

Acts 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

1:4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

1:5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

1:10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,

1:11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

【From Today's Sermon】

Last week, we read the Great Commission of the Lord in Matthew 28.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..."

Because the Lord is the supreme authority and the powerful One, there is meaning in becoming His disciples and being led by Him.

"The Father has determined the time and the circumstances by His own authority... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

This passage clearly states that we receive the Holy Spirit through the authority and power of God the Father and are called to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. The word "authority" means right, ability, supernatural power, and governing power.

When the Holy Spirit comes, we also receive the power granted by the authority and are

empowered by the One who governs all things in this world to become witnesses of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the seal for this purpose. The Holy Spirit is the support and backing for this purpose. The Holy Spirit descends upon us, enters into us, dwells with us, fills us with the power of God, and will surely make us witnesses of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Let us move forward this week, relying on the Lord who said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Good morning, everyone.

Last week, we experienced sudden rain and strong winds, a sudden change from the summer-like heat of a few days ago, and we could feel the chill of the rainy season approaching. I hope you are all doing well.

Next week is finally Pentecost.

"When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

This event encouraged and sustained the church, which continues to grow throughout the world today.

Let us read the Word with the hope that we too will be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit this week.

Last week's passage contained the following words.

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came up to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The word "authority" is a truly powerful word. It means rights, abilities, supernatural power, and the power to govern.

Power is what gives authority. Those who have the power to govern are authorities and rulers. The One who has all authority in heaven and on earth. The One who is full of power, overflowing with power, and who governs all things in heaven and on earth. This is who Jesus is.

What an honorable work it is for us to proclaim this powerful One, who is none other than God, and to lead others to become His disciples. Jesus, who said, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age," guides us in our work.

And now for today's passage. The word "authority" appears in today's passage as well.

1:3 After Jesus suffered, he showed himself alive to many with many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

1:4 While eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of my Father, which you have heard from me.

1:5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:6 So when the disciples were gathered together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or dates that the Father has set by his own authority.

Jesus spent 40 days of the 49 days of this seven-week period with his disciples. If the timing mentioned in verse 3 refers to the time just before Pentecost, then he spent even more days with his disciples.

"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men, who had risen from the dead, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God."

Jesus suffered, died on the cross for our salvation, but was raised from the dead by the power of God the Father, and demonstrated that He had indeed conquered death and was alive through numerous clear proofs, which continued for forty days, as this verse states. And Jesus spoke these words toward the end:

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for what I have told you, for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? It became clear on the day of Pentecost.

1:6 Now when the disciples were gathered together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

When they were told that they would soon be baptized with the Holy Spirit, which was not like the baptism John had given with water, they naturally wondered when it would be given. They also thought that it was related to the restoration of the kingdom of Israel, which had fallen under Roman rule.

1:7 He said to them, “The timing and circumstances are not for you to know, but for my Father in heaven.

1:8 But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The times and seasons are determined by the Father in His own authority.

Although “time” and “season” seem to have similar meanings, in Greek they are expressed by two different words: ‘chronos’ and “kairos.” Chronos refers to time as measured by the clock, such as years, months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds. On the other hand, “kairos” refers to the perfect moment when an event occurs, a special event, the right time, or the appointed time—a moment that stands out as uniquely special compared to any other time. God, with His authority, governs the vast expanse of time and also directs special events.

Some people perceive a year as an incredibly long time, while others perceive it as a fleeting moment. Today is June 1, but some people consider this day to be just another day, while others consider it a day they will never forget. God rules over both the long span of time and the special moments within it.

The Book of Ecclesiastes

3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted;

3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

3:6 A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

3:7 A time to tear, a time to sew, a time to be silent, a time to speak,

3:8 A time to love, a time to hate, a time to fight, a time to make peace.

3:9 What does the worker gain from his labor?

3:10 I have seen the work that God has given to the children of men to be occupied with.

3:11 Everything God does is beautiful in its time. God has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot find the end of it.

1:7 They said to him, "The time and season are set by the Father, and you have no authority to change them."

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."

God is full of authority and power. He is full of supernatural power, governing power, wisdom, and strength, and He is an eternal being who is far beyond our understanding. We cannot possibly determine the timing. We cannot interfere with God's decisions regarding what is fast or slow, or what day it should be.

However, we too can receive power. That power is the Holy Spirit given to us by God.

1:8 But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power and will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The power of the Holy Spirit. That is the power given to us to testify about the Lord Jesus. We can testify and bear witness about Jesus from near and far, to the ends of the earth, throughout the world. That is our power.

1:9 When he had said this, Jesus was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

1:10 As he was going up, they kept their eyes on heaven, and suddenly two men in white clothes stood beside them.

1:11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven."

The disciples stood there, staring at the sky in amazement.

The angel said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven."

Don't just stand there staring at the sky. Look ahead and get to work. Testify about Jesus. It does not matter when Jesus will return or when we will be called to heaven. We are told to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to the task of witnessing before us. We tend to feel vague anxiety, worry about the future, fantasize about things we cannot change, and dwell on the past. But we are taught to live in the present, witnessing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship service.

What the authoritative and powerful One, the One who rules with power, has determined has come upon us. Thank You for Your words, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will receive power," and "You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." It is our joy to testify about our Lord Jesus, who is full of power, love, and grace, and to testify by the power of the Holy Spirit. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.