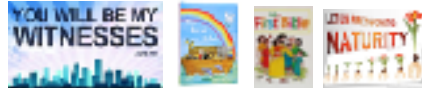


13 May 2018 - Ascension of our Lord.

Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Ps. 47; Eph. 1:15–23; Luke 24:44–53.

Theme: *You will* – **Acts 1:8**, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem.” Cf. “Why doesn’t God DO something?” Ascension is a bridge from *will you* to *you will*...



I. READ A NEW BOOK.

Acts 1:1-2, “In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up.” The second book is called *Acts of the Apostles* for a reason. It was God working in and through people in a new way.

Luke 24:44-48, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” Only the beginning!

Hebrews 6:1-2, “Therefore let us leave **the elementary doctrine** of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.”

New Horizons: *The Ascended Jesus Active in Mission*. “What is Jesus saying now?” “What is Jesus doing in the world today?”



II. RECEIVE A NEW POWER.

Acts 1:4, 8, “wait for the promise... **you will receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” The “bridge promise” from “the first book”. **Luke 24:49**, “And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high**.”

Not an optional extra for missionaries or full time church workers. This promise is for every believer in Jesus Christ.

Noel Due, “the goal of His (Jesus’) ministry.”

It is the resurrected life of Jesus living within us.

Ephesians 1:18-21, “that you may **know**...what is **the immeasurable greatness of his power** toward us who believe.”

Not just “receive,” but “know” what it means to be “clothed” or immersed in His power. The outworking of our baptism. **TPT**, “I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith.” It is meant to be an ongoing experience.

We are to live out of fullness and abundance of the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:18, “Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him.”

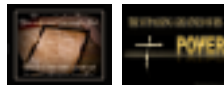


III. WITNESS NEW WISDOM AND REVELATION.

Acts 1:8, “... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Ephesians 1:16-17, “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you **the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him**, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is **the hope** to which he has called you, what are **the riches** of his glorious inheritance in the saints.” This is an ongoing discovery.

John 16:12-13, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”



CONCLUSION: You/we will become “living books/letters.”

2 Corinthians 3:3, “You show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” **Ephesians 1:19**(TPT), “Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you!” And *you will* follow in the footsteps of Jesus like never before!