



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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To the Ends of the Earth!

Truth About God: God's church will reach to the ends of the earth.

Truth For My Life: Through God's Spirit, I will be a witness everywhere God opens a door.

Lesson Text: Acts 1:4-8

Key Passage: Acts 1:8 - But 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.

When the disciples of Jesus established His church in the aftermath of Calvary, they did so with a spiritual mandate to carry the gospel beyond their circle of friends and acquaintances. Jesus commanded them in Acts 1:8 to start in Jerusalem, but He also commanded them to go to Judea, Samaria, and all the way to the ends of the earth. There they would encounter people who were strangers and sometimes former enemies. However, the power of the Holy Ghost would knit them together into one unified church for the purpose of reaching a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Luke revealed this international revival would begin at Jerusalem (24:47). Jerusalem is the city that rejected the Messiah. This city celebrated His coming and worshiped Him as a king, but within the same week, many of them demanded His crucifixion. Yet this was where God chose to pour out His Spirit first. Everyone gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost was filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4). Persecution spread the church to Judea and beyond. However, revival was limited by ethnic boundaries.

It continued to Samaria, Acts 8 records even more intense persecution against Christians. Everywhere they went, these Jesus followers planted the fertile seeds of revival. Ultimately, those seeds took root in Samaria. Luke noted, these baptized believers had not yet received the Holy Ghost. The apostles sent Peter and John to pray for them. When they laid their hands on them, the Samaritans received the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17). The power of the gospel and the great love of God demonstrated at the cross bridged the gulf between Jews and Samaritans, uniting them under the precious name of Jesus. Centuries of hatred and conflict could not stop the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gospel of Jesus Christ continues to reach to the ends of the earth in Acts 10. It may have been difficult for Jewish evangelists to share the gospel with their Samaritan neighbors. But a greater challenge arose when the gospel began to spread beyond Samaria to "*the uttermost part of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). That expansion included the Gentiles, who, unlike the Samaritans, had no Jewish lineage or claim to God's covenant with Abraham. **The gospel of Jesus Christ represents a new covenant, inviting all people from all nations.**

The miracle of salvation is for everyone. God's vision for the church was bigger than the early believers could have imagined. An international revival ultimately spanned the whole world and burned brightly across the ages to reach as far as you and me. Those early believers may not have known their faithfulness would influence our present generation.

But God challenged them to expand their boundaries and carry a burden for people they did not know or even like. Similarly, the Spirit continually calls us to embrace a vision that expands far beyond our local congregation and extends to people like us and not like us, whether they are people who like us or people who don't. **Everyone desperately needs to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Will you reach them?**

The church today operates under that same commission; however, the ways we fulfill that commission have shifted dramatically. Smartphones, social media, air travel, and other technologies have helped to bring the world closer together than ever before and have created opportunities for us to reach across the world without ever leaving our hometown. We can be an active part of what God is doing around the world. Also, the technology available to this generation has given **every believer** the tools necessary to have a global impact. **What can you do to become involved in fulfilling the mandate of Acts 1:8?**