

The Case of Expectation vs. Reality

November 4 ,2018

Scripture:

³ He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:3–8 (ESV)

From the Introduction:

What we want to learn here today is that Jesus said he would build his church on this rock. Jesus is the solid foundation, nothing can come against it. What we see here in Acts is that the Apostles are to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

I. The expectations

A. They _____ an earthly kingdom.

B. This is the kingdom of the _____.

II. The reality

A. Jesus _____ a heavenly kingdom.

B. This is the kingdom of the _____.

Remember:

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:48-49 (ESV)

Reflect:

“I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel. I am moved only by what I believe.” – Smith Wigglesworth

Seek:

- 1) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is foundational to the Pentecostal belief. Reflect on the moment when you received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Share the event with the group, and what impact it has had in your life.
*If you have not received this gift, share with the group what you are doing to receive it.

Share:

- 1) Jesus tells his disciples, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...” (v. 8) This is the central role of the Spirit in our lives. Share with the group how the power of the Spirit has worked through you as God’s witness.

Serve:

- 1) The service of the Spirit-filled believer is to be Christ's witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (v. 8). Consider what power and gifts the Spirit has blessed you with and how you can use them in the church and the world. Share your findings.

Pray:

- This week, pray how the Lord can use the power of the Spirit in you life to serve as His witness. Also, ask him to manifest God's gifts in you so that other's lives can be won for the kingdom.