

## *Not Many Days From Now...*

*“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, ‘which,’ He said, ‘you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’”* –Acts 1:4-5.

There were ten days from Christ’s ascension to heaven until the Day of Pentecost. Jesus did not tell His disciples how long they would have to wait for the outpouring of the Spirit. To them, “*not many days from now*” could have meant thirty or fifty days. Since they were from Galilee, they were a long way from home and it was not convenient for them to wait in Jerusalem. Therefore, the waiting period was a test. According to First Corinthians 15:6 there were probably 500 or more disciples who were aware of Christ’s command to “wait,” but Scripture only records 120 receiving the fire of God on the day of Pentecost.

Throughout Scripture, *ten days* signifies “a period of trial.” Daniel said, “*Test your servants for ten days*” (Daniel 1:12). In Revelation 2:10 the Lord told the Church of Smyrna, “*You will have tribulation ten days.*” Jeremiah and the remnant had to wait ten days for an answer from God: “*And it came to pass after ten days that the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah*” (Jeremiah 42:7). I believe with all my heart that the Church is in a similar “ten day” waiting period, a period just prior to a new move of God, and we are all being tried and purified.

During the ten days between the ascension of Christ and the coming of Pentecost, several things were happening among those that God was preparing for the next move of God. Nearly half of the first chapter of Acts records the replacing of Judas. Christ would only build His Church upon tested ministries, and Judas proved to be unworthy. Matthias replaced him. Today God is removing unfaithful men and women from those groups He is going to use in the next outpouring.

Also, Peter had recovered from a crushing failure and was emerging as the leader of the new move. In actual fact, all the apostles had failed in Gethsemane and forsook the Lord. Yet failure had brought them to brokenness of spirit and humility. After this, no one cared who was going to be the greatest. Only seven weeks earlier the apostles had argued about who would be greatest, but now they were all in one accord (Luke 22:24, Acts 2:1). I would like to suggest that there were at least five things happening during those ten days. Each of these applies to how the Lord is testing us and preparing us for the next great revival:

- Everyone was being tested by *time*. Christ would not tell them precisely when He would move.
- They were being tested by *inconvenience*. The Galileans were a long way from home.
- All the brethren had suffered a crushing *failure*. Selfish ambition was given a deathblow.
- God was removing unworthy ministry. Judas would not be part of the new move.
- Other disciples, like repentant Peter and faithful Matthias, were being prepared by God.

After these things were accomplished, the new move of the Spirit came suddenly. “*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,*” Acts 2:1-2. The Lord is preparing His church for the soon coming day when He shall again *suddenly* move in power. Let’s be ready.

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