

## Waiting for Power

Luke Lays Out His Vision & Matthias Replaces Judas

### The Empowered Church Series – Part 2

January 14-15, 2023

Acts 1:1-26

#### Introduction

- **The Year of Power – Why Power?** Supernatural Strength & Ability. **It's how God gets stuff done and what He gives us to get stuff done.** I'm talking about power to impact, power to heal, power to set free, power to restore, power to prophesy, power to minister, etc. In other words **it's the supernatural part of our reality that allows us to do what Jesus wants us to do.**
  - **1 Co 2:2–5** – *“I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup> and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*
  - **Ro 15:17–19** – *“In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ.”*
- **Not Human Power** – human power means our ability that was originally designed into mankind to operate on this earth.
  - **Zec 4:6** – *“...Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD...”*
- **Any legit power comes from God.** We cannot force it, manipulate it, or fake it. It's all Him or nothing. We desperately want all that God has.

### **All True POWER Comes From GOD**

- **Context and Set Up** – 40-part series through Acts
  - **Brief Reflection on the Power of the Book of Acts** - ‘what happened next’, 1<sup>st</sup> 30 years. **It gives us a taste of what's possible as the Body of Christ.**

#### Lesson

- **The Reason for Everything**
  - **Luke Summarizes His Gospel (Vol. 1)**
    - **Acts 1:1-3** – *“In the first book [Gospel of Luke], O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up [to heaven], after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the [12] apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after*

*his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”*

- **The Proofs of the Resurrection** – Jesus’ bodily encounters w/individuals and groups. 1 Cor 15
- **Here He Comes**
  - **Promised Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
    - **Acts 1:4-5** – *“And while staying with them [on the Mt of Olives] he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*
    - **The Promise of the Father** = Last Supper, John’s Gospel, chapter 14, = the Father sending ‘another Helper’ to be with them, in them and teach them. 16:4 = BETTER.
    - **Wait in Jerusalem**
      - Lk 24:49 – *“...behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*
    - **Baptized by the Holy Spirit** = New Idea = Baptized & HS combo
      - **Why This Matters:** Holy Spirit = Power; More power = more from Him. How do we get that?
    - **My Personal story** – separating from AG over bad info.
      - **What Baptism is and is for** – *baptizo*, = to **immerse and identify with**. How does that work with Holy Spirit?
      - **Jesus’ Example Gets Us Started**
        - **Jesus’ Baptism Story** (HS landed on Him & remained)
        - **Jesus was Ignited for Ministry** – Ac 10:37–38 - *“...you yourselves know what happened...after the baptism...: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.”*
          - **The Holy Spirit Was the Power Source** for Jesus
      - **How Does the Holy Spirit Work? Historical Eras.**
        - **Old Testament Era = Holy Spirit FILLING and COMING UPON & Temporarily WITHIN**
          - Kings, prophets, priests, warriors, etc.
            - Moses, Joshua, David, etc.

- **Gospels are Old Testament Era** – FILLING & COMING UPON of the Holy Spirit actively
  - John the Baptist, his mom and dad were FILLED
  - Mary = CAME UPON/OVERSHADOWED
- **New Testament Era is Indwelling**
  - **Believers are Walking Temples** – 1 Co 6:19 - *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”*
  - **His Presence vs. His Power** – 2 different things. Jesus got the combo pack. In Acts we learn they can be separate.
    - **Jesus Breathes the HS on Apostles** - Post-Resurrection but Pre-Pentecost (OT Era. They got HIM and authority but still needed power) – Jn 20
- **ACTS & The Holy Spirit’s Baptism & Filling**
  - **Baptism (usually) means Kick Off of HS Ministry.**
    - **4 Groups in Acts got a Kickoff Experience**
    - **1.) Jews = Pentecost Experience** – Ac 2:1–4
      - **Refilling - Apostles and Believers Pray for Boldness & are FILLED AGAIN with the Holy Spirit** (Miracles & Boldness) **Same Day as Peter was already FILLED** – Ac 4 - *“...when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”*
    - **2.) The Samaritans** – Ac 8:12–19 - *they sent Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.*
      - **Key Question: Why didn’t they get Holy Spirit with Jesus Baptism?** – unknown. UNITY?
      - **Key Question: No Tongues?** –no record of the Samaritans with a manifestation of tongues. However, Simon saw SOMETHING
    - **3.) The Gentiles (with Tongues, no laying on of hands)** - Ac 10:
      - **Key Point: Peter was PREACHING** (not praying or laying on of hands) when the HOLY SPIRIT FELL on the Gentiles

- **Key Point:** Gentiles Received the Holy Spirit THEN Were Baptized into Jesus.
- **4.) Prepared Jews (no Jesus yet) Chapter 19 – The 12 Disciples of JTB** - Ephesus - Ac 19:1–7 - *“...Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. <sup>2</sup> And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup> And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” <sup>4</sup> And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.”*
- **Conclusions**
  - **Groups = Outward Signs** Not Necessarily Individuals.
  - **Get Him with Jesus = EVERY Believer Must Have the Holy Spirit to be Legit.**
    - Eph 1:13 – *“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.”*
- **What Baptism in the Holy Spirit is Today**
  - **1.) Not multiple Baptisms – get Presence at conversion.**
  - **2.) Multiple Fillings for Power** to get done what we need to get done for the Kingdom.
- **A Key Jewish Question**
  - **The Disciples Ask About the Rising of Israel**
    - **Acts 1:6-7** – *“So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”*
      - **What are They Asking? (restore the kingdom to Israel) & Why it mattered to them.**
      - **You Aren’t Supposed to Know**
- **Can I Get a Witness?**
  - **Promised Power & Ascension of Christ**

- **Acts 1:8-11** – *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”
  - **You WILL Receive Power** – Jesus didn’t say, you’ll get power IF you do the right things and are the right people. He said, ‘I’m going to get stuff done and you are going to do it for me.’ It was more matter of fact.
  - **The Holy Spirit will come Upon You** – Where does power come from? The Holy Spirit. Coming upon seems to be a code word for ‘giving you power’.
  - **You WILL be My Witnesses** – walking billboards. What does our witness say to those around us today?
  - **The Concentric Impact: Judea, Samaria, End of the Earth Prophecy**
  - **The Ascension** – The ascension is a key part of our doctrine - to heaven victoriously to rule.
  - **The Promised Return by Angels**
- **The Core Group**
  - **A Vision of the Earliest Christian Church**
    - **Acts 1:12-14** – *“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot [a.k.a. Cananaean] and Judas the son of James [aka. Thaddeus]. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”*
      - **Upper Room in Jerusalem** – they don’t live here.
      - **The Eleven** – (James, James, Judas, Judas, Simon, Simon, etc.). Half the crew had the same name.
      - **The Power of Unity** – Disunity always ruins revivals.
      - **Devoted to Prayer** – The Holy Spirit was already coming and promised. The prayer didn’t bring the Holy Spirit. The prayer prepared their hearts and souls for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
      - **The 120** – who was there besides the 11?

- **The Women**
- **Mary Jesus' Mom** - only 48 years old.
- **Jesus' Brothers** – He had 4: James, Joses, Judas, Simon
  
- **Filling the Gap**
  - **The Replacement of Judas Iscariot**
    - **Acts 1:15-26** – *“In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, <sup>16</sup>“Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. <sup>17</sup>For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”<sup>18</sup> (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong<sup>[d]</sup> he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.<sup>19</sup> And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) <sup>20</sup>“For it is written in the Book of Psalms,” ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’; and “‘Let another take his office.’ <sup>21</sup>So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” <sup>23</sup>And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup>And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup>to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” <sup>26</sup>And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”*
      - **Peter Takes the Lead** – **spokesman.**
      - **The Prophecy of David** – Psalm 69:25 & 109:8.
      - **How Judas Died** – **it's been called a contradiction but is not.**
      - **2 Had Been There the Whole Time**
        - **Joseph/Barsabbas/Justus** – **Jewish name (Joseph), Gentile name (Justus), nickname – Barsabbas means 'son of the sabbath'**
        - **Matthias** - tradition says he later was a missionary to the Ethiopians.
    - **The Job: Witnesses of the Resurrection**
    - **Praying for Leading** – They asked the Holy Spirit to guide them. **How often do we do that in our daily lives today?**
    - **Casting Lots** – **flipping a coin...no reference to casting lots AFTER the Holy Spirit comes.**

- **JBJ Didn't Get Picked** - Joseph-Barsabbas-Justus wasn't chosen. **God had a different assignment for him?**

### **Conclusion**

- **You Have Been Chosen** – we don't need to cast lots. The Bible says that you and I have been chosen by God to go out in His name and advance the Kingdom of God.