

Stories of Biblical Faith - Week 4

When Times are Uncertain

Acts 1:1-2 Dear friend who loves God: In my first letter I told you about Jesus' life and teachings and how he returned to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions from the Holy Spirit. 3 During the forty days after his crucifixion he appeared to the apostles from time to time, actually alive, and proved to them in many ways that it was really he himself they were seeing. And on these occasions he talked to them about the Kingdom of God. 4 In one of these meetings he told them not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them in fulfillment of the Father's promise, a matter he had previously discussed with them. 5 "John baptized you with water," he reminded them, "but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit in just a few days." 6 And another time when he appeared to them, they asked him, "Lord, are you going to free Israel [from Rome] now and restore us as an independent nation?" 7 "The Father sets those dates," he replied, "and they are not for you to know. 8 But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection." 9 It was not long afterwards that he rose into the sky and disappeared into a cloud, leaving them staring after him. 10 As they were straining their eyes for another glimpse, suddenly two white-robed men were standing there among them, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as he went, he will return!" TLB

- Acts chapter 1 is the account of what happened between the lightning -- which is the life of **Christ** (His birth, death, and resurrection) and the thunder which will be **Pentecost**.
- When we allow sin or **worry** to occupy our minds and hearts we must again look to Jesus.

Four things Jesus does for these disciples:

1. Jesus Gives a **Precaution**

- We must take our concern to God in **prayer**.
- This is not the time to over think or over react. We must just learn to trust God and **wait**.
- We must know when to get **entangled** and when to sit back and wait.
- The hardest thing about waiting is most of us don't like giving up **control**.
- WE can't allow upper room religion to take over, where doubt and fear become a **cancer** in your faith life.
- Israel is unrepentant and they have **rejected** Jesus.

How do we heed to the precaution?

- Focus on the **spiritual**, and look past the natural.

- The upright need not get uptight.

2. Jesus Gives the **Prescription**

- Uncertain times are under the control and **planning** of God.
- The **timing** and what we will receive in the end is up to God.
- In uncertain times remember, God is always **on time**.
- Waiting is always for us, for God to continually teach trust and **patience**.
- God waits until we are ready to **implement** the answer. We are in danger of forgetting that we cannot do what God can do. Our needs go beyond our own **abilities**.

3. Jesus Promises us **Power**

- The power was **specific**.
- The power was **supernatural**.
- The power would be used for **service**.

4. Jesus Reminds us of our **Purpose**

- “Witness” can also mean **martyr**.
- Self wants to **panic**. “Witness” look for opportunities.

Three Things We Must Have During this Time

1. **Accountability**
2. **Approachability**
3. **Adaptability**

Final Thoughts

- Don’t waste this opportunity to **adjust** to God’s will.
- Don’t miss the great opportunity to fulfill your godly **purpose**.