What does Romans 10:17 reveal comes by hearing the Word of God?
10. Who does Matthew 9:38 tell us to pray to?
11. Who is the Comforter mentioned in John 14:26?
12. According to Ephesians 3:20, what do we need to have working in us?
13. In Romans 1:16, Paul shares how he was not ashamed of what?
14. It is the power of God unto what?
15. According to 1 Corinthians 1:21, by what foolishness did it please God to save them that believe?

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Lesson 12 – Scriptures

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:6-8

And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

1 Samuel 4:21

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

Acts 10:1-6

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1 Peter 1:23

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:38

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:26

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Ephesians 3:20

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Corinthians 1:21