

Power for the Call

Acts 1:1–11

Part 1 was shared on April 26, 2020. You can find the Podcast, Live stream and notes online at hillsidebc.com

I. Prepare for the Call

A. Prepare Your Life

B. Prepare by Waiting

Some years ago, someone prepared an anthology and published some 150-200 pages of the last sayings of many men. Sir Walter Scott died saying, “Bring me the Book” and when someone asked “Which book?” Scott said, “There is only one Book.” The last words are generally considered important because, after all, when a person is dying he’s generally not going to be flippant. Seriousness is the keynote of the moment.

II. Power for the Christian

Acts 5:38–39 KJV 1900

And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

A. Power Delivered

The word *power* is the Greek word *dunamis* meaning strength, ability, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature. This was the promise of Christ.

This power is given specifically for the purpose of witnessing! The word *witnesses* is from the Greek word *martus* and is where we get our word Martyr.

Acts 7:60 KJV 1900

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

God used the death of Stephen in a powerful way that perhaps at the time, the early church couldn't understand.

Ephesians 1:19–20 KJV 1900

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

B. Power to witness

The plan was to witness:

1. To their own Community
2. To their country
3. Then to their Continent
4. Finally, to their world

We are meant to catch the vision of a great work that needs to be done before Jesus returns. ...[The] gospel preached to every nation. Christians who have understood this have caught the great vision for missions and evangelism. It was what drove William Carey to India. As a thirty year-old cobbler he could exhort a group of ministers: "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God." God gave this cobbler a vision that took him to the end of the earth.

Matthew 28:19–20 KJV 1900

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV 1900

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Conclusion

In his Book, *Walden, or Life in the Woods* Henry David Thoreau spoke of ways that we waste and specifically how we waste time, “As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.”

As I read this line, I was overcome with the reality that as Christians, we have no time to waste! Paul even states in Ephesians 5:16

Ephesians 5:16 KJV 1900

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

John 1:12 KJV 1900

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

Ephesians 2:8–9 KJV 1900

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.