

# **BUILDING A LIFE WITH PURPOSE**

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## **Acts 1.4-8**

According to the surveys of George Gallup, the number one need people have is "the need to believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose." People want their lives to count. Someone said, "The great purpose of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it."

Many people today are afraid that their lives will be lived without any real sense of fulfilling the real purpose God has for them. People everywhere feel this dissatisfaction, this uneasiness about the way in which their lives are unfolding, or not unfolding.

The problem of purpose is a problem that occurs more often in churches that it should. One Christian thinker said, "The problem is that faith has been domesticated to suit our culturally conditioned lives, rather than dramatized as the ultimate purpose which gives meaning and direction to all other secondary loyalties."

Our text today gives us a foundation upon which we can build lives of purpose.

## **Jesus Makes a Promise**

*"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 1.4-5*

There is always a promise.

*"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2.39*

## **God Has a Priority**

*"So when they met together, they asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'" Acts 1.6*

Our tendency is to get stuck on the promise and then lose sight of what is really important.

*"He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.'" Acts 1.7*

In other words, Jesus is telling them that they are not thinking in the right way. They should not be worrying about timetables for earthly concerns; they should be open to what God was trying to tell them.

This is true both in our personal lives and in our life as a church. Our priority must be to hear his voice and be sensitive to his Spirit's guidance.

## **God Will Provide the Necessary Power**

*"But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1.8*

The promise of the Holy Spirit was a promise of power. The word for power is the Greek word *dúnamis*. From that word we derive our English word dynamite and dynamic.

But power to do what?

The power we receive is the power to be witnesses. Here we are encountered by another interesting word. It is the word for witness in Greek — the word *mártus*. It is from this word *mártus* that we derive our English word martyr.