

March 1, 2015

SETTING A NEW DIRECTION FOR LIFE

**Living in the Power of the Gospel**

**Acts 11:1-26**

The book of Acts is the continued story of God's transforming power at work in and through the lives of the disciples of Jesus. We see the truth of His words from **Acts 1:8** become a reality: ***"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."*** These words of Jesus are a reminder for us today of our responsibility to fulfill His purpose and plan by living in the power of the gospel.

1. **We must be filled and led by the Holy Spirit!**

*"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message."* **Acts 10:44 (NIV)**

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."* **Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NIV)**

*"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."* **Galatians 5:22-25 (NLT)**

2. **We must keep from isolating ourselves from the world.**

*"The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went*

*up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.'" Acts 11:1-3 (NIV)*

*"While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and 'sinners' came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?'"*

**Matthew 9:10-11 (NIV)**

*"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."* **1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)**

3. **We must obey with courage and confidence!**

*"The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house."* **Acts 11:12 (NIV)**

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."* **2 Tim. 1:7 (NLT)**

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*  
**Philippians 4:13 (NASB)**

4. **We must live in true repentance.**

*"When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.'" Acts 11:18 (NIV)*

*“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”* **Romans 2:1-4 (NIV)**

*“The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* **2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)**

*“Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God.”* **Matthew 3:8 (NLT)**

##### **5. We make sure our lives proclaim Jesus!**

*“The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”*  
**Acts 11:26 (NIV)**

*“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”* **Philippians 3:10-12 (NIV)**

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*  
**Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)**

*“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.”* **John 20:31 (NIV)**