



## Decade of Availability Promise & Power

As we study the book of Acts we'll cover a portion of each chapter focusing on three things. The narrative history, the work of the Holy Spirit and the availability of the disciples to do the work.

**Are you prepared for the lions den? Are you prepared for doing the work God has called you to? Are you prepared to live for Christ?**

**Days of Preparation:** Expectation often needs to be matched by preparation. Here's the three ways the early believers prepared:

Believing — Receiving — Hoping

### 1. **The Proof:** *Lord, I believe!* vv. 1-3 The Past

**(a) Building faith:** For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus ministered to hundreds of people from Jerusalem to Galilee. He showed them His hands and feet and taught them under the anointing of the Holy Spirit many things about the Kingdom of God.

**Availability Note:** We are 'most' available when we have faith in the 'resurrection' of Jesus. Apart from this faith—there is no motivation or reason to serve Him. (*See 1 Cor 15:17-20*)

### 2. **The Promise:** *Lord, I'll receive!* vv. 4-8 The Present

**(a) The command to wait:** At least 500 people saw Jesus ascend into heaven but only about 120 obeyed His command to WAIT in Jerusalem. This was a time of prayer and expectation.

**(b) Hurry up and wait:** The disciples were to 'wait with expectancy.' Their focus was the resurrection (*past*), the coming promise of the Father (*present*), and the hope of the future (*the return of the Messiah*).

**(c) What NOT to do while waiting:** vv. 6-7 Don't get anxious and attempt to figure out what's next and how it will happen. As with all of Israel—the disciples were waiting for an earthly king and kingdom. That would come—but not now.

**(d) The promise of the Father:** The baptism of the Holy Spirit for power and mission was promised by the Heavenly Father. (Luke 2:49). Yet it is Jesus who is the agent who baptizes us into the Holy Spirit. (*Luke 3:16 and Acts 1:5*).

**(e) Missional power:** v. 8 My primary 'mission' in life is to be a witness. The Old Testament required 2-3 witnesses to confirm something as true. Our mission and commission is dependent on all believers being 'confirming witnesses' to the Gospel message. This is accomplished by and through the 'power' of the Holy Spirit.

**Availability Note:** Your heavenly Father has promised to 'anoint' you for mission. Being available is being willing to let His power lead and direct you.

### 3. **The Plan:** *Lord, I'll be ready!* Vv. 9-11 The Future

**(a) He is coming back:** Without this last promise—there would be no real point in being a witness. But it is believing in His return that completes the circle of preparedness for mission.

**Availability Note:** Have you ever said something like, "Wow—I really wasted yesterday." Imagine a time around the throne of God and looking back over your life. Will it be filled with wasted days or days of being willing and available to be used by God to fulfill the great mission and commission. (*See Luke 4 and Mat 28:18-19*).

Acts 1:1-11 (NKJV)

**1** The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, **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.

**4** And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **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."

**9** Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, **11** who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."