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SHIELD OF FAITH

"Take Up the Shield of Faith" - Paul

Monday June 10, 2019

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. — Acts 1:8

Witnesses

What does it mean to be a witness of Jesus? God says to his followers in this verse that they will receive power. He says the Holy Spirit is going to come on you. He promises to make his followers witnesses to the end of the earth. These promises didn't die with those first century followers. The Christian Church all over the world believes that this narrative is still playing out. There are witnesses to his gospel today. They are filled with the Holy Spirit. They have received power and they are witnessing all over the world. The Western application, however, of this verse has soured. **Christianity was absorbed by the culture and mixed with infinite ideologies, opinions and "leaders." This brew is now toxic.** This new "secular" culture produces death (debt), not life (creation). It leads many into a bottomless pit of spiritual confusion. Those early followers of Jesus had only Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They were not the culture-shapers. All of the first Apostles were martyred for their faith. Many were tortured, suffered in prison and died in poverty. Obviously they didn't think of their Jesus-granted power as a promise of prosperity and wealth. **They knew that living by the moral law of Jesus meant they would need His special grace to stay true and strong.** I think they knew that moving out through Jerusalem to the ends of the earth was going to be difficult. *They knew the power that Jesus was talking about had nothing to do with being nice.* They knew they were going to need this power to survive. **The Western World is starting to develop ears to hear and eyes to see men like this.** Men who strive to live by the moral law of Jesus Christ. And that law isn't nice. It is true. The standard of Jesus Christ is high indeed. Read His sermon on the mount. Men of poverty in Christ know the way out of this toxic mess. Stop and listen ... really listen ... to that preacher's call for repentance. Open the Bible, go to church, and think about what is being said *for yourself*. **Stop thinking that everything spiritual has to be interpreted for you by someone smarter than you.** The experts have become the last people you should trust. Pray. You can discern what is good, true and beautiful. Do it! And when you know it ... when you find it, act on it. All of us might get a century of life at the most. I've lived just over half that amount. I KNOW that the person who made that first half special is Jesus Christ. My desires, passions and opinions were usually distractions. I feel to the marrow of my bones a sense of gratitude for the FACT that He forgives me — that He meets me in my weaknesses — that He turns those weaknesses into strengths through repentance. **Join with me today in praise and thanksgiving for His infinite mercies! And let's get busy saving our nation for our kids and grandkids.**

Call me if I can help. 1-207-956-0819.

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