

DAY 17 – POWER TO WITNESS

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

The book of Acts presents the story of God’s grace flooding the world—from the cross and resurrection of Jesus in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

Nothing is more prominent in Acts than the spread of the gospel.

Jesus promises a geographical expansion from the beginning, and Acts follows the news of His death and resurrection as it spreads from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria, and to the distant capital of Rome:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The first priority in Jesus’ mind after the resurrection was that the apostles wait for the power of the Holy Spirit.

This power would enable them to become “witnesses” who would go out from Jerusalem.

The fact that Jesus mentioned Samaria shows that the gospel would transcend not only geography (Jerusalem and Judea), but also ethnicity. The main task of God’s people is to bear witness to His great works. The first disciples were entrusted with testifying about the risen Christ, whom they had seen. This testimony would begin in Jerusalem but would go “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus promised that they would bear witness to His power when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

In Acts, the gospel spreads not through human strength, but through weakness, opposition, and persecution. Demonic forces, worldly powers and authorities, government opposition, language and cultural barriers, intense suffering, bloody persecution, unjust imprisonment, unbelief, internal division, shipwrecks, and even snakes all threaten to stop the advance of the gospel.

Yet, opposition and suffering do not stop the spread of Jesus’ grace—they actually propel it, because the power of the Holy Spirit fills and is revealed through the lives of the disciples.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

In what areas of your witness to others do you need Him to fill you with His power?

In what ways is the Holy Spirit filling you with His power each day?