

EMPOWERED FOR THE LAST DAYS

- c. We must, therefore, live with a sense of urgency.

Sermon in a Sentence: We must be empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill our mission for the last days.

Sermon Purpose: To see believers baptized in the Holy Spirit so that they may participate in God's last-days harvest.

Text: Acts 2:17

Introduction:

1. The final days in preparation for any event are always a time of increased and urgent activity (i.e. a wedding).
2. Our text speaks of the "last days," a time of increased and urgent activity in the spiritual realm.
3. Based on our text, we will ask and answer three questions about the Last Days:

I. What Is Meant by the Phrase "The Last Days?"

- A. The ancient Jews saw the Last Days as a time of Messianic blessing.
 1. A time when God will bring judgment on the ungodly.
 2. And vindication to His people.
- B. In the New Testament we have a fuller revelation of the Last Days.
 1. Peter identified the Last Days as a time of the pouring out of God's Spirit on all mankind (see text).
 2. It encompasses the entire church age.
 - a. It began with the coming of Jesus in the power of the Spirit and the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.
 - b. It extends until the second coming of Christ.
 3. We are living in the Last Days.
 - a. We are a "Last Days People."
 - b. We are living "between the times" (i.e., the time of Jesus' first and second comings).

II. What Are Some of the Dominant Characteristics of the Last Days?

(There are many. We will speak of four:)

- A. A Time of "finishing up" of God's plan for the nations (Acts 3:19-21).
- B. A time of a world-wide outpouring of the Spirit (i.e., "on all mankind").
- C. A time when the gospel will be preached in power to all nations (Acts 1:8; Matt. 24:14; Acts 2:21).
- D. A time of great prophetic activity and a powerful demonstration of the power of God against the kingdom of Satan (Acts 2:14-18).

III. What Are Some Implications of These Truths on Us Today as Pentecostal People?

- A. We must each realize that we have been called and empowered to participate in God's plan for the nations.
- B. As God's "Last Days People" we must sense the urgency of our task. (John 9:4).
- C. We must each be personally empowered by the Spirit to carry out our ministries (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5)

Conclusion:

- A. You ask, "How can I participate in God's great last days's mission?"
 1. Understand that you are one of God's "Last Days People."
 2. Be filled with the Spirit today.
- B. What must one do to be filled with the Spirit?
 1. Ask in faith (Luke 11:9-13).
 2. Receive by faith (Mark 11:24).
 3. Speak in faith (Acts 2:4).

— Denzil R. Miller