

Church on Purpose Pt. 2: The Power
Acts 1:4-8

I. ME

- A. Church on Purpose- Be the church on purpose.
- B. Last week- Purpose: Ambassadors of reconciliation
- C. Question: Ever feel like you don't have what it takes?
- D. Me...
 - 1. Driving Test
 - 2. College
 - 3. Interviews
 - 4. Kids screaming
 - 5. Church

II. WE

- A. You?
 - 1. Job
 - 2. Parenting
 - 3. Marriage
 - 4. Then on top of regular everyday challenges...
 - 5. A guy who looks a lot like me told you your purpose is to be...
- B. Ambassadors that can change the world?
 - 1. Daunting?
 - 2. Who has the time?
 - 3. Ability/knowledge?
 - a. I'm not... Billy Graham.
 - b. MLK
 - 4. Not even a pastor... isn't that why we pay you...?
 - 5. I'm just making sure my kids aren't too scared from my parenting, my spouse still likes me, and we can retire someday.
 - 6. Who's got time or energy or ability to change the world?
 - 7. **The immediate usually eclipses the eternal.**

- C. Disciples were same way.
 - 1. B/c we know the end of the story we sometimes forget that they were normal guys (kids). With families and responsibilities... etc.
 - 2. But Jesus told them... **Matthew 28:19-20a**
 - 3. How were they going to do this?
 - a. W/o even telephones or radio
- D. How are we going to do this? We have the same purpose.
 - 1. Be God's ambassadors to the world
 - 2. **And** excel in our daily, mundane lives? School, work, raise healthy families, keep our marriages thriving, figure out teenage years (selves and kids), etc.
 - 3. The answer for us is the exact same answer that Jesus gave his disciples.
- E. It's in what we call the Book of Acts
 - 1. Tells the story of how the Church spread.
 - 2. What God did through them.
 - 3. Rest of series in Acts.
- F. **Christian**
 - 1. One of the best things about being a Jesus-follower
 - 2. Understanding this will make your life better and you better at life
 - 3. Live an extraordinary life full of purpose... even in the day-to-day mundane
 - 4. Built it up enough?
- G. **Non-Christian**
 - 1. Might seem weird
 - 2. Trinity
 - 3. Won't answer all the questions
 - 4. Sometimes the best I can do is just tell you what Jesus said and let you deal with it.
 - 5. Why I believe everything he says.
 - 6. Not gonna guilt you or ask you to do anything

7. Will give you a chance to become a Jesus-Follower... but that's at the end. You're safe.

III. GOD

A. Acts- Background

1. Luke
2. Part 2 of his account
3. Exciting story... read it sometime

B. Read Acts 1:1-3

C. Acts 1:4

1. **Jesus-** "Don't leave. Don't start yet. Wait. I know you're wondering what's next, how you're going to do this, but just wait."
2. **Disciples-** "No problem. We're fugitives, we don't have any income, we're all still pretty embarrassed about running away that night... We're good."
3. "But do we have stay HERE?... this is where they want us dead... I mean they tried with you already but obviously it didn't stick."

D. Acts 1:5

1. **Jesus-** "No YOU can't do it. But God's gonna give you everything you need. Wait just a few days so that you can be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
2. **Disciples-** "Seriously?! H.S.?! NOW we're talking!"
3. Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Elijah, David, Daniel...
 - a. The prophets, kings, heroes of their childhood stories!
 - b. They get to be in their ranks!
4. Like someone telling you that you get to be a Jedi or go to Hogwarts to become a wizard, or something you older people wanted to be...

E. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. One of the most remarkable, amazing, misunderstood, misused, ideas in Xianity.
 - a. Has split churches

2. Examples...

- a. Tongues
- b. Being slain in the spirit
- c. Laughing in the spirit
- d. Running crazy
- e. Barking like a dog
- f. Faith healers

3. The reality is that **the moment someone puts their faith in Jesus, God the Holy Spirit, comes and lives in them.**

4. It's how we enter the family of God... the Holy Spirit baptizes you, washes you, makes you a new creation. And seals you as Jesus' for eternity.
5. It's not necessarily a special feeling, there's not always an outward sign or emotional indication of it.
6. **The Holy Spirit gives Jesus' followers the ability, to be a Christian, to be like Christ.**
7. It's actually
8. Disciples were still thinking about their heroes and the OT...

F. Acts 1:6

1. **Disciples-** "So since you're the risen Messiah, and we are getting the H.S. that must mean its time for Israel to finally fight the Romans and get our kingdom back!"
2. End of the world stuff!
3. "We know you've been talking about your kingdom and it hasn't sounded like what we thought it

would... love for enemies and stuff... but we've kinda still been holding out hope so we'll ask one more time... is this going to happen or what?!"

4. Natural for Jewish guys/kids to ask... seems like the obvious question.

G. Acts 1:7

1. **Jesus-** "That's none of your business."
2. That's not what this has all been about... it's bigger than that.
3. Quit getting distracted by all that stuff, I have a job for you here and now."
4. Good lesson for us today too... stop trying so hard to figure out when the end of the world is and start focusing on God's work for you now.
5. **Next** is the main point... the set up for the rest of the book of Acts... the set up for the next 2000 years of church history... the point for us...

H. Acts 1:8a

1. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."
2. **Disciples-** "Wait. Power? Nice... but what kind of power?"

I. Resurrection power

1. **The strongest force in all of the universe is the power of the risen Savior**
2. BUT it's a different kind of power than what the world has seen before, different than what the disciples initially thought, different than what many people have assumed it is...
3. It's a quiet power.
 - a. It doesn't explode, or pound or batter down.
 - b. But it is irresistible. Nothing can stop it. Or overpower it.
 - c. Every obstacle that is thrown in its way becomes another opportunity for it to advance.

4. It's the power that changes lives from the inside not the outside
 - a. It harmonizes, heals, breaks down walls, draws people together.
5. **Disciples-** "So if you're giving us this power... and it's not to restore the kingdom of Israel and rule the world... what's it for?"
6. Good question...

J. Acts 1:8

1. ... and you will be my witnesses.
2. **The purpose of the gift of the HS is to empower Jesus-Followers to be witnesses.**
3. And to fulfill our calling as his ambassadors to the world.
4. Not a salesperson, or recruiting someone for a religious club.

5. **A Witness: Speak from personal knowledge of facts and their significance.**

6. Doesn't say... will be able to be a witness... but YOU WILL BE... it's a command and a promise all at once.
7. Jesus says, "You will be my eye-witnesses. You will tell people about me b/c you have experienced me. You will talk about what I have done for you."
8. "Be a witness b/c you are a witness."
9. **Courtroom witness:**
 - a. You witnessed something- saw it, have personal knowledge about the facts of the case
 - b. And you testify or witness- tell others about that experience and knowledge.
10. You do it b/c you are it.

11. Christian... you witness b/c you have witnessed what Jesus has done for you.
 - a. You do it b/c you are it.

IV. YOU

- A. What does all this mean for us? Wrap it up nicely for you...
- B. If you are a Jesus-Follower you have the Holy Spirit.
 1. You have the power of the Most High God in you, guiding you, empowering you to BE his witness.
 2. The Holy Spirit takes our God-given personalities and combines them with Christ's power to be able to continually become more and more who we were designed to be.
 3. All that He is, is available in all of me.
 4. I, you, can have everything there is of Jesus Christ in every situation and moment we are in.
- C. That means you can be a daily ambassador of God... as He brings your mundane routine and your eternal identity together in one amazing purpose... being His witness.
- D. It doesn't happen on accident... it happens on Purpose
- E. You have to choose to give him control and let him fill you or you can resist him, ignore him and he'll have very little influence or impact in your life.
- F. To tap into that power... we have to allow God to work in us and through us.
 1. We submit to the Holy Spirit's control of our lives...
 2. And allow ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 3. Like a glove needs a hand to fill it or as sail needs wind to move it... **We rely on the Holy Spirit to**

empower us to fulfill our purpose as God's Ambassadors.

- G. In your **daily routine** when you feel like you aren't enough... STOP and RELY on the Holy Spirit... the more you do it the less you'll keep trying to do it yourself...
- H. Ask him to let his power move you
 1. **Gal 5:22**
 2. All of those are yours through the HS
- I. **Allow the eternal to permeate the immediate.**
 1. **Work/school**... its not you loving your coworkers/boss/teacher... its relying on the Holy Spirit to love them through you.
 2. **Marriage**... its not you working really hard to kill your selfishness... its letting the Holy Spirit love your spouse through you.
 3. **Kids**... You don't have to have all the perfect methods... it's relying on the HS to love your kids through you.
4. **Lives are changed and shaped in the mundane.**
 5. And as you rely on the power of the HS in your daily life... you will be used to make an eternal difference as an ambassador to everyone who sees your life...
- J. And you will be ready to give an answer for why even though the circumstances of your life seem like

everyone else's... there is something different about you.

K. You can rely on the power and filling of the HS to guide you into and through conversations where eternity hangs in the balance... and you will be used to bring the life-changing and saving message of Jesus to those around you.

L. Stop trying so hard. To be good enough, to love enough, to be holy enough...

1. Allow the eternal to permeate the immediate
2. Rely on the HS. Allow Him to fill you and enjoy the purpose you have been given.

M. Non-Christian- Part I warned you about

1. Maybe you're tired of trying so hard...
2. Trying to be good enough, keep everything afloat, be enough for everyone that needs you...
3. You can't do it... time to admit what you already know... you're not enough
4. That's what's so amazing about the message of Jesus.
5. God knew we couldn't be enough on our own.
6. He sent Jesus to show us his love, to die to pay the penalty for our sin that we couldn't pay for ourselves, and to rise again to give us the HS and the power of the resurrection.
7. Makes it available to everyone... if we simply trust him with our lives... lives that we don't have the power to control anyway.
8. Make today the day that you give your life to Jesus and the day he gives you the ability to live for

something bigger and greater than you thought possible.

9. Let the eternal permeate the immediate

10. Tell him something like this...

11. Then tell someone what you did.

V. WE

- A. For all of you Jesus-Followers... We have the same Spirit that God gave to the disciples living in us.
- B. What if we at CCC allowed the HS to fill us, guide us, to love through us?
- C. What if we allowed the eternal to permeate the immediate and stopped and relied on the HS?
 1. How much stress would we experience in our lives?
 2. What would our families look like?
 3. Offices?
 4. Schools?
 5. Neighborhoods?
 6. City?
 7. Country?
- D. In the story of the spiritual history of Salem, Oregon a new chapter has been added... It's title "The Church of Crosscreek"
 1. We are a part of a story that will be told for eternity... what will our chapter say?

2. "They made a new Jesus Club and enjoyed spending time with each other?"
3. Or... "They believed Jesus' Promise...they relied on the Holy Spirit... and one day at a time, one relationship at a time they changed the world by being Jesus' Witnesses."

E. Let's trust that God is who he says he is and will do what he says he will do... let's make a difference...

F. Let's be Jesus' Church on Purpose.