

KNOWING AND MOVING
BY ETERNAL POWER

BEYOND ME

TOLU
COLE

KNOWING AND MOVING
WITH ETERNAL POWER

BEYOND ME

HE PRESENTED HIMSELF
ALIVE TO THEM AFTER
HIS SUFFERING BY MANY
PROOFS, APPEARING TO
THEM DURING FORTY
DAYS AND SPEAKING
ABOUT THE KINGDOM

ACTS 1:3

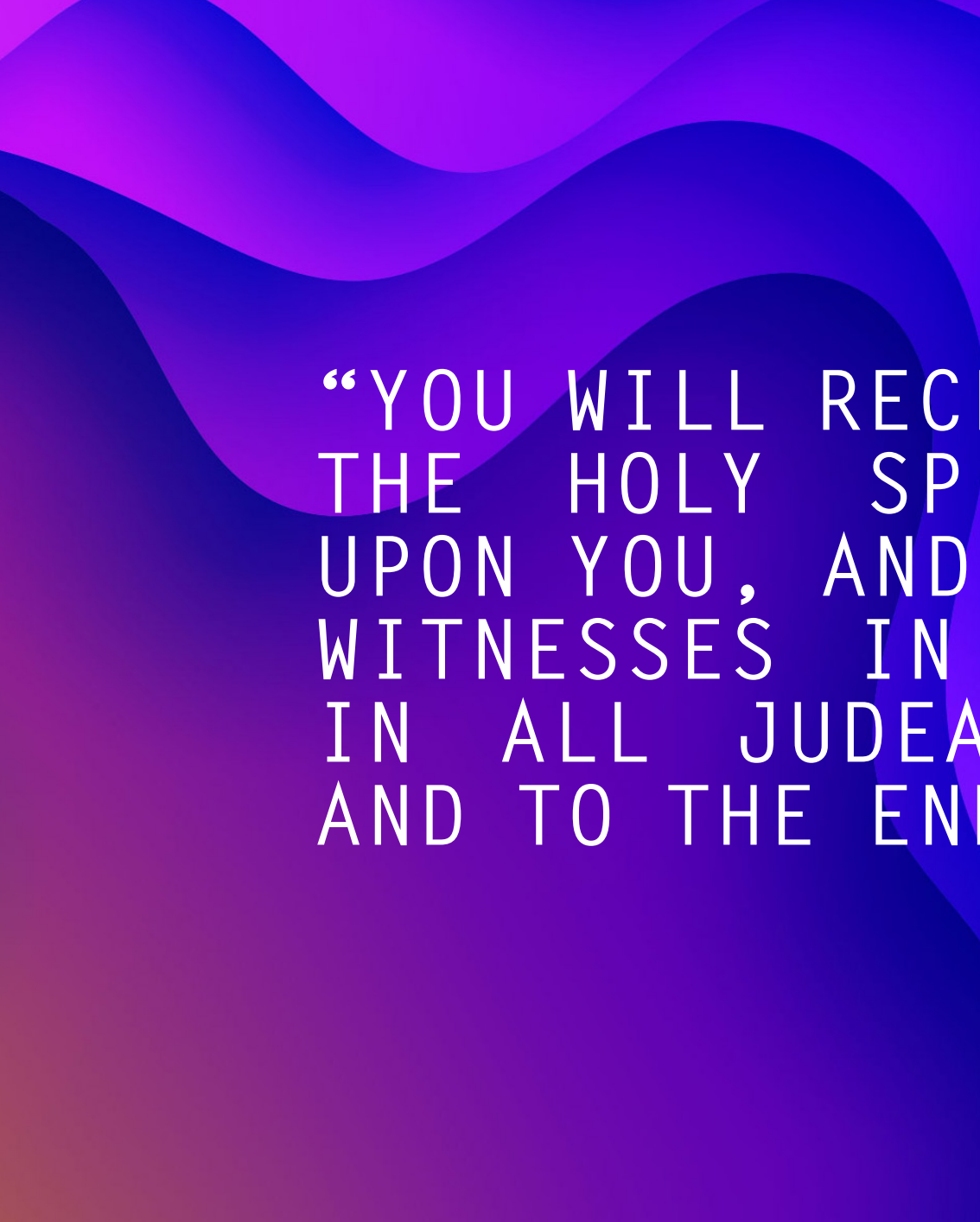
BOOK OF ACTS

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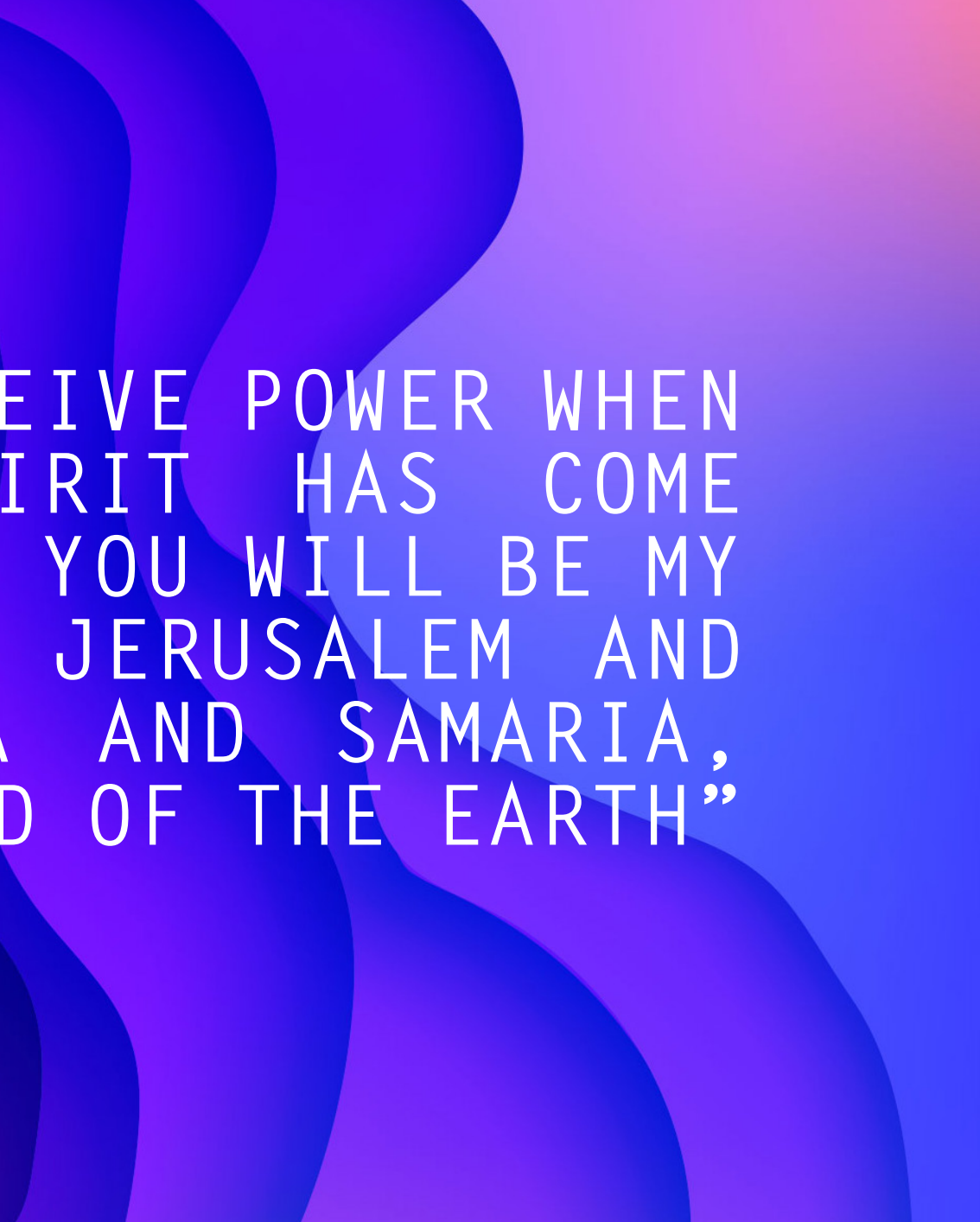
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“YOU WILL RECEIVE
THE HOLY SPIRIT
UPON YOU, AND
WITNESSES IN
IN ALL JUDEA
AND TO THE END



RECEIVE POWER WHEN
THE SPIRIT HAS COME
YOU WILL BE MY
JERUSALEM AND
SAMARIA,
AND THE MOUNTAINS
OF THE EARTH”

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This book reminds us that no man can do the works of God without the presence and power of God. Interestingly, there is a posture we must sustain to receive and continue to walk in the power of God. This is the consecration of Grace that we read of in the book of Acts of the Apostles.

This book is also a prophetic and practical study through the book of Acts with focus on reigning by light & fire.

My prayer is for the eyes of your heart to be flooded with visions and revelations of the Lord Jesus.

Tolu Cole
July 2023

**THE WILL, THE POWER, & THE
EXECUTION**

KNOWING THE POWER & MOVING IN THE POWER

The Book of Acts chronicles the movement of the Will of God in time, by His apostles, through the Jews (Acts 1-13) and the gentiles (Acts 13-28).

The content of this message of “Beyond Myself” is living for the Glory of God. It’s what Paul said to the Corinthian church, when he said:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. *For we do not want you to be unaware,*

brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-11.

Our faith is often purified through affliction and suffering because we learn the weakness and frailty of ourselves, and how we are not to rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. Truly, we must be strengthened in our souls as disciples of Jesus, and in faith, knowing that **“through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”** Acts 14:22.

Paul had many afflictions in Asia, and he had to die daily, in order to experience the new life daily. **“What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die”** 1 Corinthians 15:32, there’s a gain in view when

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we engage in spiritual warfare, and this gain, is to be able to put on the power of God, and experience the fullness of resurrection. Paul fought beasts (*Revelation 13*), because he understood what he was contending with in **Acts 19**, it wasn't just business men but principalities. Jesus told us that we would confront this mammon. The way we do it is by right fellowship. **“Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.”** 1 Corinthians 15:33-34. It's sinning to be associating closely with the wrong company. This is another important sinning after unbelief. There's a lot of influence that comes from our associations. That's why James said, **“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** James 4:4-7, that is, without separation from closeness with worldly people, we develop enmity with God, which is sin.

One of the primary ways we humble ourselves is by those with whom we want to be friends. Proud ones always want to be friends with people who they esteem to be greatly placed in the world. These people often block us from receiving the grace of God. We have to submit to God through separation and consecration unto Him. It's this separation unto Him that is the telling Him that we are willing to receive.

THE WILL OF GOD & HIS KINGDOM

When we read the *book of Acts*, we would see the movement of the kingdom of God in the earth (*Acts 1:3*). This movement of the eternal Will rides on the backs of willing and broken servants of God who are sons. This movement is beyond any man, and any group, it's an eternal will flowing in and through the earth. The eternal Will is very powerful, because it has the eternal power. It's the eternal power flowing through it.

“He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God” Acts 1:3

HOW TO GO IS, SHOW THE MESSAGE FIRST, AND THEN, TEACH THE MESSAGE.

This is the first thing Jesus came to show and teach, both before His resurrection (**Acts 1:1-2**) and even more importantly after His resurrection (**Acts 1:3**). He showed and taught His disciples after He was raised from the dead (**Acts 1:3**).

He Himself is our example, He lived beyond mortal self (*John 6:38-40*), beyond the natural will. He lived beyond the natural earthly desires, ambitions, possessions and pursuits. This is what kingdom means. It's living beyond this present world. The kingdom is the kingdom of God, the life of God, the movements from God, the fellowship of God.

Jesus lived this way, and taught it, Paul caught it from the revelation of Jesus Christ (*Galatians 1:12, Acts 9:3-6*). This revelation of Jesus Christ means the awareness of the way Jesus lived, which is the Will of the Father. The eternal will, which is an outflow of the eternal life of God. When we have a revelation of Jesus Christ, we see what life is, that life is really the heart and will of the Father. Living simply means doing the Will of God. Anything other than that is dying. It's being cut off from the eternal source. It's as simple as this.

That's why Jesus said, **"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."** Luke 11:23. He was speaking about the sharpness of the kingdom. It's either the kingdom of light or darkness. There's no middle ground in reality. This is the Gospel of the kingdom. We have to know this. Knowing this is the personal consecration. This is what faith, hope and love is. This is the reality. This is the message Jesus' appearance to the disciples after His resurrection showed them. It showed them that there's a new world beyond this world, there's a new body beyond this body, there's a new way beyond this way. Jesus' appearance to them by the Spirit was something that shattered all their doubts and false arguments, and they entered faith, then He began to teach them the ways of that kingdom, so that they can live like that while here. That's living in a higher realm. That's living with greater possibilities. These are the things they wrote in the epistles, and manifested in their acts. These is what constitutes the acts of the apostles. These acts is not because of their assignment primarily but because it's God's Will. This is what it means to look to God and not man. There's no corruption in God or God's Will. God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all (*1 John 1:5*). When we still see corruption,

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in or around us, we wouldn't stop seeking Him, because God Himself is our hope (*1 Timothy 4:10*). God is our promise, until we are fully above all corruption in experience, we've not attained where we are going. We will continue until God's Will is fully established in man, as we see in Jesus (*Revelation 11:15*), and as we see in the holy city (*Revelation 22:1-5*). This zeal to continue is what is called passion and fire. The ability to not be satisfied by anything here, or whatever we've attained so far. Paul captured this in Jesus Christ, and He also lived and taught this way. That's why he talked how he talked in ***Acts 20:24*** and in ***Galatians 6:14***. Paul was a witness. This is what it means to be a witness. It's the eternal life, eternal will and eternal power burning within us as fire. A wild-fire that's spreading.

Paul said, **“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”** Galatians 6:14. Paul meant to tell us that the cross of Jesus Christ did something to him, which was to remove his dreams and ambitions from being about this world. But also, to remove his own dreams and ambitions from being about himself, in such a way that he becomes the reason for everything, looking for a way

to be served by the world. This wasn't Paul. This is not the full reality and understanding of the cross. Not only was the world and its glories and fame, crucified to Paul, through the overwhelming presence and power of a surpassing world, but also, Paul himself was also crucified to the world, meaning, Paul himself didn't see himself as someone who needed a place in this world, someone who needed to be praised and celebrated by men. Paul didn't see the need and the itch to be loved and celebrated by men, rather, he knew that he had a place in God, in the kingdom of God, and in the realms of God. Because of this, the opinions of men couldn't hold him back from fulfilling the eternal Will and the eternal assignment.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD.

What's the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world?

“Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15,

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“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him” Matthew 4:8-11

The kingdom of God is first about purity, before power. But the kingdoms of this world is about power. The purity is authority. The world doesn't understand true authority and true love. This is obvious in the way the world misuses what it calls authority and what it calls love. She uses this to manipulate and oppress, rather than using it to protect and preserve and keep.

When Jesus said He has sent us to GO, baptizing nations in the name of the Father, Son and the HolySpirit, what He is saying is we should restore men and women back to purity and divine power. Men need to be rescued from corruption through the purity and power of incorruption. Eternal life is both endless life and incorruptible life.

Satan doesn't mind people having earthly power, which is political power, and also, false-spiritual power, once they don't have divine power, which flows from divine life, divine nature and divine purity.

The Gospel is the Gospel of the nature of God. The Gospel is God's power unto holiness. Salvation is God's nature. When we share the same nature with God, that's salvation. It's a covenant of union between man and God. This is when there's full commitment. That's what faith means. That's why repentance is needed before faith. Repentance is turning away from everything we've thought of to be what our lives and identity are about, and turning to God alone in Christ Jesus. This is the Gospel. This is the simple and pure Gospel.

This simple and pure Gospel is great power, because it's an eternal Word that's able to work in the hearts and lives of those who accept it, causing them to move out of darkness into light, and gives them an added advantage of shining this light for everyone else in darkness. Anyone who comes into light becomes light. That's why signs follow those who believe (*Mark 16:16-20*).

FLOWING WITH GOD'S WILL

The first thing to do with God's Will is to acknowledge it, then, align with it in order to become one with it, and then, flow and release it. This is what we see in the book of Acts, and we see it summarized in ***Acts 1:1-3***.

“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had *given commands through the Holy Spirit* to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” Acts 1:1-3,

COMMAND THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus was careful to teach them the knowledge of God in a practice based way, then memory based way. He wanted them to have context for the teaching. He wanted to reveal the command to them. It's the Holy Spirit that reveals the command to us. A command is a reality that grips our souls and our entire being. We feel the weight of the consequences of not fulfilling something that's a command, and there's

promise of supreme joy and eternal fulfillment when there's accomplishment of a command.

So then, divine revelation is the way that God gives commands through the Holy Spirit. It's divine appearance. That's what we sometimes call, a calling. When God calls a person, He appears to them, to show them what He is calling them to and for. The calling experience is the giving of a foretaste.

JESUS LEADS THE TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION

After Jesus gave commands to His apostles by the Holy Spirit. Showing them the purity and power of the Will and kingdom of God, then, He ascended to take a strategic position of leading the work of kingdom advancement. He is a leader that doesn't only give instructions but gives an example, and also walks with us real time. That's why He said, **“And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”** Matthew 28:20B. This is how God the Father also worked with Jesus. Peter said, **“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him”** Acts 10:38. God was with Jesus, through the anointing of the

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Spirit and the Spirit's influence. Hallelujah, the Holy Spirit is the holiness, and wherever He dwells, there's holiness there. Whatever means He uses is the Holy means.

The disciples of Jesus had already received the Holy Spirit. **“And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”** John 20:22. But they were yet to be full of the Spirit. God had made a huge deposit in them. They had all they needed. But they also needed to know this. This is because someone may have the truth but if they do not know that they have the truth, they could still believe lies. Freedom is a function of having the truth and knowing that you have the truth. It's a function of grace and faith (*John 8:32, 36*). The truth is Jesus and when He sets us free, we have to know that we are free.

So then, the reason many do not function in the power of God, is because they don't know that they have the power of God, in the person of God that now dwells within them. They've received grace, but their faith in this grace is weak. They aren't full of this grace. What God then does is to demonstrate the power of the Spirit to our souls by baptizing us. He brings the influence of the Holy Spirit upon us, and now,

this power of the HolySpirit is a yoking of the things of the Spirit and our souls in oneness, so that we can always walk in those realities. There are many divine things in the Spirit. All that God has made available for mankind, in different contexts are all available in the Spirit of Christ. The experience of everything we read about in Christ are all in the Spirit. The whole idea of hearing about them through the Gospel, is so that we can enter into the experiences by faith in the Spirit's ability to guide us into them. The Spirit does this by giving us visions, dreams, intuitions, leadings, instructions and all.

This is what Jesus did with the disciples. He had showed them that the kingdom of God is real. Then, He gave them instructions by the Spirit. This is what we see in **Acts 1:4-11**. It's like **Acts 1:4-11** is showing us how **Acts 1:1-3** happened. In **Acts 1:4-11**, we see how He commanded them through the HolySpirit, by appearance, encounters and instructions.

He gave them encounters of Himself, prophetic words, and promise of commissioning that will happen through anointing and baptism.

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“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 is speaking about “baptism” here. He wanted them to baptize the nations into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as disciples (*Matthew 28:18-20*). This means making their souls and bodies find its identity, ability and sense of mission in God alone. They are those who will live in this world, not for themselves but for God. They were to be strangers and pilgrims in this world. They were to know that though they are in the world, they are not of the world.

Now, before they themselves would be able to baptize other people in the name, they themselves had to be baptized in the name.

This baptism is the immersion, it’s the activation of their faith. Activation simply means making their faith active and not dormant. It means supplying what’s lacking in their faith, so that they will see the culture of the nature of God. The nature of God is not only to be had, but to be enjoyed and practiced.

It's to be used to fellowship with God. The nature of God is the positioning we need to be able to walk with God, and be led by Him. God's culture is how He lives, and until we have His nature, we cannot walk with Him daily. Until we are in the faith, knowing that it's God's power in us, we wouldn't be able to powerfully follow God's powerful movements.

God is taking nations. He has big dreams. We wouldn't be able to comprehend and walk with His big dreams if we are functioning with small minds that have not been expanded by the fire of God's power. All these is what the baptism of fire does.

BAPTISM OF FIRE (*ACTIVE WAITING*)

This baptism of fire comes to us both as a seasonal dealing and a heavenly endowment. For the disciples, they had to wait in Jerusalem as they were instructed. They had to stay in long seasons of prayer, meditation and community on God's prophetic instruction. This they did, actively not passively. Waiting is active and not passive (*Isaiah 40:30-31*). When we are waiting, we are trading weakness for strength. We are trading what is mortal for the immortal. We are repenting

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and getting our house in order. This is what water baptism represents. We are doing the earthly things we can do to put our lives in the order and purpose of God. We are not passive at all. We are pursuing. Seeking. Contending. Pressing in. We are praying to be used by God, and longing to be used of God. We are serving others being used of God and learning. We are preparing, hearing all that Jesus had said.

There were 120 people in that company, and I imagine that the apostles were already teaching them some of the things that Jesus had showed them through His appearance and was taught them about the kingdom of God.

“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” Acts 1:14-17,

Already, we see them in strong devotion to prayer and to the ministry of the Word by the Holy Spirit. Peter already had prophetic insight into Scriptures, and was sharing this. They were waiting on God. Like the wise virgins in Jesus' parable (*Matthew 25:1-13*).

Often, like these disciples, for many of us, there are seasons of waiting, when we are actively being prepared to be used massively by God, and God is preparing us as worthy vessels for His mantle to fall on us as was the case with Elisha (*2 kings 2*). The Israelite had their own wilderness season, and Paul had his Arabia season. Jesus Himself had His own season between the ages of 12-30 before the Spirit came on Him for public ministry to Israel. There was an anointing, a spiritual impartation and endowment from God, through John the Baptist. This shows us that we need to position ourselves through humility before God and before assigned, spiritual, chosen vessels sent into our lives.

Even after Jesus received the Spirit on Him (*John 1:32*), He was led into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan, for 40 days, after which He returned to Jerusalem with the power of the Spirit (*Luke 4:14-15*). Jesus didn't prolong

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His wilderness or waiting season the way the Israelites did, because of their unbelief. God allows us to have those seasons of obscurity so that we would learn to walk with the Lord very well, having our hearts conformed to His intensions, our minds confirmed to His Will, and our bodies ready to carry out all His purposes. This is the purpose of the seasons of preparation and spiritual education by divine revelation.

For the apostles, this was the three years they walked with Jesus before Jesus was crucified. They observed Him closely. They even did a few deliverances and healings with Him but they had a lot of failures too. They hadn't come into the New Testament fellowship fully, and clearly they hadn't come into the New Testament city, a deep consciousness and manifestation of Zion today.

May we not prolong our waiting seasons. Though we might not be able to shorten this season, as appointed and ordained by God, we also shouldn't prolong it by rebellion, pride and unwillingness to consecrate ourselves to the purposes of God.

Many have also gone ahead of their seasons, following the world rather than Christ. The likes of those Paul spoke about when he said, **"I know that after my departure fierce wolves**

will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.” Acts 20:29-30.

These men have not been commissioned by God, they’ve not been activated by God, and refusing to be under discipline, they’ve jumped at ministry because of fame and recognition.

These ones are preaching the Gospel because of selfish gain.

Of them, Paul said; **“Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love,**

knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely

but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.” Philippians

1:15-17, these ones are the ones who are **“imagining that**

godliness is a means of gain” 1 Timothy 6:5B. These ones go

into public ministry for the wrong reasons. Eager to GO into

the nations without the power of God active in their lives. All

these is selfishness. Desiring fame more than God’s presence.

These ones refuse to be sent by God, but went on their own passion.

So then, God uses, baptism through the dealings of God and endowment of God to prepare us, which is a process of

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activating us as witnesses and warriors in the army of the Lord. This is how we are disciplined by God to disciple others. And also, how we disciple others to disciple others.

These are all activations for effective working and ministry. This is how we equip the saints too for the work of ministry (*Ephesians 4:13*).

The kingdom of God was to flow from Jerusalem, to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth (***Acts 1:8***). That's how this wave was to flow. It looks like the flow of the eternal river in Ezekiel (*Ezekiel 47:2-5*). We see the same flow from Zion in *Revelation 22:1-4*. This eternal Will is to flow through yielded vessels.

When we read ***Acts 8***, we would see persecution scattering the disciples to Judea and Samaria. Those disciples, some of which have gone through the baptism of fire, the refiners fire that refines us as gold, and then assigns us. We see Philip preaching in Samaria, we see Stephen also preaching in the wisdom and power of the Spirit. These ones have been fervent in the community of believers. They were leaders that the Lord raised amongst the people.

THEIR OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

When we read **Acts 1:12-26**, we see that they waited until they were clothed with power. They waited by being active in prayer, in unity, in obedience, waiting until the timing of God. God wanted His prophetic timing to meet and align with Pentecost.

There's nothing like not running ahead of God, and not slacking behind. To flow with Jesus is being content with the measure of grace that He has given us per time. When we read the parable of talents, we see the Lord gave different servants different talents, perhaps according to their capacity that He knows, but whatever the reason, we should be diligent with the assignment of God on our lives in whatever season we are in and whatever areas we are in. While being diligent, we are to keep seeking Him, and growing in the knowledge of God, which is our capability to be used in greater degrees. **“Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for**

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every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:20-21. From here, we see that God is open to our being used deeply, if only we consecrate ourselves deeply to His purpose.

“For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let the one who is able to receive this receive it.” Matthew 19:12, meaning, there are some ordinations from birth, there are some other ordinations that come by virtue of impartation from men, and there are those ordinations that come by virtue of personal hunger and seeking to know the Lord. Anyone who is able to receive this truth, who has capacity to believe it, let him possess it.

We see this truth also spoken about in the parable about prayer (*Luke 18:1-8*), when Jesus spoke about the persistent widow who will not let the judge rest, until he gives her justice. Jesus is telling us here that God is more than willing to use us in the very way that we desire and passionately seek for Him to use us. Hunger is a requirement for entrance and functioning in the holy city. Jesus says that everyone that hungers and thirsts

for righteousness will be filled. He said that to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. He said that, **“If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task”** 1 Timothy 3:1, however, this holy ambition must be pursued by holy methods, and not by manipulation.

There are many things we walk into with God, simply by intimacy. By pursuing Him. The Lord has told me that the prophetic has opened up to me by intimacy. Like John, through love and intimacy, I and the children God has given me will possess great and holy inheritances in God. We would manifest them to the praise of His Holy name alone, because His praise is more important than the praise of men.

EMPOWERMENT FOR WITNESSING

Acts 2, tells us about the empowerment and endowment by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit came and rested upon them, so that they would be witnesses. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was on schedule.

“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire

house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4.

There are couple of things to notice about this historic and initial baptism of the Spirit.

(a) The baptism of the HolySpirit was on God’s schedule, to show us that He comes upon us as a gift from God and from Jesus. The HolySpirit is a gift of redemption. We must believe this. He also came on God’s schedule, and He never left since He came on earth. What this means is that His baptism is a reality already given to man. Whenever we believe, and ask, and wait on God, we would receive Him.

(b) The HolySpirit comes with the atmosphere of heaven, and the very first thing we would know about the baptism of the HolySpirit is the surge of eternal life in us. “Mighty rushing wind” speaks of a major surge of eternal life, of God’s incorruptibility, God’s holiness, God’s glory. Immediately, it would feel like the world doesn’t matter much. We would be thankful for everything. We would begin to see that we

are complete in Him. Our hearts will enter a state of perfect rest. The deepest consciousness in us will awake. We would discover a deep hunger for the Lord.

(c) There was also a sound. It was a sound like a mighty rushing wind. This sound was something they could hear. The baptism of the Spirit comes with some kind of appearance, to help our perception. This is because the fire of the Spirit is convincing us in the visible realm of invisible reality.

(d) Then, divided tongues as of fire appeared on each of them. This is the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon them. This is the fire of God's judgement coming upon their souls. This fire is a realm of God's eternal and heavenly judgements. It opens the soul to divine love, the divine will, and the divine persons in a very real way. Clarity of understanding and boldness in execution comes by virtue of this grace that comes upon them. It's a gift of the Spirit to elevate us into deeper consciousnesses of eternal life and eternal dwellings. This is an open door in the spirit. That's why tongues of fire came on them, to represent utterance and access in the realms of fire. Flesh is silenced. Carnality is silenced. Immortality is possessed.

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(e) The effect of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is being filled with the Holy Spirit in the instant. This means that the Holy Spirit will fill us to our capacity. Whatever we've ever heard of God, or believed of God, the baptism will make us have a deep relish of those realities, and because we are so full, we would overflow in inspired words and inspired activities. The Holy Spirit started to speak through them, enabling them to speak in other tongues.

This was a commissioning by the Spirit. It was an activation into realms, for the purpose of witnessing. They were full, fresh, frank and fierce. They lost the fear of man, and were energized by the glory of God.

They were now commissioned. Meaning, in the spirit, an open door had been made for them, to take the message of Jesus.

WITNESSING BY THE NAME OF JESUS

They were now ready for witnessing because Jesus had showed himself to them as life, and He had also now showed Himself to them as power. This means that Jesus had showed to their souls in an experiential way that He is seated on the

throne of the Father, and the administrator of the present will. Think of it this way, He is the Governor on seat. Thankfully, to the reign of His kingdom, there will be no end. We know this because Peter said, **“This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.”** Acts 2:32-33. Peter was telling them what happened when Jesus ascended, which was revealed to them by the Spirit through baptism.

The name of Jesus is the name He received from the Father because of what He had done (***Philippians 2:7-11, Acts 2:36***). That name is a throne, a supreme throne from where the Holy Spirit flows. Powers always flow from thrones. Jesus sat on the eternal throne, meaning, that He possessed the eternal power. This is the promise of the Father, that we would share a throne with Him. That’s the promise of the new covenant to Israel.

This promise was a conditional promise, they had to obey the terms of the promise, which is to become one with Jesus through faith and obedience.

BEYOND ME

For Jesus, it's the reward of His righteous works (*Philippians 2:8-11*), but for us, it's a gift of being in Christ, and being in His name. Sharing in the privileges of His realm. God has given us this privilege, and now, Jesus is the One who pours out the Spirit on men. This tells us that when we believe, and are aligned with Jesus prophetically, we too, will pour out the Spirit on men, so that they can see and hear in a deeper way. This is our privilege as sons of God in Christ, and duty as servants of the King of kings.

After the baptism of the Spirit, being filled with the Spirit, they understood the name of Jesus like never before, and started to do all things in the name (*Colossians 3:17*). The name of Jesus is the master key of the kingdom (*Matthew 16:19*).

PRAISE : TELLING OF THE MIGHTY WORKS OF GOD

“both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean? But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” Acts 2:11-13,

In redemption, there's a lot of mighty works God has done that people do not know of. These are things of the Spirit. These are the things we have been called to witness. We are witnesses of the mighty works of God. We are praise and worship leaders as witnesses. When we are full of the Spirit, it is to the end that we prophesy, we declare the things of God. We begin to praise in a way that people that hear can understand things of the Spirit. We are channels of revelation. We are revealing the supreme righteousness, bold peace and ecstatic joy of the kingdom of God, by the Holy Spirit.

When we praise God accurately, it will make people ask questions. When they now ask questions, our preaching can be Spirit-inspired answers to their questions.

To witness, it's first showing them Jesus, and then, telling them of that. It's first video, then, audio. The video is praise, and the audio is preaching and prophecy.

When we praise God, it will attract both questions and mockery.

PREACHING, *SPIRIT-INSPIRED DECLARATION*, IN THE NAME

One of the major means of witnessing Jesus is preaching Him (*Colossians 1:28, 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23*).

“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks*, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” 1 Corinthians 1:21-25,

Paul tells us here that before Christ will become the power of God, and the wisdom of God to men, they will have to believe Him as Lord first. They will have to accept Him as Lord, and accept the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the greatest sign ever. If they seat back seeking signs, this is rebellion, and if they seat back seeking some kind of practical wisdom, this is also rebellion. They should simply believe the historical fact, of Jesus’ coming, living, dying, burial, resurrection and

ascension as proof of His Lordship. When they believe that Jesus is Lord, the author and perfecter of faith, the foundation and zenith of all civilization, then, they are ready to have the experiences of His Lordship in their own lives.

We must preach the Gospel as the simple word of the cross. It's a message that seems foolish. There's no need to make it seem palatable to men. We should only preach it in the language that they can understand, and with the unction of the Holy Spirit.

While Peter was talking about the prophetic men of old, he said, **“It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”** 1 Peter 1:12. Here, revealing to us that preaching requires unction. Preaching is Spirit-inspired declaration, because when preaching comes forth, minds are convinced, hearts are convicted in repentance, and hearts are inspired to believe the praise of God, and people are positioned to experience the glories of God.

BEYOND ME

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:14-15,

Preaching must be done by those who are sent by the Holy Spirit. Those who have heard the command “GO”. It means they’ve heard the revelation of the eternal Will of God that’s beyond the present carnal will of men, and the evil will of Satan.

When we go, we preach, and when we preach, people hear, and when they hear, they believe what they hear, and then, they begin to call on the God whom they’ve believed, and God begins to answer them, because He is the one that sent someone to preach to them, so that they may call on Him, so that He will answer their call.

So then, on the day of Pentecost, **“But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words” Acts 2:14,**

Peter stood with the authority of the Spirit, and power of God. Peter started to draw historical references, which prophetic words, and promises of God, comparing one spiritual thing with the other, to show people the mind of the Spirit, and the mind of Christ, in fulfilling His purposes and promises for those who believe Him. The fulfillment of all these purposes and plans of God is called Salvation. It's a wholesome union of man with the eternal intents and purposes of God for the times and seasons.

Peter started from the Old Testament, through to the coming of Jesus, and then, the resurrection of Jesus, and then to what God did in the realm of the Spirit, which is that He has made Jesus Lord and custodian of all the dimensions of supreme things. So then, what God is doing now, is getting everyone everywhere to believe in the Lordship of Jesus that they may be positioned to receive the benefits of the Lordship of Jesus, first of which is the Holy Spirit Himself, who is the Lord Spirit, and then, as they walk with the Spirit, receive many things in, by and from the Spirit, both in fruits of natures and as gifts of power.

BEYOND ME

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Acts 2:37-39,

The effect of this Spirit-inspired preaching is conviction of heart. Their human spirits were stirred, and the proof of this was their willingness to accept any instruction from the Lord as to what to do next. The hardness of heart was broken. This preaching affected their consciences, not simply their minds and emotions. This preaching went beyond their feeling to their living. They were convicted of their sins, and Peter handed out forgiveness of sins before them in the name of Jesus Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit also in the name of Jesus Christ.

From the throne of Jesus Christ comes forgiveness of sins, which brings a sense of peace with God, and then, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who gives us a sense of the presence of

God. Once we are in peace with God (*Romans 5:1*), then, we can possess the presence of God, and with the presence of God in us, we can start fellowshiping with God, in prayer, in Bible study, in breaking of bread with other believers in community life. As we do this, we grow in our consciousness of the HolySpirit, and begin to develop fruits of the Spirit in our character, and manifest gifts of the Spirit in our daily walk. All these spontaneously become our witnessing Jesus and His throne by the HolySpirit.

And on this first day, 3000 persons were saved (***Acts 2:41***). And they all continued together in fellowship. **“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”** Acts 2:42-44. This was the New Testament fellowship. They were marked by love in the Spirit, and unity of spirit. The HolySpirit was cultivating all of them in faith, hope and love.

BEYOND ME

They were a people of praise and favor. **“praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved”** Acts 2:47. This was great energy of love, attracting many. Nothing is as evangelistic as love. Even power is not as evangelistic as love, because people might come to us because of power but only love will make them stay.

God’s authority is God’s love. It’s pure and life-giving. The movement of God’s love and power started to spread all over.

DIVINE HEALING IN THE NAME

When we read **Acts 3**, we see Peter and John heal a lame man on their way to the temple at the hour of prayer.

We had read that, **“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles”** Acts 2:43. This showed us that after the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they had received the power of the Spirit. They knew. They knew that they had been imparted with power, and they became active conductors of the power of God. The Lord was now working many wonders and signs through them.

“And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God” Acts 3:4-8,

The name is a throne that the apostles were in as believers, and had as assigned servants of God, apostles. The throne has a will, and whoever represents the will of the throne personally, in sanctification, and publicly, in consecration, giving themselves to that mission, will manifest the influence and authority of the throne through the power of the Spirit, as the Holy Spirit wills. The Holy Spirit could work Himself or through angels or as He pleases. What matters is our alignment, personally and officially. There's personal consecration and official consecration. We must always seek out the prophetic will of God for a time, position ourselves for it in the best way we can, and try to position others too in service to them in the best way we can.

BEYOND ME

The apostles were walking in the full authority of the name, and thus, manifesting the power of the name. They gave commands in the name, meaning that they were coming, not on their own strength of piety, or power, not on the strength of their knowledge or anything but simply on the strength of the authority and lordship of Jesus Christ.

They believed first that this man could be healed in the name, and that in a higher reality, this man was already healed in the name. Then, they commanded him to be healed. And as a proof of their faith, they tried to raise the man up, because the man was actually healed. As they exercised their faith in Jesus, in the name of Jesus (*Acts 3:16*), and acted by taking him by the right hand to make him walk, the man's feet and ankles were strengthened. The power of the Holy Spirit worked as they believed that there's healing in the name.

The name is like a supreme throne, and a holy city, that everything is perfect. When anything is brought into the name, it's perfected and when the name is brought upon anything, it brings perfection.