

Transforming Daily

“... *Wait* ...”

Acts 1:4

Many believers miss this little word in the midst of this big command to “wait for the Promise of the Father” (notice the “P” is capitalized referring to the Holy Spirit). After Jesus was arrested, tried/brutalized, imprisoned, mocked, scandalized, crucified, raised from the dead, seen by many, restored Peter (and the rest of the disciples), He ascended to heaven, but before He doing so, He told His disciples not to leave Jerusalem, and to “wait for the Promise of the Father.”

Of course you and I know that the Promise of the Father is the Holy Spirit who was sent at Pentecost. At His coming, the disciples received power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the farthest parts of the world (v.8). That is why the disciples were told to wait. They were going to be and were empowered at Pentecost in fulfillment of Matthew 28:18-20. All the disciples had to do was wait. Is that all they did? No.

If you read the rest of the story (v.12-26), you will find that the disciples took it upon themselves to cast lots for an apostle to take the place of Judas. Were they told to do this? No. How many of the original apostles were chosen by casting lots? None, Jesus personally called all of them. How many apostles were there originally? Twelve were chosen by Christ, including Judas for the purpose of fulfilling Scripture (Psalms 41:9; 22:1-31). Someone says, “Verse 20 written as it turns out about Judas, says that someone will take his place” (Psalm 109:8). That is true, but not of the disciples choosing was another to take his place, but of Christ’s. So who was the one of Christ’s own choosing? Saul who became Paul, the apostle “born out of due time” (1 Corinthians 15:8-10), on the road to Damascus, was of Christ’s own choosing (Acts 9, read 8:1-3 for context).

What does it really matter? For this context, it really doesn’t matter except to point out how hard it is to wait on the Lord and follow His instructions. Even the early believers had a hard time doing so. Why? The reasons why are probably many: impatience, lack of faith, lack of prayer, pride, fear, excitement, rebellion, defiance, and immaturity are just a few reasons that come to mind. What does really matter is can *you* wait on the Lord and the instruction of His Word?

The Bible tells us that our strength, power, might and liberty are not of our own making, but sourced in God and experienced by us as we wait on the Lord (Isaiah 40:31). Can you wait on the Lord? Do you wait on the Lord? Will you wait on the Lord? Let me encourage you that when you are tempted to be impatient, lacking faith, lacking in prayer, prideful, fearful, excitable, rebellious, defiant, and immature, or experiencing any other physical, emotional, mental, psychological and spiritual challenge, just wait on the promises of God’s Word.