



# Holy Spirit Power for Service

**“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth ” (Acts 1:8).**

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**“And all things**



**are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation ” (2 Corinthians 5:18)**

Every Christian is a Minister of Reconciliation. Shortly before His ascension, Luke's account discloses that Jesus:

- 1) Opened their understanding of the scriptures about his death and resurrection (24:45-46)
- 2) Clarified their mission as world-wide witnesses “of these things” (vs. 47-48)
- 3) Instructed them to first tarry in Jerusalem to be endued with power before embarking on their mission (vs. 49) starting from Jerusalem.

Acts account gives us more insight on the same issue, in that while the disciples were pre-occupied with questions about ruling with Christ in His kingdom, Jesus re-directed their attention to the promised power for accomplishing their mission to the “uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

What becomes clear from these scriptures is that:

- 1) Every Christian is called to be a witness for Jesus.
- 2) A Christian who does not witness is not fit for the purpose that God created and sustains him/her on earth. Such a person is like the barren fig tree that was cursed to death (Luke 13:6-10; Mark 11:12-14,20-21)
- 3) The Holy Spirit is not a ‘badge of honour’ for a life so well lived but essential power for effective service. It is like the fuel that empowers a car to drive!

The last words of a person conveys what is uppermost in His mind. Christ's parting commission to His followers remain “... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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 always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

**“If ye love me, keep my commandments”** (John 14:15). Love for Christ is demonstrated in obedience to His Commandments (Mark 16:20). Christ's question to Peter repeated three times shows that if Peter loves Jesus, He would commit his life to feeding Christ's lambs and sheep (John 21:15-17). Our daily activities in life reflects the centre of our love. What does your activities point to?

In 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 God describes the official occupation of every Christian as “Ambassadors for Christ” with a “Ministry of Reconciliation” and Key Work Objective of reconciling men and women to God - **“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”.**

Let us arise and press on to walk worthy of our vocation (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12) and make full proof of our ministry (2 Timothy 4:5), knowing that our labour of love will be amply rewarded (1 Corinthians 15:58).