

***THE CHURCH STARTED WITH POWER*****JOHN 14:16-26// ACTS 1:1-11****MONDAY 9/4/23**

**JOHN 14:16-26** “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. 17 the Spirit of truth.

**REFLECTION** The love the disciples showed Christ was true and sincere. It was also because their desire to obey Jesus was to give their lives to advance the gospel. Loving God is not so much about emotions (they are fleeting) but much more importantly loving God is doing what God desires. His desire is to redeem His creation. So, when we give of ourselves to God we are participating with Him by creating a safe loving environment to tell the story of Jesus. That is how we live out of the command to keep loving God. This love regulated by God’s grace through the Spirit.

**ACTS 1:1-11** 1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.

**REFLECTION** This book of Act is the most exciting story ever written for the world. God took a group of frustrated, empty, frightened, unlearned, men who were sinners to change the world. Luke, the author of Acts, writes, Christ did not depart from us but comes to us through the Holy Spirit. Now Jesus commissions them first and now us to be his Church on earth. He empowers us with His Spirit.

**PRAYER Lord Jesus please grant me to today the knowledge and wisdom of your Spirit living in my heart, mind and consciousness. Help to recognize the Spirit influence my actions as I do my tasks today. In Jesus Name Amen.**

**TUESDAY 9/5/23**

**JOHN 14:16-26** 17 The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

**REFLECTION** The Spirit of truth is the Teacher of truth. Not until we have been inwardly anointed by him, do we have the capacity to understand and accept God’s grace. All of us are seized with vanity and falsehood that come from the flesh. Isaiah 60:2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**ACTS 1:1-11** 3 During the forty days after he (Jesus) suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

**REFLECTION** Christianity is in danger of losing the power that strengthens the Christian faith. It’s good to go back and remember the early the church and how it all started. God sent His Son who died so we would have “forgiveness of our sin”. The Spirit of Christ was sent to us so our relationship with Father of Creation would be restored Jesus preached with divine authority and was full of the Holy Spirit. The whole world became subject to his teaching.

**PRAYER Father God, Creator and Sustain of all that is, guide may life by the power of your Spirit so I may learn to love more, and offer new life to those in darkness. In Jesus Name Amen.**

## WEDNESDAY 9/6/23

**JOHN 14:16-26** 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

**REFLECTION** When we are deprived the protection of the Spirit we become like orphans exposing ourselves to every kind of fraud and injustice. We get caught up in them and become incapable of managing our behaviors. These great defects of our human nature must be governed by Christ. It is by his Spirit, Jesus promises he will protect us. So let us learn to rely on the protection of Christ. In vs. 18 “I will come to you” means he dwells in his people. It is, by the power of his Spirit we gain proof of Jesus Divinity.

**ACTS 1:1-11** 4 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**REFLECTION** The disciple didn’t know what they were doing as they tried to share the Gospel. Neither do we. They prayed “God lead us right, because we’re confused.” “God, please guide us, cause we don’t know where we’re going.” Guess what? God came alongside them and blessed them as witnesses to the truth of Christ. This ought to be our prayer too. Why the Gospel did not die 2000 years ago is because people accepted the Spirit of truth. Jesus intentionally made lots of personal appearances for 40 days after Easter.



People could not deny these engagements. It strengthened their faith and trust in God. The resurrection from the dead was a real powerful force of the Spirit. John 7:38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

**PRAYER Lord Jesus as I begin to read and study Acts, help me to come alive with the truth of the Spirit. Unleash your Spirit to create something new in my personal life and in my faith community. In Jesus Name Amen.**

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## THURSDAY 9/7/23

**JOHN 14:16-26** in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will

**REFLECTION** “On that day” refers to the time when Christ has unleashed the power of his Spirit all the way up until His return to earth. Let’s not be lazy in understanding the sacred and mystical union with God. Each of us is intimately connected to Jesus. Jesus is of the Father and the Father is of Jesus and by this secret power we are united with them by the Spirit.

**ACTS 1:1-11** 6 So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?” 7 He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.

**REFLECTION** A good prayer is for us to say: “God come along side me, lead me right, because I am afraid to love as you love me” This is asking you to bless someone like he blessed you with “real life” Jesus chief role is to end the corruption of all humankind. He is out to destroy the tyranny of evil among the people and set us free. Not until Christ Jesus breaks the bondage of our sin do we have a “Real Life”. He does this by removing the curse of sin by putting it upon himself by dying on the Cross and 3 day’s later rose from the dead.

**PRAYER I do ask Father I may be a blessing to someone by helping them understand your grace and love. Show me please who in my life today is in need of “Real Life”?**

## **FRIDAY 9/8/23**

**JOHN 14:16-26** 25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**REFLECTION** Jesus has scattered the seed of the gospel by His appearances but it still lay's hidden. He encourages them/us to be of good cheer. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, your mind and heart will change. He is the inward Teacher that speak to us. Do not turn away and run. Lend your ear and give your attention. You will become more proficient in the school of God. Have patience and wait for the Holy Spirit to help your understand of God. Just the sound of the Gospel hitting our ears moves us. That is the inward power of God Spirit.

**ACTS 1:1-11** 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. 8 And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**REFLECTION** We are living in pretty difficult times. The truth is if Christians continue to be shy and refuse to speak the truth about “Real Life” we’re going to be in big trouble. We’re the only ones with the “light of life”. Jesus knew his band of disicple would have a” great dullness of their minds” soon after he departed. He cemented in their minds to wait for the Spirit. The Spirit gives a new “Resurrected Life”. We too are not free from being sluggish in announcing new “resurrected life:. Let’s accept this promise of grace and be more willingly to accept the Spirit of God’s love that over shadows us.

**PRAYER Lord Jesus I confess I am sluggish in offering people the “Real Life” of a new resurrected body. Forgive me, but most of all help me to be more bold in offering this wonderful message about life. In Jesus Name Amen.**

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## **SATURDAY 9/9/23**

**JOHN 14:16-26** 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Read John 14: 25-31

**ACTS 1:1-9** 9 After Jesus said this, he was taken up before the disciples very eyes, and a cloud hid Jesus from their sight.

**REFLECTION** These early Christians were the only ones with the true light of Christ in the whole world. Jesus leaves in a cloud ascending into heaven. His band of followers were afraid. Just as we would be What is God going to do next? Let’s accept God is still doing the most amazing thing. He has chosen each of us to witness to his Kingdom in heaven and on earth. The entire world system of justice and righteous is being called task. Wouldn’t be wonderful if God comes and straightens it out? He has already done that. Now he lives in us, to be his body as the Church. Do not preach the gospel until the power of the Holy Spirit arrives. Jesus say’s stay together, until “fountain of real life” starts to flow out of you. John 15:26 “When the Spirit of truth shall come, whom I will send from my Father, he shall bear witness of me,” John 16:7 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

**PRAYER My prayer this morning: “Do it again Lord Jesus.” Send your Spirit upon our faith community.” Help me to lean on your love and grace. Help me give “Real life” to those we know. In Jesus Name Amen**



*PSALM 138:1-8 NLT // ROMANS 12:1-8 NLT*

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