

## 230924 Wait For The Promise

### Introduction:

- Today marks the last week of our 21 days of rest focus. Folks be really intentional about enter into rest.
  - Start your evening in faith by entering in to Him. Worship, word, sit before Him.
  - Determine your Sabbath day for this week. Is. 58:13, 14. “Call the Sabbath a delight and delight yourself in the Lord.
- I want us to look at the Book of Acts and see what entering into the secret place did for the early church. I want to talk about:
  - The Acts One Rest
  - The Acts Two Explosion
  - The Acts Four Advance
- *“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;”* (Acts 1:4, ESV) This is the Acts One Rest! While waiting they were given a promise. *“You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit!”*

### I. Acts One Rest Rest is not inactivity it is intimacy with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- A. *“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;”* (Acts 1:4, ESV)
1. ‘wait’ is the Greek word *μηνω* (meno), which is a root word meaning to abide, to stand fast, to wait. Root + prefix slight or majorly changes the meaning of the word.
  2. There is only one use of this word *περιμηνειν* - which causes this word to mean abide or wait with a sense of expectancy while waiting.
  3. I believe that God wants us to enter into Jesus our Sabbath rest with a strong sense of expectation! If the Sabbath means success, prosperity, long life and fruitfulness we had better enter in with expectancy! That is faith at work while resting!
    - a) Jesus told them to abide in Jerusalem.
    - b) They obeyed because they trusted His word, ‘to wait’
    - c) They were at that pointing resting “in Him” not knowing what was coming but knowing it was going to be good! Makes me want to rest in Him!
- B. Waiting / Abiding looks like:
1. *“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”* (Acts 1:14, ESV) Ie. It looks like 9:10 Sunday prayer.
  2. The ‘believing community’ was in agreement! Waiting is not just an individual thing.
    - a) It is corporate, with one mind.
    - b) they gathered around a common interest - come Holy Spirit!
  3. The believing community were praying!
    - a) Prayer is not always with words.
    - b) I am sure they prayed vocally but I am also sure they had times where *‘they were still and knew that He was God.’* Ps 46:10
- C. This takes us back to last week’s message: *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in*

*me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:4–5, ESV)

1. Same root ‘meno’ in Jn 15:4 as in Acts 1:14
  2. Abide - stay put in me! (to stay, persevere, remain, stand fast). The 120 persevered!
  3. Whoever abides bears fruit! [blessed- success, prosper, long-life, fruitfulness]
  4. Ie. Again, steady, hold, steady. If you move to soon you miss the blessing!
- D. Jump in the deep end of abiding! All of the following are from the root ‘meno.’ And all speak of Christ!!!
1. Jn 8:31 - Abide in the Word. Steady, in the Word! This is Jesus and the Logos!
  2. Jn 3:17 - Abide in love. Steady, in the Love of God.
  3. 1 Jn 2:27 Abide in the anointing. Steady, in the anointing!
  4. 2 Jn 2 Abide in the truth. Steady, in the truth!
  5. Jn 8:35 Abide in God’s house. Steady in God’s House!
  6. 1 Jn 2:10 Abide in the light. Steady in the Light!

## II. Acts Two Explosion

- A. While in Jerusalem, in Jesus their Sabbath Rest, waiting in faith believing, there comes a SUDDENLY! Remember they are obeying what Jesus told them to do. They were in an Acts one rest which lead to an Acts Two explosion!
1. They were all together (2:1.)
  2. Sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind.
  3. Divided tongues of fire rested on each of them.
  4. They were all filled and began speaking in other tongues!
  5. Those outside heard those on the inside speaking in their own language the marvelous works of God.
  6. Peter preaches and 3k get saved! All that coming out of 40 days of resting in Him.
- B. This is pretty much the pattern of the movement of God in scripture.
1. Broken, weak people enter the secret place and come out in the power of God/Holy Spirit! Ie. Daniel Nash (Praying Nash) Finney
  2. Notice that all six of the abiding points above are in this one Acts two moment.
    - a) The word, love of God, anointing, truth, God’s house, Light!
  3. *“And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.”* (Acts 2:43, ESV)
    - a) Fear of the Lord! Holy respect.
    - b) Those who believed were in awe of what they were experiencing!
- C. As they did acts 2:42 (rest in Jesus their Sabbath rest) They encounter God.
1. Encounter God while at rest:
    - a) Enter by worship, word, meditation, presence.
    - b) Time with God: refreshes, restores, renews, replenishes
    - c) Sabbath rest is blessed: success, prosperity, longevity, and fruitfulness!
  2. Peter heals a lame man. *“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,”* (Acts 3:19–20, ESV)
  3. Peters instruction -

- a) repent - the only way into the presence.
- b) turn back to God - repentance is both a heart and flesh turning.
- c) sins are removed
- d) time of refreshing come from the presence of the Lord!
- e) He moves the crowd from outside to inside Jesus their Sabbath Rest.
- f) This cause the Kingdom of God to advance!

### III. An Acts Four Advance

- A. *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.”* (Acts 4:13, ESV) Nothing is impossible!
  1. These were uneducated common men that were astonishing the learned religious world! With boldness, the apostles faced adversity.
  2. What made them different from the scribes and pharisees? They had been with Jesus! They had been with Jesus our Sabbath rest. There you find: success, prosperity, longline, and fruitfulness.
  3. To advance the Kingdom they had to enter into the place of rest.(Word, prayer, presence, and worship)
- B. The power of the Holy Spirit given in the secret place empowered them to face the rulers of the people (4:8)
  1. *“And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”* (Acts 4:31, ESV)
  2. And when they had prayed, they were living out of the resource of heaven! They were living out of the power of the secret place.

### Conclusion:

- Jesus told the disciples to ‘wait’ for the promise.
- *“but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”* (Isaiah 40:31, ESV)
- wait - Hebrew word = “This root means to wait or to look for with eager expectation. Waiting with steadfast endurance is a great expression of faith. It means enduring patiently in confident hope that God will decisively act for the salvation of his people.” Hartley, J. E. (1999). קוּרָה. In R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 791). Moody Press.