



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Jesus' Great Commission!

Lesson Text: Acts 1:1-14

Focus Verses: Acts 1:6-8 - ⁶When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸But 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.

Truth About Covenant: Jesus commissioned us to share His covenant with the world.

Covenant Context: Although Jesus' earthly ministry had come to an end, His covenant with humanity continued in a new, closer way. He promised He would continue to dwell among His people by filling us with His Holy Spirit. As the Book of Acts demonstrates, He will give us power through His Spirit to be witnesses and make disciples for Him.

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He gathered His faithful followers together and gave His final words, a sure guarantee. They would receive the Holy Ghost and the power that only comes through the indwelling Holy Ghost. God had always desired to dwell among His people and He would continue to be right there in their midst. Just as God once walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day, tabernacled Himself in the center of the Israelite camp, and became incarnate in human flesh, God would continue His eternal covenantal practice of abiding among His beloved.

The Holy Ghost was necessary not only to give Jesus' followers power but also to provide them with direction and clarity.

Jesus charged His followers to be witnesses to all people in the known world, starting locally in Jerusalem, moving regionally into Judea, breaking social barriers into Samaria, and then into the furthest reaches of the earth. While some of Jesus' followers may have been surprised at Jesus' encouragement of a worldwide witness, those knowledgeable of Old Testament prophecy would have recognized salvation for all peoples was always part of God's covenantal plan (Genesis 22:18; Psalm 22:27; Isaiah 49:6; Malachi 1:11). Peter quoted the same quote in Genesis 22:18 in Acts 3:25 and Paul quoted it in Galatians 3:8.

The indwelling Holy Ghost permeates our entire being, influencing our thoughts, words, emotions, actions, and lifestyles. Thus, we are called to be witnesses with our entire being. We often associate being a witness with speaking, but we also witness by what we think about and dwell on, what we care about, how we respond to others, how we live in an unholy world. Let us allow the Holy Ghost to saturate us until we are witnesses with every part of our lives.

When we operate in our assigned roles—we invest all we are and everything we have into God's kingdom—we are acting in covenant with God. Just as Jesus gave His all for us by dying for our sins, rising again to conquer death, and abiding with us through the Holy Ghost, so now we give our all by being witnesses with our whole being. Such is the nature of our covenant relationship with God; He gave His all, and in response we give our all.

Everyone who has been born again is called to make disciples of those who are yet born again. Making disciples includes sharing the gospel with others and teaching them how to rightly respond to the gospel according to Acts 2:38: Repent of your sins, be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues. But that is only the beginning. Biological birth is necessary for human life, but parents must nurture and grow their baby to maturity. Similarly, part of the believer's role as a witness in God's kingdom is mentoring, training, and teaching new believers to a mature relationship with Jesus. After someone experiences new birth, the church is responsible for nurturing and training him or her to grow and continually become more like Christ.

Just like Jesus and His disciples, we are now commissioned to make disciples (Matthew 28:19). This includes teaching and encouraging fellow believers and training new converts on how to live in covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, even after their initial new-birth experience. The commission to make disciples and to be witnesses go hand in hand. As we bear witness to the saving message of Jesus Christ, we will naturally make disciples. By fulfilling these commissions, we participate in establishing God's kingdom on earth. **All of us who are Spirit-filled should continually rededicate ourselves to these great commissions.**