

Dr. Steve Farris

Monday

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

Christians long to see the power of God in their lives. They desire to see God work in wondrous ways in their lives and through their lives. Perhaps you have heard of God powerfully working through someone else and wondered why God does not show up so powerfully in your own life. Now, note the connection of power and purpose in Acts 1:8. Is it not those who yield themselves to God's service who see the power of God? The power of God is given specifically for the work of witness and mission. If you desire to see such power, give yourself to the call of God to accomplish His mission in your neighborhood and His world.

Tuesday

Acts 1:8 "You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

I've double-checked. The words of Acts 1:8 do not contain the word "or". No, in every instance the world is "and". "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and the remotest parts of the earth." Look at the verse. Do you see an "or" anywhere? Too often we content ourselves with choosing one area of mission to the neglect of others. Too often we console ourselves by thinking we can simply pay someone else to take our responsibility for missions. But God has an *exciting plan for you* in missions. Are you selling yourself short?

Wednesday

Acts 1:8 "You shall be My witnesses ..."

There is so much within this verse upon which to ponder. Notice that it says, "You shall be My witnesses..." There isn't an option given. Every believer shall be a witness. In a court of law there are 'expert' witnesses, there are effective witnesses, and there are disappointing witnesses. Yet everyone who takes the stand is a witness. In the world's eyes, everyone who claims Christ is a witness for Him. They are watching you in your interactions with the shopkeeper and with your family members. They observe how you react to adversity, conflict, and personal disappointment. They want to see if you are genuine and, as a result, they will make a determination about whether they believe your God is real. You are a witness. Effective or ineffective, that's up to you.

Thursday

Acts 1:8 "You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Rejoice! Rejoice! Sing praises to the Lord! God did not leave anyone out of His quest to bring grace to the world. "For God so loved the world..." God did not stop with the Jews in Jerusalem -- or you would be lost to His grace. God did not stop with the Samaritans -- or you would be dead in your sins. God sent the gospel by means of other men and women like yourself through lands and generations to reach you at the 'remotest part of the earth'. You were not first on the list, but He did not stop until He reached you. He now calls you to reach others for Him.

Friday

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

For you, for me, for our church: it comes down to a simple matter of obedience. God has made His will clear: "you shall be My witnesses". It is a call to each one of us to go. Not everyone will go across the globe; that is where our financial offerings of obedience are called for. But everyone should at least go across the street. Not everyone will go across the globe; but surely more should go than are going. "You shall be my witnesses..." Take time today to ask God how you are most effectively to be involved in missions and witness? This time, do so with the attitude of Isaiah. When God said, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah said, "Here am I send me."