

Message.

As the title of Acts suggests, Jesus calls us to an obedience-based discipleship. We are not to sit idle. We, His disciples, have been sent on a mission, led by the Holy Spirit. All who trust in Christ as their Lord and Savior receive the power of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the power is to be witnesses, to accomplish the command to go and make disciples of Jesus.

It was more comfortable with Jesus physically on earth with the disciples, but God's plan involved Jesus returning to His Father and sending His Spirit. This required the disciples to wait. They were still focused on and dealing with earthly things. The Romans still controlled Israel. Their once companion, Judas, betrayed Jesus and is now dead. They are dealing with some heavy trials and Jesus told them to wait.

Waiting is an act of obedience and trust. We must trust in His timing, His ability, and His promise, not our own. During times of waiting, we must devote ourselves to prayer. We cannot get stuck in the past. We, His Church, must move forward. *An unstoppable church is obedient to Jesus Christ and patient in actively waiting. #bccBIGidea*

Prayer.

Father,

You are Lord over my life. Your wisdom, Your timing, Your plan is above anything I can dream up. My logic, my abilities, are simply not fit for the mission You have given Your Church. But through Your Spirit's guidance, I am willing to serve. Open my eyes to the needs around me. Let my ears hear Your Spirit's instruction. Give me boldness and humility to walk where You tell me to walk. Guide my thoughts, Lord, as I spend time in Your Word.

Amen.

Scripture.

Acts 1

Self-Reflection.

The disciples spent three years being taught by Jesus and they still got stuck on earthly matters until the Holy Spirit came upon them. We are no different. It is vital that we accept the leading of the Holy Spirit.

- Focusing solely on Acts 1, what do we see the disciples doing?
- What did they rely on to make these decisions and actions?

Scripture is our Starting Point. We must daily look to God's Word to receive His wisdom.

Peter knew the Scriptures well, but it wasn't until the Holy Spirit came upon him in Acts 2 that he fully understood the Gospel message. Ask and you will receive. Just like daily nutrients, we need the Holy Spirit's guidance. Ask for it each morning.

An unstoppable church is obedient to Jesus Christ and patient in actively waiting.

- What does it mean to *actively* wait?

We are called to pray, to serve, to trust, to forgive, to move forward.

- When, how, and what do you pray in the wait?
- Who do you/can you serve in the wait?
- How do you/need to trust in the wait?
- Who do you need to forgive in the wait?

Christ is calling you to help His Church move forward. Rejoice in the Lord!

- How have you seen His Church move forward recently?
- What can you do to continue to help move His Church forward?