

POWER FROM ON HIGH  
LUKE 24:49-53

Introduction:

1. The power from on high that Jesus promised His church while He was still on earth is directly related to the work of the Holy Spirit within the body of Christ.
2. After Jesus' resurrection He remained upon the earth for another forty days, teaching His church things concerning the kingdom. **Acts 1:3** ... *to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*
3. For a period of ten days the church would wait for the empowerment that was promised in our text.
  - A. The word "endued" means "to be clothed with."
  - B. The word "power" means "inherent power or might."
4. Today is the Day of Pentecost. Let's consider this power from on high that Jesus promised.

I. THIS PROMISE FROM ON HIGH RELATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH.

- A. Understand that God's Spirit has always been present. **Genesis 1:1-2** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. he earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*
- B. Individually, God's Spirit operated in such a manner as to guide man in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, and to make them useful in the service of God.  
**cf. Exodus 31:3** *And I have filled him (Bezalel) with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,*
- C. Yet, Jesus was talking of a special working of the Spirit of God in relationship to the commission He gave to His church to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to observe all the things of God. **John 14:16-18** *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*
  1. "Comforter" is from the Greek "parakletos," meaning, "called to one's side for the purpose of giving aid."
- D. This Comforter is also known as the Spirit of Truth. **John 15:26** *But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*

II. THE PURPOSE FOR THE PROMISE FROM ON HIGH.

- A. The primary purpose in sending the Comforter to the church was to aid them in becoming THE visible witness of Jesus' power to redeem mankind from the penalty of sin.  
**Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
- B. This would only be accomplished by a powerful working through the "sold out" commitment of individuals to reach a lost and dying world for the glory of God.
- C. When the Word of God is preached, God's Spirit operates in a remarkable way.  
**John 16:7-11** \*\*\*
  1. He convicts of sin because of unbelief.
  2. He convicts of righteousness because Jesus would no longer be visibly upon the earth for people to see His righteousness.

3. He convicts of judgment because Satan is already judged, along with all those who will follow him in unbelief.

### III. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE FROM ON HIGH.

- A. There was a ten day period between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the day of Pentecost (50 days after Passover), when the church was waiting.
- B. I don't know what went on other than this waiting, but when the day of Pentecost came, **THEY KNEW WHERE THEY OUGHT TO BE!** Acts 2:1-4\*\*\*
- C. This coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost was not upon the individual as some second blessing, but was the promise by Jesus to His church collectively.
  1. Individuals receive the Holy Spirit when they are saved. Romans 8:15-16 *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God...*
- D. From that day of Pentecost until this present day, the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ continue with this power from on high, to reach people of every nation and tongue.
  1. Souls are still being saved, baptize and added to the churches.
  2. The witness continues and will do so until Jesus comes to take us home.
- E. The way of truth to the portals of heaven are still being opened to the lost by the ministry of the Holy Spirit through New Testament churches today. Acts 2:38-41\*\*\*

#### Conclusion:

1. This was an exciting day for the church at Jerusalem. They experienced first hand the power of God.
2. Today we can still experience this same power because God's Spirit still comforts, convicts, and leads.