

ADVENTURING WITH GOD: Following in the Apostles' Footsteps

Reaching Our World *Acts 1:1–11*



LET'S BEGIN HERE

In the first chapter of the book of Acts, the apostles were gathered in Jerusalem, waiting and even a bit confused. Would the kingdom of Israel be restored now that Jesus had risen from the dead? What was the nature of the kingdom of God? What did Jesus mean when He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”?

Jim Elliot once wrote in his journal, “Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.”¹ Jim committed his life to sharing the gospel with several unreached tribes in Ecuador. He ministered there successfully for several years with his wife, Elisabeth. But when Jim and four missionary friends tried to establish contact with the reclusive Auca Indian tribe, they were suddenly and brutally murdered by fierce Auca warriors. Incredibly, Jim Elliot’s desire to share Christ with unreached Indian tribes lived on through his courageous wife, Elisabeth. She eventually returned to Ecuador to minister to the Auca Indians—the very people who had killed her husband. She shared the message of God’s love with the Aucas and saw many come to faith in Christ.



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1. The Adventures of the Apostles

Like the Elliots, Jesus’ disciples knew what it meant to “live to the hilt” as they encountered one adventure after another. Some aspects of God and His kingdom remain incomprehensible and mysterious. But we know this: God dots our pilgrimage from earth to heaven with incredible adventures and amazing serendipity. We don’t “retire” from the Christian life!



Quotable

*The deep work of
the Holy Spirit
in our lives is
what gives us
the gumption to
stay at it.*

—Charles R. Swindoll



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2. Four Contrasts Regarding the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5–11)

The Holy Spirit is not a symbol but a reality. The disciples probably wondered about baptism with the Holy Spirit. But they soon witnessed His presence in all His glory.

The sending of the Holy Spirit is not a program but a power. Before the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples were confused about Israel's return to political prominence. Jesus corrected their mistaken notions regarding the kingdom's nature, extent, and arrival.

The apostles were not just promoters; they were witnesses. God's Spirit soon enabled the apostles to witness to others concerning the power of Jesus. Just the gospel was enough. The Bible never mentions witnesses exalting a particular church; these witnesses always pointed to Jesus.

God's kingdom is not limited; it's universal. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).



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LET'S LIVE IT

Oswald Chambers wrote in his book, *My Utmost for His Highest*,

Certainty is the mark of commonsense life—gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation.²

When we choose to let “gracious uncertainty” and God’s serendipity define our faith, we experience His blessing to the fullest.

The Holy Spirit, who possesses the power to resurrect Jesus, is at work in you. Through the Spirit, you have everything you need to be a witness for Jesus. As Christians, we don’t ever retire. God will always have a witnessing task for us. Let’s wait with breathless expectation for His next assignment.

What “new” things do you feel God wants to do in your life right now?

ENDNOTES

1. Jim Elliot, “Jim Elliot,” http://www.theopedia.com/Jim_Elliot, accessed September 25, 2014.
2. Oswald Chambers, “Gracious Uncertainty,” in *My Utmost for His Highest*, ed. James Reimann (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992), April 29.



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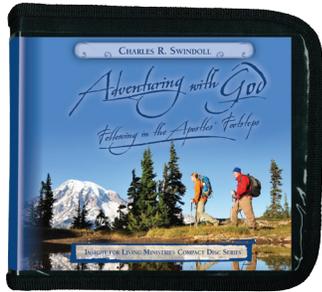
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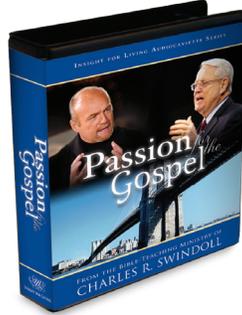
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by Charles R. Swindoll
CD series



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