

Sermon Title: Words That Rock the World

Sermon Scripture: [Acts 1:8](#)

Introduction:

Have you ever noticed how events with the most far-reaching implications can be expressed in the simplest of words? Consider, for example, these headlines:

- Wall Street Crashes
- Pearl Harbor Bombed
- President Shot Dead
- Man Walks on Moon
- Berlin Wall Tumbles
- America Under Attack
- Killer Storm Approaches

As far reaching and powerful as those words are, think also about personal conversations that contain words with the capacity to rock someone's existence. Consider these powerful little words:

- I love you.
- I hate you.
- Please marry me.
- I do.
- I want a divorce.
- You're hired.
- You're fired.
- I am pregnant.

- It's a boy.
- It's a girl.
- It's a boy *and* a girl.
- You're innocent.
- You're guilty.
- You have cancer.
- He is deceased.

Any one of those phrases can rock someone's personal life. Each of us has heard some of those at some point and time. They changed us forever. In a similar way, the words which Jesus spoke in Acts 1:8 have truly "rocked" the world. He said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, HCSB).

God wants to rock our world, our convention, our churches, and our individual lives as we become obedient to the Acts 1:8 challenge. Simply put, Jesus has a plan for His followers. He expects them to be witnesses and ministers in this world. Believers are called to reach the lost with the gospel. This "rock the world" assignment and lifestyle must involve the following aspects:

- The source of power is the Holy Spirit of God.
- The command to "rock the world" is imperative.
- The scope is intentional.
- The coverage is total.

I. **The Source of the Power is the Holy Spirit of God.**

Too often, readers of Acts 1:8 immediately focus on the geographical designations of mission work and evangelistic work. Unfortunately, many fail to realize the extreme importance of the first phrase, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."

We must seek to be empowered by God, for if we seek to do the will of God using our own strength, it will lead to certain failure and absolute frustration. The need for God's reviving Holy Spirit cannot be overestimated.

Illustration: Years ago, Carl Bates, President of the Southern Baptist Convention stated that if the Holy Spirit left this earth today, 90% of church work would continue on.

Is that true? What part of our mission endeavor can be attributed only to the power of God? What part of our own response to the evangelistic and mission call of Acts 1:8 can be attributed only to the power of God? What are we willing to do to see revival come? In a *Baptist Press* article, Henry Blackaby questioned whether or not we really mean it when we ask God for revival. Are we willing to pay the price to see revival come and the Holy Spirit's power unleashed? Are we willing to make the changes that might entail? This would call for making tough priority decisions concerning budgets, time, and relationships.

II. **The Command to “Rock the World” Is Imperative.**

Do you see any "ifs" in the first or second part of Acts 1:8? Note that the words are emphatic and not conditional. You *will* receive power. Note that it says *when* the Holy Spirit comes upon you, not *if*. Jesus makes the assumption that we will be open to the Holy Spirit's power. Are those assumptions correct? He makes the assumption that we will be a witness when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. Why should we even question that natural outgrowth of God's power in our lives?

Obedience to this imperative instruction and assumption was exemplified by our Lord Jesus. [Matthew 9:35-38](#) tells the story of Jesus' earthly ministry where He went from place to place sharing about the kingdom of God and ministering in powerful and profound ways.

His life was a constant expression of living out the assumptions of Acts 1:8.

III. **The Scope is Intentional**

Note the progression of Acts 1:8. Yes, the work of evangelism and missions starts at home and then spreads intentionally to every corner of the globe. Notice, however, that the word *then* is absent from the scriptural command. In other words, the call to go into all the world should simultaneously take place in each of the geographical designations mentioned. Yes, the gospel started in Jerusalem and spread like wildfire all across the world. However, God leads believers to go into all the world and we should have a deep burden for every part of the mission field.

Jesus' foray into Samaria to speak with the Samaritan woman ([John 4:27-41](#)) exemplifies His attitude to go wherever necessary to win others to faith.

IV. **The Coverage is Total**

God's intention is clear. He wants the world to hear and to know. In fact, the end result of the Acts 1:8 challenge is powerfully portrayed in [Revelation 7:9-10](#).

Illustration: The story is told of an elderly lady who had reached the place in her life where she could no longer go out and buy presents for her children and grandchildren. However, she wanted to bless them in some way. Therefore, she decided she would write a sizeable check to each one and place the check in the Christmas card. She went out and bought lovely Christmas cards and wrote in each one of them, "Merry Christmas, I love you....P.S. Buy your own gift this year." Then she proceeded to mail the cards and Christmas came and went. In January, she was horrified when rearranging her desk papers to find the checks that she had meant to send with the cards. Therefore, each child and grandchild received a Christmas card with instructions to buy their own gift, yet with no money to do so.

We have done the same thing to our world. We have told them that there is a better way, yet we have not shared the good news of Christ so that they would know how to find that beautiful gift.

Conclusion:

The question is, which of those people at the throne will be there because of your witness? On the negative side, which people who are not there will not be there because of our lack of witness. Those are the people who will spend eternity in hell. It is my hope that if anyone ends up in hell, it will not be because they were not witnessed to, prayed over, cried after, and sought.

It is my hope that we will see the nations come to Christ because believers have been faithful to the Acts 1:8 challenge.