

Anticipation

Acts 1:1-8

It was D.L. Moody who is credited with saying, “It remains to be seen what God will do with a man who gives himself up wholly unto Him.”

What a powerful statement. Imagine the potential, the impact, the influence any one of us sitting here this morning could have in the lives of those around us, our community, or even our world. Imagine for a moment the impact any one of us could have on our church. What could happen if that *moment* turned into an hour, then a day, a week, or perhaps a year? What would it do to our Mini Churches, Care Groups, or Cell Groups? “*It remains to be seen.*” What a contagious atmosphere of anticipation, expectation, and magnetism would take over if any one of us or a few of us would “give himself wholly unto Him.”

If Moody was right, I suppose it really comes down to an individual choice to be that person. So what is it that prevents us from giving ourselves totally unto Him? If we were to truly narrow it down, it would boil down to one issue—preoccupation with self. Perhaps this is why the Apostle Paul continually built on Jesus’ own words regarding “denial of self” when he wrote, “present your bodies a living sacrifice;” “I’ve been crucified with Christ; and it’s no longer I who live but Christ lives in me.”

The power of “self” affects every one of us, and when it’s all said and done we can so easily negate the possibility of what God will do with the one who gives himself wholly to Him.

Never was this made clearer to me than in the winter of 1966 at Kent State University. It was just Linda and I responsible to start the work of Campus Crusade for Christ. One of our first meetings was at the largest sorority house on campus. I was the speaker. Never had or perhaps *have* I ever felt more out of place, awkward, and inadequate. “I” was about to look like a fool in front of all those East Coast, rich, sophisticated sorority girls. Becoming sick to my stomach, I went to my regional director, Pete, moments before I was to speak and said, “Pete, I just can’t do it. I feel so inferior.” Pete’s response? “Bruce, just accept the fact that you’re inferior and trust Christ to speak through you.” It was the worst experience of my life until we discovered how many had come to Christ that night in spite of my preoccupation with “self.” As a matter of fact, I recently discovered there is a fourth generation believer in our congregation today whose spiritual lineage dates to that time at Kent.

We all have our reasons, excuses, inadequacies, but throughout the history of the church we—you and I—are the material God has always used to make a difference. Today we will discover something of the power that overcomes “self” and gives us the potential to become those people who “it remains to be seen what God will do through” if we give ourselves up wholly unto Him.

Life Response

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Gal. 2:20, “*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*”

Many of us may be familiar with this passage, and that can present a deeper problem than if we had never heard it at all, namely that we can become numb to its personal meaning. Ask God to enable you to see it in a fresh way and discover how it should speak to you now.

2. The Holy Spirit has given us as believers the power to tap into the very wisdom and thoughts of God. As you read 1 Cor. 2:10-16, think about the impact you can have on others, given the fact that you have the mind of Christ. (See James 1:2-6) What is central regarding the power to understand God's "truth"? Note the use of "Spirit."
3. Take an objective look at where your passions are focused? What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength . . . especially when applied to your "neighbor"? Who is exempt from receiving this love from you? What if estrangement from one person was what would keep you and/or FBC from impacting the world?
4. What is the most significant thing that has ever happened to you? (Acts 2:36-39) What is the most significant thing you can proclaim to another person?

"The world has yet to see what God can do with, and for, and through and by a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him."
 - D.L. Moody

WHAT DO YOU MOST ANTICIPATE?

Central Theme: The power of Holy Spirit who transforms lives which impacts our culture.
 The Individual Peter/Apostles Acts 2:14-39
 The Culture Jerusalem Acts 2:37-41

At the Core of Transformation:

Only the power of God, Holy Spirit

It's not the Plan to impact the world
 but the Preparation through
 the Power of the Holy Spirit in transformed
 People.

JUST WAIT UNTIL THE RIGHT MOMENT

Four Areas of Preparation:

1. THE POWER TO UNDERSTAND TRUTH

- The power of Holy Spirit *reveals*, opens God's truth (Scripture) to the believer.
- The power of Holy Spirit *enables* us to understand truth revealed.

1 Cor. 2:10-16

How? ?

Time in the Word	- What God says
Prayer in transparency	- Open/teachable
Meditation	- Soul interaction
Choice to apply (obey)	- filter every event/relationship/act

2. THE POWER TO OVERCOME OUR OLD (SIN) NATURE

Take what we now have, the power to understand (God's Word) and let it transform our lives.

- Begins at Spiritual Birth
John 3:3-6
- Continues as an act of the will
Rom. 6
Eph. 5:18_{ff}
Gal. 5:16_{ff}

How? ?

It's a moment by moment choice.

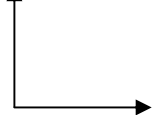
- 1 John 1:9 Confess
- Eph. 5:18 Appropriate
- 1 John 4:2-4 Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

3. THE POWER OF AFFECTION AND WILL

Perhaps the greatest litmus of authenticity

Matt. 22:37-39

↑ Love God with all



Love neighbor as self

2 Cor. 5:14

- * Profession
- * Possession
- * People
 - √ within the church-1 Cor. 1:10
 - √ outside the church

Eph. 4:25-32

What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit?

What if my unwillingness to _____ short-circuited God's power to accomplish what "the world has yet to see"?