

## **THE GREAT MANDATE**

God's Plan for Reaching the World

PART TWO: PHASE ONE:

The Empowerment of the Church

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 12, 2008**

*Par rhe sía:* Gk. Boldness, assurance, fearless confidence, freedom in speaking

*Par rhe síá zo mai:* Gk. To speak freely, to grow confident, to have boldness, to show assurance

### **GENERAL OBSERVATIONS**

1. After the OUTPOURING of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost there was an EXPLOSION of BOLDNESS among the FOLLOWERS of JESUS.
2. This EXPLOSION of BOLDNESS resulted in RAPID GROWTH for the EARLY CHURCH.
3. Through the BOLD and CONSISTENT witness of the early church the Gospel spread RAPIDLY in Jerusalem.
4. This SATURATION of Jerusalem with the message of Jesus would become FOUNDATIONAL to the spread of the Gospel elsewhere.
5. The BOLDNESS is KEY: Without it the spread of the Gospel would have been much slower thus providing the opportunity for the Gospel to be snuffed out before it got off the ground. Now you know why Jesus said:  
"But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**HAVE YOU BEEN CLOTHED WITH  
POWER FROM ON HIGH?**

## **RESPONSIVE READING**

Luke 24:36,44-49; Acts 1:3-8

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."**

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them,

**"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."**

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."

**After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.**

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

**For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

## RELATED SCRIPTURES

"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. Acts 2:22-24

When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. Acts 3:12-16

The next day the rulers, elders and teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and the other men of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is " `the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

When they saw the courage [boldness] of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by **the Holy Spirit** through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

" `Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One. '

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. **Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.** Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of

your holy servant Jesus."

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.** Acts 4:5,7-13,18-20,23-31

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist **the Holy Spirit!** Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him--you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit,** looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:51-56

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, **speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.** He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Acts 9:26-30

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.

**Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.**

**The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.** But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. **And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 13:44-46,49-52

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. **So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.** Acts 14:1-3

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. **He began to speak boldly** in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Acts 18:24-26

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive **the Holy Spirit** when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a **Holy Spirit**."

So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

**Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.** But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. Acts 19:1a,8-10

**For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.** Acts 28:30,31

And pray **in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly [boldly] make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly [boldly], as I should.** Ephesians 6:18-20

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and **the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ**, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage [boldness] so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.** Philippians 1:19,20