

“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.”

Acts 1:8

How to Bring About Change

How to Bring About Change

Words and Terms are Redefined

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History is Revised and Rewritten

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Double and Triple-Down Until No Dissent Exists

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How to Bring About Change

Change (Revival, Reformation) Starts Small

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Because of the transgression of a land,
many are its princes;

But by (who) a man of understanding and knowledge
right will be prolonged.

Proverbs 28:2

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“You Can’t Un-see What You Have Just Seen”

What You Have Not Been Told

What You Have Not Been Told

The Purpose of Church

What You Have Not Been Told

The Purpose of Church
The Definition of Church

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The Purpose of Church

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The Power of Church

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The Structure of Church

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The Power of the Holy Spirit

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The Power of the Holy Spirit

The Control of Man

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The Choice for the Believer

What You Have Not Been Told

The Purpose of Church
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The Choice for the Believer

Let's look at one scary aspect of our faith: Evangelism

What You Have Not Been Told

What You Have Not Been Told

Apologetics

What You Have Not Been Told

Apologetics

Discipleship

What You Have Not Been Told

Apologetics

Discipleship

Evangelism (Preaching / Preacher)

What You Have Not Been Told

Apologetics

Discipleship

Evangelism (Preaching / Preacher)

Anything else?

What You Have Not Been Told

Apologetics

Discipleship

Evangelism (Preaching / Preacher)

Anything else?

And where does the Holy Spirit fit into any of this?

Is there something we may be missing?

Apologetics

Apologetics

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (for the reason you are suffering for righteousness) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope (in the midst of suffering for doing good, for righteousness) that is in you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15

Apologetics

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (for the reason you are suffering for righteousness) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope (in the midst of suffering for doing good, for righteousness) that is in you, with meekness and fear.

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Note the context.

Apologetics

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But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense (*apologia* – to give an answer or speech in defense of oneself, the speech act of attempting to prove some act or belief is reasonable, necessary, or right, especially in a court of law) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope (the general feeling and expectation that some good desire will be fulfilled) that is in you, with meekness and fear.

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But what if we don't have that hope?

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Note what John MacArthur said about apologetics.

Discipleship

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And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying,
“All authority (*exousía*) has been given to Me in
heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make
disciples (not converts) of all the nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of
the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things
that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you
always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

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And who did Jesus say He would be with to empower
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That's right, you, me, each of us.

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That's right, you, me, each of us. Not the institution.

Preaching and Preachers

Preaching and Preachers

And He said to them,
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel
to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

Preaching and Preachers

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And He said to them, “Go (to move away from one place into another direction, implying motion) into all (*hápas* - all, but stronger than the basic *pás*. Means all, everything, the whole, universally) the world (*kósmos* – physical world, earth) and preach (*kērússō* - to proclaim, to announce publicly, to make known) the gospel to every (*pás*) creature (or creation which God has created, specifically mankind as God's creation).”

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What is the reason most (maybe even you) are reluctant to proclaim His Word?

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Is this right?

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And what can we do about that?

A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

And He said to them,

“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

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.”

Acts 1:7-8

A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

“But (see context) you (personal, each of us, without exception) shall receive (promise – to come into possession of) power (*dúnamis* – to be able, to have achieving power, to have miracle-working power) when (time, condition) the Holy Spirit has come upon you (personal, each of us, without exception);”

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A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

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“and you (personal, each of us, without exception) shall be (promise – to become, to come into existence) witnesses (*mártus* – one who has information or knowledge about something and can give that information, or bring to light, or confirm something) to Me (Christ, not the church, only about Him) in (circles of expansion) Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8b

A Holy Spirit Empowered Witness

“and you (personal, each of us, without exception) shall be (promise – to become, to come into existence) witnesses (*mártus* – one who has information or knowledge about something and can give that information, or bring to light, or confirm something) to Me (Christ, not the church, only about Him) in (circles of expansion) Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

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And it is empowered by the Holy Spirit living in you.

What is Your Story?

What is Your Story?

The Man at the Tombs

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The Man at the Tombs

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

Mark 5:18-19

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And note what he didn't have.

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And note what he didn't have.
Which was more powerful?

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The Woman at the Well

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The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

John 4:28-30

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But there is more.

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And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified,
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So when the Samaritans had come to Him,
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And what made Paul's story so compelling?

It's the same reason your story is compelling.

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“My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.

They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.”

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4. You must exhibit evidence of a changed life for your story to have any impact.

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5. God did not delegate the responsibility He gave you to others. Nor did He say the church now surpasses your personal responsibilities as a redeemed believer.
6. Remember Jesus' teaching on the light and the basket. And if regeneration has taken place, all we have to do is explain to others who see the difference in us how that change took place.

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And then we will begin hearing each other's stories and praying for each other that the Lord will open up opportunities for us to tell someone what He has done for us... to His praise and glory.