

Easter Is Over, Now what?

We are big on Easter, and rightly so because God raised Jesus from the dead! That's a big deal! But we forget that Jesus hung out for forty more days after the resurrection.

- I would like to get the pod cast of everything Jesus taught for 40 days but it hasn't shown up on iTunes yet. Jesus does invite us to work with him just as closely as the first disciples.
- The gospel accounts ends with Jesus saying, "GO!" Acts opens with Jesus saying, "WAIT!" So what was so important that Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem?
- We are familiar with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) But Jesus also told them to "wait until you have received all that I have for you." What Jesus was talking about was the Holy Spirit!
- Have we meditated on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives? We reflect on the gravity of the cross and glory of the resurrection but what do we do after Easter? I want to draw your attention to what is next. What's next is the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- It's interesting that Christ's final words before his ascension concerning spiritual power. Luke 24:49 "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; But stay in the city until you have been clothed with POWER from on high."
- It was if Jesus was saying that having the right message wasn't enough. As we share our faith when we have the opportunity we will be faced with so

many strongholds from the devil that we need the power that only the Spirit can impart.

- Look at Moses, He had the right message but it wasn't enough. It wasn't until Pharaoh saw the demonstration of power that he finally lined up with the message.
- Think about the situation the disciples were in. They had been with Jesus who was raised from the dead. For the first time they finally understood the sacrifice Jesus had to make. It was all making sense to them. They had seen the nail scars and watched Him ascend into heaven. Imagine how much they wanted to tell everyone about it. Let's get this message out. But Jesus told them to wait.

WAIT for what? Jesus knew that they were going to need more than intellect, talent, even a sincere heart. So they waited in an upper room. Acts 2:1-4

- The Spirit was poured out just as Jesus promised. What the prophet Joel predicted had happened. Acts 2:17-21.
- If the Holy Spirit was needed then, has anything changed today? Will anything else but the Spirit's power working through us pull down strongholds,
- and break the power of compulsive sinful behavior as we share the gospel? NO, nothing else will do!!!!!!
- Paul wrote in 1Cor 2:1-5. Paul's ministry involved a "demonstration of power." Not wise words or a sharp tongue but a "Demonstration of power." Why is that? So that you might have faith not in your own power but in God's power.

- The Holy Spirit was sent to accomplish many divine purposes, but at the top of the list was the empowerment of Gods people to reach the world with the gospel of Christ.
 - He wasn't given so that we could have exciting meetings. He wasn't promised to us for moments of spiritual ecstasy, as wonderful as that might be. He was given so that we might reach the world for Christ.
- If we lose sight of Gods heart for the world—including our own cities and neighborhoods—we will experience little of the Spirits power, because we will be on a different page than the Lord.
 - Read page 110
- Isn't it amazing when Spirit works through ordinary people like us? How great life becomes when the Holy Spirit empowers us to pray, responds, counsel, listen, speak, and even be awakened in the middle of the night to pray for others. All the power that we will ever need in this world is there for the taking. So take it.
- Luke 11:13, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give you the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."
 - I dare you to ask him!!!!