

Acts 1: 8 (ESV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

What do we need in order to be who God wants us to be and to do what God wants us to do?

The effect of great faith in Jesus Christ is twofold

Acts 4:32–34

Great faith in Christ _____ a bond of faith with people

Great faith in Christ _____ the bond of love to things

Two Examples:

Barnabas

Acts 4:36–37

Ananias

Acts 5:1–4

What was so wrong with Ananias and Sapphira?

#1 They loved their _____.

#2 They wanted to look more _____ than they really were.

#3 They _____.

#4 They _____ the Holy Spirit.

What was so right with Barnabas?

#1 He did not love _____.

#2 He did not want to appear more _____ than he was.

#3 He did not _____.

#4 He gave _____ to the Holy Spirit.

Worship in Song

How Great Thou Art

Oh How I Need You (Find You)

Reading

The Lord’s Prayer

Worship in Song

Our Father

Community Life

Offering

I Saw the Light

Message

“We Get to Be the Church—Far”

Pastor Joel K. Johnson

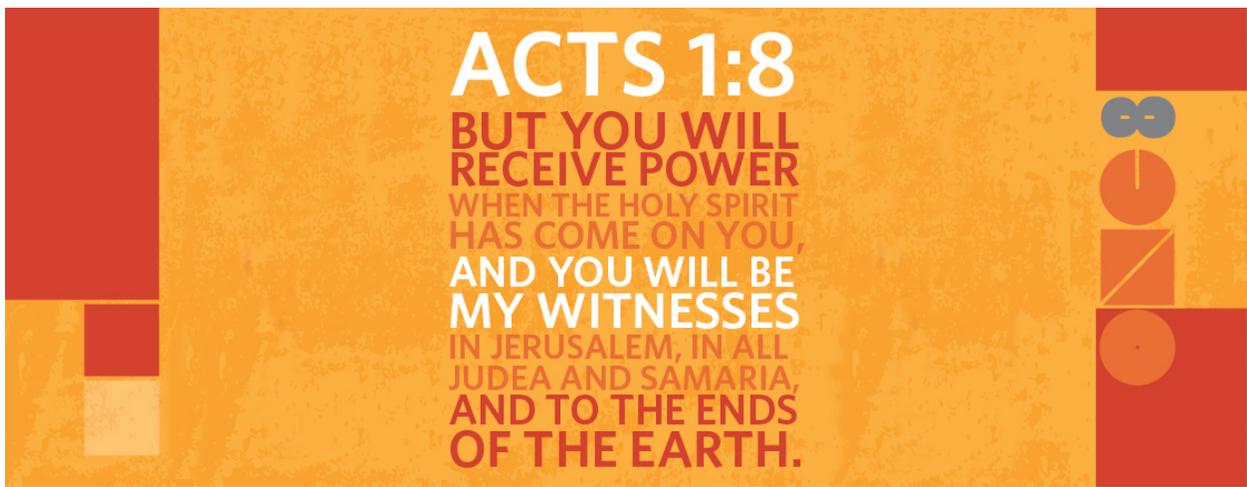
Closing Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

Today’s Message: Acts 4:32–5:11

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold³⁵ and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,² and with his wife’s knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet.³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it.⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.⁷ After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.⁸ And Peter said to her, “Tell me whether you⁹ sold the land for so much.” And she said, “Yes, for so much.”⁹ But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”¹⁰ Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.¹¹ And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.



ONE 8

We Get to Be the Church—Far Discussion Questions

Read Acts 4:32–37

1. Tell about a time or experience when someone's generosity toward you really encouraged your spirit.
2. What attitude did the believers have toward one another? (4:32)
3. How did the Christians show their unity? (4:32)
4. How effective was the apostles' witness? (4:33)
5. What godly quality enhanced the unity and service of the early Christians? (4:34)
6. What did some better-off Christians do from time to time? (4:34-35)
7. Why were there no needy persons among the members of the early church? (4:34)
8. Who was Barnabas? (4:36) What was exemplary about Barnabas? (4:36-37)
9. Read Acts 5:1-11.
 - a. What did Ananias do wrong?
 - b. What did Barnabas do right?
 - c. God struck down Ananias and his wife. Doesn't this seem harsh? We know he does not strike down others for the same offense. We are not told specifically from the text why they died, but what reasons do you think are feasible in light of the early stages of church growth? Why don't see God judge the same way now?
10. What specific principles might apply from the early church, Barnabas, and Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 4:32-5:11 to the church of Westwood as we seek to follow God's mission and impact the world here, near and far?