

Waiting At Jerusalem

"And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now'" (Acts 1:4-5).

Jesus, at this point, had been raised from the dead and was about to ascend into Heaven. Jesus had fulfilled His task and now it was time for the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth as Jesus foretold (John 16:13). Before Jesus' ascension, the apostles asked Jesus in Acts 1:6, *"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* After all that Jesus had taught them about His kingdom they still did not understand it. They still thought Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom, deliver them from Roman oppression, and restore the physical nation of Israel back to its former state. Notice Jesus' response to their question in vs. 7-8: *"It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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."* Jesus does not try to explain to them again what the kingdom is going to be like. Rather, He simply leaves them with the promise that the Holy Spirit will show them everything they need to know about the kingdom.

But what about the apostles' feelings? They had to be confused about what had just happened. Earlier, Jesus had selected them, taught them, and had built their faith on His solid teaching. They most definitely would have been shaken after Jesus' death but would have had a renewed hope after His resurrection. But now after all of this comes the final step towards the kingdom, and the only order given to them is to wait in Jerusalem for the revealing of the Holy Spirit. Even though they did not understand what it was all about they had to trust that God would show them the way. This sounds much like Proverbs 3:5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*

They trusted in the Lord without further questioning and waited at Jerusalem where the Holy Spirit was poured upon them (Acts 2:1-4). As a result, many obeyed and were added to the church (Acts 2:47). This is a good example for us because we know that life is very uncertain but we must trust in the Lord with all our heart with the hope that He will carry us through. We have the Holy Spirit-inspired Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to direct our path along the way. Do not hesitate to simply do what God says. It will be worth it in the end!

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