

Faith in the Home

Ascension of Our Lord Acts 1:1-11, "Knowing, Power, and Witness"

Jesus 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." These were words that Jesus said before He ascended on Heaven.

In the first part of the that verse, He tells the disciples present that it is not the time for them to know when the Kingdom will be restored to Israel. One, understand that this meant to be the current state of Israel. Those who are gathered into Jesus' kingdom are the spiritual Israel and we are in an exile throughout the world until Jesus returns. It was a valid question, but there are things that only God knows and that are not be known by us yet. Why? Because Jesus gives us faith. Knowing exactly when Christ is going to return doesn't increase our faith, but faith is grown waiting on the Lord as we go through this world.

Second, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." This alludes to Pentecost and the Holy Spirit coming to the Church to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus. As individuals we may never supernaturally speak in another tongue or "tongues." You may never see God perform a miracle while you lay hands on another person. However, at this point God is promising to use His Church to share the Gospel, which does impact the world in a positive way. That promise is still there within the Church. We have the power to change lives through the Gospel. We just need the confidence in God and a trust in Him to do so.

Third, "You will be my witnesses... to the end of the earth." We are to live in a way that brings glory to God. We are ambassadors of peace. The goal for us is that people see Christ when they see us. Thank God that there is grace when we don't live up to that. This is not something to overwhelmed by. We do this when we rest in and rejoice in Christ's grace. Through that rejoicing we can love truly love our neighbors.

How do we teach this and apply this in our homes?

First: Whether it's our kids, our friends, or our family, there are going to be times where our faith in God is going to be tested. We have to remember that what God has gifted us is faith. We are not always going to understand why. We are not going to clearly know what God is up to throughout creation. Remind one another that Christ is faithful.

Second: It is so easy to fall into the trap of self-despair. It is easy to become overwhelmed by the shape of the world. However, we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and God hears our prayers. Our problem is that we doubt the power of the Gospel, but if we understand history, the Gospel changed the world for the better.

Third: Christ needs to be a priority in our life. Sometimes we put Him on the back burner. But faithfulness means that Christ is our priority.