

Living an



Empowered Life

SHOWING THE POWER

Acts

THE ROAD AHEAD

- We have to change our trajectory.
 - We look to the Bible to be our source for living.
- Live out the Kingdom of God in our lives.
- Walk in power.
 - John 14:12

ACTS 1:6-9

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “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.” 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.

EMPOWERED

- The disciples needed to be empowered in order to be the witnesses that Jesus called them to be.
- They were not simply retelling what they experienced.
- They were presenting a new reality to people.

EMPOWERED

- **Matthew 10:17–20:** *Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*

EMPOWERED

- They were not beaten, imprisoned, and killed for telling people how to get to heaven.
- They were upsetting the fabric of society by telling people Jesus is rightful King!

COMING TO CHRIST

- 80% of people who are Christian today become a Christian in the 4-14 window.
- 15% of people become a Christian between ages of 15-30.
- Only 4% become a Christian after 30.

WHAT DO THOSE STATS MEAN?

- The parents' job of pointing their children to Christ is of the utmost importance.
 - Church programs are vitally important as well.
- Reaching the next generation is difficult.
- The church is failing at reaching people over 15 years of age.

CONVERSION IN ACTS

- There is nearly always a clear announcement of the gospel in the book of Acts.
 - The apostles and others never deviate from Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins.
- There is one element involved in nearly every conversion in the book Acts that we do not teach in evangelism today: miracles.

MIRACLES AND CONVERSION

- Speaking in tongues
- Healing
- Shaking of places
- Angelic encounters
- Signs and wonders
- Casting out of demons
- Direct Holy Spirit guidance
- Teleportation?
- Jesus visitation
- Raising the dead
- Visions

MIRACLES AND CONVERSION

- *Acts 14:3: So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*
- There was not a miracle at every conversion, but at every miracle there was a conversion.
- The fastest growing churches in the world are in China and the Middle East.
 - These churches experience miracles on a regular basis.

WITNESSES

- The empowerment of the Spirit in your life is not only to make your church experience better.
 - Though it does!
- The Holy Spirit has come, in part, so that you can be an empowered witness to other people.

WITNESSES

- Romans 15:18–19: *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, 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;*

WITNESSES

- **1 Corinthians 2:1–5:** *And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*

WITNESSES

- *Hebrews 2:3–4: how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.*

WITNESSES

- Train your ear to hear God's voice.
- Look for opportunities, not simply to share the gospel, but to show the power of God.
- Be brave.