

Still Called, Still Sent (1)

The Promise Still Stands

Acts 1:1–11

Introduction: It's the second Sunday after Easter — the lilies are fading, the eggs are eaten, and the grandkids have gone back home.

But here's the question for us today: What now?

What are we supposed to do in the wake of the resurrection?

Today we begin a new sermon series I have entitled, "Still Called, Still Sent," that will answer that question.

Easter wasn't the end of the story, nor was it ever intended to be — it was the beginning of a movement.

In Acts chapter 1, we see Jesus, risen from the grave, standing with His disciples one last time before ascending into heaven — and He leaves them with something powerful: The promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

I. The promise wasn't just for then — It's for now:

A. Jesus gives an assurance -

1. Jesus gives us an assurance that His promises are trustworthy. (Jn. 14:16-17)
2. Luke, the historian and physician, wrote to confirm that Jesus resurrection from the dead. (v.3)

B. Jesus gives them a command and a promise- (Acts 1:4)

1. Jesus told His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit because they needed power from above. (v.5)
2. God's Spirit is for all people (Joel 2:28) — young, old, male, female — including the silver-haired saints among us. (See Lk. 24:49; Acts 2; 2:39; Jn. 14:18; Ps. 71:18; Eph. 5:18)

II. The power wasn't for comfort — It was for commission:(Acts 1:6–8)

- A. The question -** The disciples wanted peace and clarity, but Jesus gave them a mission.(v. 6)
- B. The correction -** He told them: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (vv. 7-8)
- C. The clarification -** Their calling was to be His mission (v.8)
- D. The commission-** starting where they were and moving outward. (v.8)
- E. Our commission -** God isn't looking for your ability, He's looking for your availability. *If you're still here, you're not done — you're still deployed!*

III. The perspective wasn't on the sky — but on the mission: (Acts 1:9–11)

- A. The action –** (v.9) *Jesus' ascension – indicating a transition not just in location, but in responsibility confirming Jesus' earthly ministry was complete.*
- B. The attendees –**
 1. After Jesus ascended, the disciples stood staring at the sky.
 2. Two angels appeared and asked: "*Why do you stand here looking into the sky?*"
- C. The assurance –** *The ascension confirmed Jesus' His earthly ministry was complete and anticipated His glorious return.*
- D. The application –**
 1. The mission of Christ was now placed in the hands of His disciples (the church).
 2. The message: don't just stand there — go walk in what is.
 3. Your witness now might be more powerful than ever — your voice carries weight. (ps. 92:14; Josh. 14:10-12; Lk. 2:36-38; Apostle John Rev. 1:9; 1, 2, 3 John)

These examples teach us that a heavenly hope should fuel earthly faithfulness.

Conclusion and challenge: Friends, the same Jesus who spoke to those disciples is speaking to us through this Scripture. And I believe His message to our church, and especially to our seniors, is:

"I'm not done with you yet." My promise to you remains, my Spirit is in you. Rise up and fulfill the purpose I have for you in this season of your life."