

Dunamis | Acts 1:8

Introduction

A. Before returning to Heaven 2,000+ years ago, Jesus commissioned His followers with this global mandate:

Mark 16:15

¹⁵“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”

B. This mandate is called, “The Great Commission”

1. In Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19-20 Christ tells us **two** specific things:

a. First, **what** to do:

i. “Go”

aa. This is not a suggestion; it’s a command

bb. “Go” means, “charge forward”; “move onward”; “get up and move out”

ii. “Preach the Gospel”

aa. This is “Evangelism”

bb. To “preach the Gospel” means, “to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ”—

aa-I. God became human to reconcile believing sinners to God through His sacrificial, propitiatory death on the cross, and His bodily and historical resurrection from the dead

aa-II. Salvation is God’s free-gift to sinners, and sinners receive it by faith in Christ Jesus

iii. “Make disciples”

aa. This is “Mentorship”

bb. To “make disciples” means, “to lead others to Christ, and then, upon conversion, mentor them in their new relationship with Christ

b. Second, **where** to go:

i. Jesus said, “**into all the world**” (see Mark 16:15)

ii. Jesus said, “**all the nations**” (see Matthew 28:19)

iii. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “**Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

iv. Besides Christ’s followers in the 1st century A.D., this commission applies to **US** as well here in the 21st century

v. Let’s think about where Jesus told **US** to go:

aa. First, “**Jerusalem**”

aa-I. “Jerusalem” represents the **city** in which we live—San Diego and Chula Vista, California

aa-II. The city of San Diego is the 8th largest city in the U.S., 2nd in California, and 1st in San Diego County with more than 1 million residents

aa-III. The city of Chula Vista is the 2nd largest city in San Diego County with 230,000 residents

bb. Second, “**Judea**”

bb-I. “Judea” represents the **county** in which we live—San Diego County

bb-II. San Diego County has a population of more than 3 million

bb-III. San Diego County is made up of many cities and towns and neighborhoods—such as Imperial Beach, with a population of more than 26,000

cc. Third, “**Samaria**”

cc-I. “Samaria” represents the **counties** near us, and the **state** in which we live—such counties as, Orange County and Los Angeles County, and the state of California

cc-II. Orange County has a population of more than 3 million

cc-III. Los Angeles County has a population of more than 9 million

cc-IV. The state of California has a population of more than 37 million people

dd. Fourth, “all the world”; “all nations”; the end of the earth”

dd-I. There is an estimated 236 countries in the world

dd-II. There is an estimated 6,500+ spoken languages in the world

dd-III. The current population of the earth is estimated at 6.82 billion

dd-IV. An estimated 2.83 billion are unreached with the Gospel of Christ (41.5% of the earth’s population)

dd-A. The majority of these people live in the “10/40 Window”

dd-B. The “10/40 Window” is an area of the world that extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees North of the equator, and stretches from North Africa across to China

dd-C. In addition, the “10/40 Window” contains the overwhelming majority of the world’s least evangelized megacities—that is, those with a population of more than one million

(The top 50 least evangelized megacities are all in the “10/40 Window”)

C. In **Acts 1:8** Jesus told His followers “**how**” God would accomplish the Great Commission through them—and us

Acts 1:8

⁸“...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.”

a. We will focus-in on this point in this morning

b. We will consider three things in this message:

i. First, **God’s people**

ii. Second, **God’s power**

iii. Third, **God’s promise**

God's People

⁸“...you...you...you...”

A. The Great Commission was given to “people”

B. God uses people to “preach the Gospel” and “make disciples”

1. This fact is demonstrated over and over again in the Bible—

2. For example, **Romans 10:14-15**

¹⁴How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

C. The people God uses to “preach the Gospel” and “make disciples” are those “born of the Spirit”

1. The people Jesus **sent out** were those He **breathed on**—

John 20:21-22

²¹So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” ²²And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

2. These people were “born of the Spirit”

3. We should be people reconciled to God telling people to be reconciled to God—

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

¹⁸Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

D. Are you born of the Spirit? If so, God wants to use you to “preach the Gospel” and “make disciples”

God's Power

⁸“...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...”

A. First, the **degree** of God's power

1. The Greek word translated “power” is “dunamis”

2. “Dunamis” is translated “power”, “strength”, and “might” in the New Testament

3. Our English words, “dynamic”, “dynamo”, and “dynamite” come from “dunamis”

a. All the words derived from the stem **duna** have the meaning of “being able, capable”

b. The opposite of **dunamis** is **adunatos**: “unable, weak, impossible”

4. In the case of Acts 1:8, it describes **God’s limitless supernatural achieving power**

5. In the Book of Acts, God’s power was exhibited over and over again in God’s people—

a. God’s power seen in their **service**

Acts 6:8

⁸And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

b. God’s power seen in their **preaching**

Acts 4:31, 33

³¹They spoke the word of God with boldness...³³and with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

6. In response, **the world** took notice—

a. Their God-empowered life caused the pagan world to ask, “What meaneth this?” (see Acts 2:12)

b. Listen to what else the world said about these first Christians:

Acts 5:28

²⁸"Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine...

Acts 17:6

⁶These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

Acts 11:26

²⁶And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch

7. God's power enabled the first Christians to spread the Gospel and establish churches throughout the ancient known world—

Colossians 1:3-6

³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as it has also in **all the world**, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth...

1. This was done without 21st century **travel** and 21st century **technology**

2. This was done by **God's limitless supernatural achieving power**

B. Second, the SOURCE of God's power

1. It is **God the Holy Spirit**

2. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”

a. In Acts 1:5 Jesus called this, “The Baptism with the Holy Spirit”

b. The Baptism with the Spirit is different than being born of the Spirit

i. When we are born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes “inside” us

When we are baptized with the Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes “upon” us

ii. When we are born of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ Jesus

When we are baptized with the Spirit, Christ Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit

iii. The result of being born of the Spirit is salvation

The result of being baptized with the Spirit is power to be an effective witness for Christ in this world

3. We must depend on the Holy Spirit to carry-on and carryout God’s work His way, in His power

For example, this is seen in the life and ministry of Zerubbabel—

Zechariah 4:1-10 (ESV)

¹And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. ²And he said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. ³And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” ⁴And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” ⁵Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” ⁶Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts. ⁷Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’”

⁸Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ⁹“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel...

4. **Vance Havner** (1901-1986): “We are not going to move this world by criticism of it nor conformity to it, but by the combustion within it of lives ignited by the Spirit of God.”

C. Third, the **demonstration** of God’s power

1. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “[you shall be witnesses to Me](#)”

2. Being baptized with God's Spirit, Christ's followers would be empowered to be effective **witnesses** for Christ in this world

3. A "witness" is someone that testifies to what he has seen and heard

4. The first Christians testified about Jesus Christ from first-hand experience—

Acts 4:19-20

¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

1 John 1:3

³That which we have seen and heard we declare to you...

5. God empowered the first Christians to be His witnesses in this lost world

The word "witness" is used **29 times** in the book of Acts as either a verb or a noun

6. We need God's power to be effective **witnesses** for Christ in this world

For example, consider the Apostle Peter—

In Acts 2, the same man that disassociated himself from Jesus as a coward before a young girl is preaching to a crowd numbering more than 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost with courage and conviction

What happened?

The answer is: He was baptized with the Spirit, and empowered with God's power to be a bold witness for Christ

7. Are you a bold, Spirit-filled witness for Christ—in your home, school, and work—this world?

8. God wants to empower you by His Spirit and use you to testify of Christ in this world

God's Promise

⁸...you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

A. Note the word “shall”

This is not a word of “probability”; instead, “certainty”

B. Until Christ returns, God will be using His Spirit-empowered people to “preach the Gospel” and “make disciples” from Jerusalem to the end of the earth

C. The Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered, Spirit-led Church advances forward with this assurance:

Matthew 24:14

¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Revelation 5:8-10

⁸Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”

D. I want to participate in Christ’s Great Commission because it cannot fail

E. May God baptize us with His Spirit, empower us with His power, and use us for His glory as His witnesses in this world