

When Times Are Uncertain – Part 1

Acts 1:1-11 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

- Uncertain times can bring fear and **doubt**, but they can also be used to release God's Spirit to override the circumstances we face.
- Satan has no new plans; he is after Jews and Christians as much as he can. The Jews, because he surely doesn't want them **coming** to Christ, and the Christians he sure doesn't want **living** for Christ.
- The pathway for all believers is to keep seeking God **continually**, that we would **pursue** only the things worth pursuing.
- 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 of which will be **Pentecost**, and the giving of the Holy Spirit.
- When we allow sin or worry to occupy our minds and hearts, we must look to Jesus.... **continually!**

Luke Recounts Jesus' Teaching

1. Jesus Gives a **Precaution**

- We must take our concern to God in **prayer**.
- This is not the time to overthink or overreact. We must just learn to trust God and **wait**.

- We must know when to get **entangled** and when to sit back and wait. No sense spinning our wheels with the unknown, over things we just can't control. We can't allow upper room religion to take over, where doubt and fear become a **cancer** in your faith life.

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, to continually learn trust and **patience**.
- God waits until we are ready to **implement** the answer.

3. Jesus Promises Us **Power**

- The power was **specific**; it comes with the Spirit.
- The power was **supernatural**; It would be used for **service**.

4. Jesus Reminds Us of our God-given **Purpose**

- Self wants to **panic**. A witness will look for opportunities.

Three Necessities During These Times

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 calling and **purpose**.