

Transformation

Luke 24:46-53 / Acts 1:1-14

Out of the blue a friend caught my attention with what I thought was a surprising statement. “For the next two weeks I’m not watching or listening to any news. I’ve come to the conclusion that I have become a *News Junkie*.” It caught my attention because he was always the one so well informed about world events of the day. He went on to say that he could see himself becoming so emotionally focused on the state of the world that he was becoming so negative, critical, angry, and preoccupied that it was affecting his relationship with his family, friends, and even his relationship with God.

It caught my attention for another reason. As I thought about it, I could see the same thing happening in my own life. The constant exposure to “the economic meltdown in Europe,” “the healthcare crisis,” “the shocking rise of unemployment,” “the threat of nuclear attack,” “disintegration in the home,” “the threat of the Thunder losing to the Lakers,” and “the disheartening political climate” continually flooding our minds cannot be good. It will begin to affect every part of our lives beginning with our own spirit which then pours into how we relate to everyone and everything around us. It can become a costly addiction.

This is not to say that we should not be well informed about the world in which we live, but it should sober us to take note as to what controls or governs our lives. As I am writing this, I have a fresh appreciation for some of the last words Jesus spoke to His disciples, “I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, . . . but sanctify them in the truth, Thy Word is truth.”

At the genesis of every broken relationship, every failure to make “right” decisions, to respond correctly to every person, of every moral failure, every hurtful word, every disregard for another is a preoccupation with present circumstances rather than God’s eternal truth. We become consumed with the present and how it affects us rather than becoming absorbed with the eternal and how God wants to work through us to affect others.

Nowhere do we see this principle more clearly taught than in the life of the disciples. They had become so caught up in the present destructive world that crucified their leader that they lost their spiritual compass and ignored the truth Jesus had so clearly taught. It left them negative, critical, angry, and hopeless—even cynical.

Had it not been for His love and grace, they too would have become consumed and unusable. But even in their failure, Jesus patiently nurtured them toward the transforming power that would grip each, magnetically draw them to a life purpose, and enable them to have an impact on the world.

In every sense of the word, Jesus offers that same transforming power to each of us this morning so we can choose to be consumed by God’s eternal Holy Spirit rather than by our present circumstances.

Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Act 1:8, “...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”
 - (a) We listed four areas that reflect the transforming power of Holy Spirit and that are expressed as a witness. How do you relate to each of these four areas?
 - (b) How would you define the limitations of His power in your life?

2. How does the truth of what Jesus *began* and is presently continuing to *do* impact how you approach your present circumstances?
 - (a) What are some of the most pressing circumstances?
 - (b) Based upon the four areas listed above, how do you envision or believe (based upon the power of Holy Spirit) you will be affected in how you approach your circumstances?

3. Think for a moment about the simplicity of what is involved in facing our present circumstance in the power of God’s Holy Spirit.
 - (a) What keeps us from appropriating His power?
 - (b) What is the first thing you can do to take that step?

“The world is too much with us; late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers...” William Wordsworth

Transformational Transition

The Acts of the Apostles

	<u>Luke</u>	<u>Acts</u>
From	Vol. I “1 st Account”	Vol. II “2 nd Account”
	What Jesus began	What Jesus is doing
	Limits of human ability	Unlimited spiritual power
	Spirit “with”	Spirit “indwelt”
	Person of Christ	Body of Christ
	Promise	Possession
	Luke 24:46-49	Acts 1:1-8
	Luke 24:50-53	Acts 1:9-14

Two Foundational Doctrines

Pneumatology - Study of Holy Spirit
Ecclesiology - Study of the church

THE PREPARATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

Acts 1:1-4

- √ Through CORRECTION
 - Facing the reality of human nature
 - Sin (unbelief)

- √ Through CONFIDENCE
 - Believing in the sovereignty of God

PRAYER Ephesians 3:14-21

- ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,
¹⁶ that He would grant *me*, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,
¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in *my* heart through faith; and that *I*, being rooted and grounded in love,
¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that *I* may be filled up to all the fullness of God.
²⁰ Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that *I* ask or think, according to the power that works within *me*,
²¹ to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

Amen.