



May 3, 2026  
**The Spirit Empowers**  
Acts 1:8



1. **Sermon Outline:**

- a. The Holy Spirit Is God's Power for You to Tell People About Jesus
  - i. The Spirit is God's power in you for a greater purpose
  - ii. The Spirit is God's power for evangelism near and far
- b. God's Standard of Success for Evangelism Is Faithfulness In Telling People About Jesus
  - i. Evangelism is a spiritual act that must be done in the Spirit's power
  - ii. Your job is simply to share Jesus in the power of the Spirit, trusting God to save souls
- c. God's Harvest Is Plentiful, His Power is Limitless, So Let's Go!
  - i. Jesus said His harvest is waiting, we just need to pray and go
  - ii. What we're doing today after the 2nd service

2. **Sunday** – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

3. **Monday:**

- a. This week's focal passage is the well-known Acts 1:8. In order to see the focal passage in its context, read and meditate on Acts 1:4-9.
- b. What reminder did Jesus give the Apostles to set the stage for the focal passage?
  - i. What had John the Baptist said that Jesus would do in Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33 that was greater than what he was doing?
  - ii. What did Jesus promise in John 14:16–18 & 26, 15:26–27, and 16:7–15 (passages Pastor Brian preached on earlier this year)?
- c. What was the response of the Apostles to the reminder?
  - i. Why does this seem a somewhat strange reaction to the promise of being baptized by the Holy Spirit?
  - ii. Read Isaiah 32:15–20, 44:3–5, Ezekiel 39:28–29, Joel 2:28–3:1, and Zechariah 12:8–10. How do these passages show why the Apostles, who knew the Old Testament, might have jumped to such a conclusion?
  - iii. What does their question show that the Apostles were assuming about the nature and timing of Jesus establishing His Kingdom?

- iv. What two mistakes did the Apostles make in asking this question that show they did not remember and understand what Jesus had taught them in:
  1. Luke 17:20-21?
  2. Matthew 24:36?
- d. How did Jesus begin His answer to the Apostles in verse 7? How would you paraphrase Jesus' response in verse 7 in today's vernacular?

#### 4. **Tuesday:**

- a. Read and meditate on the focal passage, Acts 1:8.
- b. What makes the words of Jesus in verse 8 particularly significant (hint: what happens immediately after He says these words)? Why are Jesus' last words fundamentally different from those of a dying person?
- c. Acts 1:8 is the final version of the Great Commission that is also presented, in different forms, in Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-49, and John 20:21. Read and compare each of these passages to Acts 1:8.
  - i. Since all of these Great Commission passages occur between Jesus' resurrection and His ascension, what might we conclude about their importance to Jesus?
  - ii. When combined, what obligations do they place on us as Christians?
  - iii. What additional requirements does Peter identify in Acts 10:42?
- d. After telling the Apostles they could not know "when" in verse 7, what does Jesus do by beginning verse 8 with the word "But"? Why is what Jesus promises actually better for the Apostles? For us?

#### 5. **Wednesday:**

- a. Read and meditate on Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:8.
- b. What significance do you see in the fact that Luke tells Theophilus the same thing twice, once at the end of the Gospel of Luke and then again at the beginning of Acts?
  - i. How is the mission described in each passage?
  - ii. What is the goal of the mission? Where is it to begin? Where is it to end?
  - iii. Who is expected to accomplish the mission?
  - iv. What technique is to be used to accomplish the mission?
  - v. What will enable the Apostles (and us) to perform the mission?
- c. Both Luke and Acts emphasize that Jesus ordered the Apostles to stay in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit. Why do you think Jesus insisted on this?
  - i. What might have happened if the Apostles had set out on the mission on their own?
  - ii. What practical applications might there be for us in our age? What can happen when we don't wait for the Spirit to lead?
- d. In Acts 1:8, what two things does Jesus tell the Apostles "will" happen to them?

#### 6. **Thursday:**

- a. Read and meditate on Acts 1:8a.
- b. What does the phrase “receive power” mean to you? How does “receiving” power differ from earning it?
- c. How might the power received differ from the “gifts” considered last week? What do these verses suggest about some of the ways the power given by the Holy Spirit might manifest itself in a believer:
  - i. Acts 4:13 & 23:11?
  - ii. Acts 4:29 & 19:8?
  - iii. Acts 2:29 & Philippians 1:6?
  - iv. Ephesians 3:4 & Philippians 1:9?
  - v. 2 Corinthians 10:8 & 13:10?
  - vi. Acts 8:19 & 2 Corinthians 1:8?
- d. In what ways was the power received from the Holy Spirit demonstrated by these men:
  - i. Stephen (see Acts 6:5, 8, and 10)?
  - ii. Paul (see Romans 15:18-19 and 1 Corinthians 2:2-5)?
  - iii. Peter (see Acts 4:7-13)?
  - iv. All believers (see Acts 4:23 & 31)?
- e. Read Ephesians 3:16-20. What insight does Paul provide about what the power received from the Holy Spirit accomplishes in our lives as Christians?

### 7. *Friday:*

- a. Read and meditate on Acts 1:8b
- b. What does it mean to be a “witness”? What is necessary before anyone can be a witness to something?
  - i. Why would (must) the Apostles' witness be fundamentally different from ours (see 1 John 1:1-3)?
  - ii. How is witnessing different from evangelism, pastoring, or teaching (See Ephesians 4:11)?
  - iii. While only some are called to the positions listed in Ephesians 4:11, who can/should be a witness for Christ?
  - iv. What is the only thing a person needs to know to be a witness for Christ (see 1 Corinthians 2:2-5)?
  - v. How do Matthew 10:20, Luke 12:11-12, 21:15, Acts 4:8, and 6:10 show the dependence of witnessing upon the power given by the Holy Spirit?
  - vi. What do these verses tell us about some of the specific ways the Holy Spirit empowers our witnessing: Mark 13:11, Acts 4:31, 9:31, 10:19-20, 13:2, 13:4, 15:28-29, and 16:6-7?
  - vii. How should Acts 4:20 be a model for our witnessing?

- c. Where did Jesus tell the Apostles they would be witnesses?
  - i. What is the significance of Jerusalem, and to what would we compare it in our lives?
  - ii. What is the significance of Judea and Samaria, and to what might we compare it in our lives?
  - iii. What were the ends of the earth then and now?
  - iv. What must our witnessing be if we are to be truly obedient to Jesus command in this verse?

8. **Saturday:**

- a. Finish the week by reading and meditating on the five Great Commission passages: Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8.
- b. Which passage speaks most clearly to you? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to what Jesus taught in these five passages?

9. **Application:** Many have noted that Acts 1:8 can serve as an outline for the entire book of Acts, as it describes the spread of the Gospel with Jerusalem in chapters 1-7, Judea and Samaria in 8-9, and the Gentiles to the ends of the earth in Acts 10-28. In Acts 1:8, the Apostles are in Jerusalem, and in Acts 28:30, Paul is in Rome, where “He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!” Despite this tremendous spread of the Gospel, the mission is far from complete today, more than 2000 years later. With almost 3,000 Unengaged and Unreached People Groups (nations in Matthew 28:19 terminology), totaling about 275 million souls who have never heard the Gospel, the mission of the Great Commission is as important now as when it was given to us. We need to seriously pray about and seek the Holy Spirit's leading individually and as a church.

10. **Pray:** This week, in recognition of our joint service with True Light Ethiopian Church, we will ask you to pray for three Ethiopian people groups, one from each of the three main languages in that country:
- a. Wollo Amhara: Most Wollo people live in north central Ethiopia. They are mainly subsistence farmers who use tools that farmers in the developed world have long since abandoned. The largest religion is Islam, but there are perhaps up to 2% Christian (primarily Ethiopian Orthodox). Pray that believers from other Amhara subgroups will introduce Jesus to the Wallo people.
  - b. Hararghe Oromo: Over 6 million Hararghe live in the region between Addis Ababa and the Somali border, where the largest city is Harar, once famous for its coffee production. Most Hararghe are farmers and raise livestock in an area where droughts are common and severe. Most practice a form of Islam; they are classified as an Unengaged and Unreached People with fewer than 0.1% evangelical Christians. Pray that the Lord raise up a vibrant Harerge Oromo church.
  - c. Tigray: The Tigrai/Tigrinya are a culturally rich and historically significant people group in northern Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea, known for their Tigrinya language, Orthodox Christian traditions, and influential role in the region's history and culture. While over 95% identify as Christian, fewer than 0.1% are Evangelical. The humanitarian situation in the Tigray region remains dire, with over 5 million people in Tigray (and more than 13 million across northern Ethiopia) requiring aid. Pray that the military conflict between the Tigray and the Ethiopian government will not reignite and that opportunities will increase to introduce Tigray to Jesus.