

Hurry Up and Wait

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Two)

Acts 1:1-5

A. Change is hard. The only thing more difficult is to wait for change

1. Now Jesus is leaving

“He was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from sight” (Acts 1:9)

2. Jesus leaves them his last words of wisdom and encouragement

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait...” (Acts 1:4)

“Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hoped for, we wait in the darkness for a flame we cannot light. We waiting in fear for a happy ending we cannot write. We wait for a ‘not yet’ that feels like a ‘not ever.’” (Lewis Smedes)

B. So what do the disciples do while they wait?

THEY YIELDED

A. In Acts, the supernatural becomes commonplace; lives are transformed; and community grows

1. In a time of renewal and reimagining, it’s important to go to Scripture
2. It is easy to get caught up in what the Church ought to do and forget what the Church ought to be

“I worked too hard to build a crowd, I forgot to build a church.” (A retired pastor)

B. Waiting reminds us God’s Church and Kingdom are not about us

1. God is building His Church in his way and in his time
2. If the Church is not supernatural, it can only be superficial

THEY ANTICIPATED

A. “You’ll experience God in ways you have never experienced God before”

1. Jesus says (all) who follow him will receive the supernatural power of God
2. This promise was very personal for them. They would receive power!

B. 1:8 - “You[I] will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you [me]”

C. Anticipate the supernatural power coming your way through the Spirit

THEY PRAYED

“Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. And when they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying...They all joined together constantly in prayer.”
(Acts 1:12,14)

A. Notice they are all praying. Notice they are all praying together

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.” (Acts 2:1)

“All the believers were together and had everything in common.” (Acts 2:44)

“They raised their voices together in prayer.” (Acts 4:24)

“And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s colonnade.” (Acts 5:12)

B. They were unified; and it was their praying together that unified them

THEY CAME TOGETHER

A. Does this mean they didn’t have any disagreements or differences?

1. No. But they dealt with them in a way that preserved the unity
2. The language that unified the church was prayer

B. A few weeks before Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying

1. He was praying everyone who followed him would be one
2. A few weeks later, all 120 members were unified and praying!

C. The Church was birthed in prayer - together

“I have always felt that Pentecost happened, not just according to a date on the calendar, but in response to a reconciliation among the disciples.” (Commentator)

1. The Holy Spirit would not (could not) be given until they came together
2. The followers of Christ came together and healed their relational wounds
3. God waited...and then revealed himself in ways he never had before

CONCLUSION

A. The early Church learned good things come to those who wait on God

B. My prayer for us: God do it again. Do it again, Lord!