

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ...” (Acts 1:8, NIV).

Bible Study 60 The Power Plan

BY ALLEN JAMES

Read Acts 1:1-11 and 2:1-41.

To whom was this letter being written? _____

From His resurrection to the day of Pentecost, over what period of time does Jesus appear to the apostles giving them instructions about the kingdom of God? _____

What does Jesus promise the disciples? _____

What miraculous event takes place on the day of Pentecost?

How does the crowd respond?

The book of Acts provides a transition from the life of Christ to the early church. Jesus had specifically invested in the lives of the apostles to prepare them for this point in time. What was truly about to take place had not yet computed in the minds of the apostles. If you recall, it was only shortly after His resurrection that Jesus begins to appear to these men. Their minds must have been a blur. Physically, many of them were exhausted. Most of them were emotionally drained as a result of the activity of the last few weeks. Now Jesus is appearing to them and teaching them about the next step in God's plan. Acts 1:6 reveals to us that they did not fully comprehend what He was teaching. God's plan was for these men to help build the foundation of the early church so that the world would know of His Son.

God has a plan for you. He has strategically positioned you to share His love.

Recall a time when someone close to you passed away. What was your response? _____

What do you think the apostles were feeling at this point? _____

In Acts 1:9, we read that Jesus was “taken up before their very eyes.” Do you think this made them feel better or worse? Why? _____

God always has a plan. God's plan was for the Holy Spirit to come and empower His church to do ministry. Until recently, the disciples had been a part of many miracles. However, they were also physically walking side by side with Jesus. Naturally, they probably felt on their own, but they did not understand the power God had planned through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God used the day of Pentecost to show the apostles they were not alone. As a matter of fact, God revealed to the apostles that His power was even greater than they understood. Imagine being in a place with people from many different countries and suddenly everyone having the ability to understand one another in their own language. This is essentially what happened on the day of Pentecost. Jesus promised that they would be empowered by His Spirit and that they would be His witnesses. On the day of Pentecost God kept His promise to them, and as Peter preached, an incredible number received Jesus and were baptized.

By the power of His Spirit, God removed the barriers allowing people to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What are some barriers you face in sharing Christ with your friends? _____

In what ways have you seen the gospel translated to reach different people?

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, and people will believe and become a part of His body, the church. We must be faithful in sharing the gospel and allow the Spirit of God to translate our words into meaningful and moving messages in the hearts of lost people.

God has a plan for you. He has strategically positioned you to share His love. He has purposefully placed you in your family and at your job to share the gospel. God has the power and He is faithful. All He needs are His people to be *on mission*.

Who is God leading you to share the gospel with today? _____

What is your plan for accomplishing your mission? _____