

Introduction

1. Since the beginning God has been searching and reaching out bring His lost creation back to Him. God has initiated a massive, three-phase search and rescue mission...
 - a. Stage 1 was Israel through whom God showed His character and called people to Himself.
 - b. Stage 2 was the critical phase in which God sent Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life and through Jesus we can come to the Father (John 14:6)
 - c. Stage 3 is the story of today the church...

I. The Coming Of The Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8

- a. He Was Promised To The Disciples– John 14-15
 - i. The disciples were told by Jesus to wait in Jerusalem for this wonderful gift.
 - ii. The promise was going to come with power...
- b. The Spirit Comes
 - i. Like a wind! – John 3:8 Like Fire! – Exodus 3 (the burning bush)
 - ii. The church was born on Pentecost with power and thousands of Jews were able to hear the gospel in their own language and the church was born!

II. The Power Of The Holy Spirit

- a. The Explosion – Acts 2:3
- b. The Controlled Burn
 - i. Acts 6:8-15 the working of this power through Stephen
 - ii. Acts 8:29-35 the working of this power with Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
 - iii. Acts 10:44-48 the working of this power with Apostle Peter and Cornelius

III. Two Important Questions

- a. What Is The Church?
 - i. Is it a building or is it the people? Does the Spirit work through a place or a person?
 - ii. The church is made of believers who have obeyed Christ and have been powered by the Holy Spirit to share the good news about Jesus Christ to those who are lost.
- b. Who Is It For?
 - i. The church in Acts existed for one main reason to share the message of Jesus...
 1. Acts 1 – Jesus said to the apostles they would be His witnesses
 2. Acts 2 – Peter preached and 3,000 obeyed God and were saved
 3. Acts 3 – Peter and John loved a crippled man and shared Jesus to him
 4. Acts 4 – Peter and John tell the authorities all about Jesus
 5. Acts 6 – The disciples were providing food for poor widows in Jesus' name
 6. Acts 7 – Stephen preaches his heart out to those hostile to Jesus etc. etc...
 - ii. What did they all have in common? Who did they exist for? To share Jesus to the lost so they could be saved from their sins before it was everlasting too late!
- c. The Challenge Individually And As A Congregation
 - i. We are to be witnesses for Jesus (Just like in Deuteronomy 6:5-9) It is what we are all about!
 - ii. As a church we want to be a welcoming people so we can enable someone to meet Jesus
 - iii. The challenge is to offer a new beginning to others in Christ! Are you in the right relationship with God to offer Jesus to another?