

**Acts 1:4-8 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup>He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

<sup>8</sup>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.”

**44-01-05-Why Must We Wait?**

Pentecost, Holy Spirit, power, healing, help, hope

Acts 1:3-8

God wants the best for us, but He often requires us to wait for it.

**INTRODUCTION: (Text as Scripture Reading)**

–“*When you don’t know what to do—simply wait.*” That’s simply said but **not simply done**. [An author, **Richard Hendrix**: “*Second only to suffering, waiting may be the greatest teacher and trainer in godliness, maturity, and genuine spirituality most of us ever encounter.*”] **Why must we wait? HOM.idea.**

–The *Book of Acts would never have been written without Acts 1:8*, “*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.*” Jesus told them to wait for the Father’s promised power from on high. 120 of them did wait, for 10 days. But **what if some**—feeling cooped up and anxious to get going—had left *before* the wait was over? And what about us? **What if** we quit waiting before God sends the help we hope for? *It’s worth the wait, but waiting is hard, because...*

**I. Sometimes We Must Wait in the Midst of Pain**

- A. We may be waiting for God to bring *healing* for our physical pain from chronic disease and degeneration, (We may want to be well so badly that we walk on a bad leg before it’s healed or *overdo our activity while we’re still recovering from an illness.*)
- B. We may await relief from emotional pain from losing loved ones.
  1. Saying “good-bye” never diminishes *grief’s pain*. (A memorial service’s “farewell” can’t cancel *the memories* we take home.)
  2. “*Time does not heal all wounds,*” but God can heal all wounds in time. (Yet He often takes *longer* to do it *than we’d like to wait!*)
- C. We may be feeling relational pain from *conflicts* and *bitterness*.
  1. Friends & relatives can be so *upset* with each other that they *act like strangers*, each waiting for the other to apologize!
  2. A past hurt inflicted by someone can create *bitter enmity* that lasts a lifetime. (We may be waiting for the pain to subside, but God is waiting for us to forgive, so that He can *heal the wound!*)

**TRANS:** Jesus ministered *spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational healing*. But *even He* waited on the leading & power of the Holy Spirit

for His *healing ministry*— **Luke 5:17**, One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And **the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Jesus awaited the Father’s timing, and so must we. God wants the best for us, but He often requires us to wait for it.**

## II. Sometimes We Must Wait in the Midst of Work

A. When we have lots to do and little time, we cry, “*Help, Lord!*”

1. As we age, life doesn’t *slow down and get simpler*. [**Retirement is busier than most expect!** Why? Because life goes on! *Everything we waited to do till retirement, is now due to be done!* **Retirement is not for the weak!**]
2. And yet when we want to accomplish a real priority, we *prune away our unnecessary activities*, so that only the essential is left.

B. Jesus told His disciples the essential activity: “go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone.” (*but, before going, wait for power!*)

1. “*If it’s such an important job, let’s start now!*” (NO! “*Wait!*”)
2. “*But world evangelization will take planning! We’d better hurry up and brainstorm for ideas!*” (NO! Jesus said to wait!)
3. “*OK! We’ve prayed for 10 days now! It’s time we hit the road, or they’ll say we’re so heavenly minded that we’re no earthly good!*” (NO! “we must wait, wait, wait on the Lord....”)

**TRANS:** [**John Milton** wrote a famous line: “*They also serve who only stand and wait.*”] “*Carpe diem!*” is the cry of youth, yet many young people may “*seize the day*” only to find at sunset that *they were chasing the wind*. But those who wait get to ride the wind!— **Isa 40:30-31** (NKJV), Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. **God wants the best for us, but He often requires us to wait for it.**

## III. Sometimes We Must Wait in the Midst of the Unknown

A. The disciples anticipated the familiar hopes that were common in their day—*dreams about a glorious future*. (So, they asked in **v.6**, “*Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?*”)

1. Modern society has no power over an unknown future but tries making us think we can control it! Jesus told the disciples (and us!) in v.7 to let go of the future and let God handle it: “*It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*”

2. All we really need to know about the future is that, if we follow Him, we will experience life eternal—life abundant!
- B. However, when Jesus did describe the future, He was honest about the difficult things we might *have to face*.

1. Indeed, life is hard, even dangerous, but God is good!— **John 16:33**, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”
2. If life wasn’t dangerous, then salvation’s *promised deliverance* would be *meaningless*. (Skeptics often ridicule us, saying that we live in dreamland by *hoping for salvation in Christ*, but by *ignoring the need for His salvation*, they’re living in *denial!*)
3. We do “have peace” in this world of *unknown dangers*, if we place our *hope and trust* in the One Who has “overcome the world.”

C. Our Christian hope is not a conjured-up emotional attitude that merely *puts a good face on a bad world*. NO! It’s a supernatural infusion of God’s grace by the power of the Holy Spirit— **Rom 15:13**, May **the God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Spirit’s outpouring in our lives empowers us to do all that God calls us to do, overflowing us “with hope,” even in the midst of ongoing pain, unfinished tasks, and unknown circumstances.)
2. Sometimes the Holy Spirit does bring healing, but He *always brings* “power” to share our faith in Christ. (The *overflowing “hope”* in us is meant to flow out to others, so they can enjoy the same “joy and peace” we have, through *trusting “the God of hope.”*)

## CONCLUSION:

—**God wants the best for us, but He often requires us to wait for it.** Abundant life isn’t living a perfect life in a perfect world but living an imperfect life in an imperfect world with a perfect Savior! Jesus says to wait for God’s “power from on high,” not just as our own personal source of “joy and peace” on life’s journey, but as a “hope” *overflowing to others*. May each of us expectantly wait for daily, divine empowerment from the Holy Spirit, not just during Pentecost season, but every day, all year long, for the rest of our lives.