

Acts 1:8 – The Message, the Messenger, the Method

Gene Warr

I. Introduction.

A. If power is to be released into our lives, we must consider three things. (Acts 1:8)

II. The message: repentance and remission from sin. (Luke 24:46-47)

A. The message is the cross, which is the road sign to heaven.

B. Repentance is a change of mind and conduct towards God, ourselves and others.

C. Conversion and repentance go together. Repentance is also necessary for the Christian life. (Acts 3:19)

D. By acknowledging the truth, we repent.

E. God brings us to repentance through the Holy Spirit.

F. We either accept the message or reject it.

III. The messenger.

A. The messenger must exhibit a life of holiness. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 4:17)

B. The messenger needs a vision. (Acts 10:38)

C. Principles for determining a matter is right or wrong.

1. Does the Bible say it is wrong? (John 14:21; 1 Samuel 15:22)

2. Will it hurt my mind? (Philippians 2:5)

3. Will it hurt my body? (1 Corinthians 6:9)

4. Will it enslave me? (1 Corinthians 6:12)

5. Is it good stewardship? (1 Corinthians 5:2)

6. Will it glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31)

7. Will it profit and edify others? (1 Corinthians 14:21)

8. Will it help me to serve? (1 Corinthians 9:19)

9. Is it worth imitating? (1 Corinthians 11:1)

10. Will it cause other to stumble? (1 Corinthians 8:9; 2 Corinthians 6)

11. Is it the best? (Philippians 1:9-11)

D. How holiness can be yours: confess your sin, forsake your sin and ask God to fill you with the Spirit, receive the Spirit and hold your ground. (Ephesians 5:18; 6:13; Isaiah 48:12; Job 23:10; Proverbs 23:12; Colossians 1:11-12)

E. The messenger must be disciplined with the disciplines such as the quiet time, Bible study and witness.

F. There is new identity truth that must be approached in balance. (Romans 6; Galatians 2:20; Romans 7; Galatians 5:13)

G. Discipline must be approached in balance. Righteousness is a gift, but there is something that we can do. The spiritual disciplines put us in a place where God can bless us. (Romans 5:17; Galatians 6:7; Mark 4:26; Romans 8:29)

IV. The methods.

A. Our testimony is not the gospel—it is the means by which we can present the gospel.

B. Our testimony attracts people and give people answers to hard questions.

C. Suggestions about where to start.

1. Become thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself.
2. Set your face toward transformation.
3. Put yourself in the way of God's blessing through the disciplines.
4. Do a thorough job of repenting.
5. Make thorough restitution wherever possible.
6. Bring your life in according to God's commandments.
7. Be serious minded.
8. Marry your interests.
9. Begin to witness.
10. Believe in God.

V. Conclusion.

Application questions:

1. What is the message of salvation we are to share?

2. What is the mental balance we should obtain in the spiritual disciplines?

3. How can you share your testimony along with a gospel presentation? Write it out below.
