

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of August 25, 2024

THEME: "Spirit's Power"

WITNESSES

Sunday..... Read Acts 1:1-8

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." After Jesus had completed His earthly mission with the crucifixion and resurrection, He was preparing to return to heaven. He had this one final important announcement and instruction. The Holy Spirit would come to empower believers to do the work of God, which would be the building of the church. The church would be comprised of both Jews and Gentiles alike. This body of believers would be referred to as the Church as proposed by Jesus in Matthew 16:18: *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* The followers of Christ would be His witnesses to all parts of the globe. We are still living in that Church Age. It will end with the Rapture when Jesus returns!

COMMUNITIES

Monday Read Matthew 21:1-2

"Saying unto them, Go into the village." God does a lot of His work on earth in small communities. The Jewish people from the days of old are looking for the Messiah to become the King of kings to rule the earth from Jerusalem, their capitol city. Only Jesus knew that His crowning to be King of kings would be delayed until after He had become the Lamb of God. When the disciples went into the village to retrieve a donkey, they and others thought it would be the "Triumphal Entry" of a king. That great event will occur, but only after the Church Age and the seven year tribulation. During that interim, Christians will be ambassadors of Christ in communities around the world. Local churches will be found in those communities for the gathering of believers to worship!

SMALL GROUPS

Tuesday..... Read I John 4:7-11

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." Jesus did speak before large crowds of people on many occasions, but one could argue that most of God's work is done in pairs and small groups. One such example is in today's Bible reading which actually began the Church Age. These followers of Jesus had a special love for each other and met together often. One primary purpose of these small gatherings was to pray. The Church Age had its beginning in a small group gathering, and they continue even today in homes available for God's work. A

lot of God's work today on His earth is accomplished in small groups as in the days of the Church Age.

NATIONS

Wednesday Read Genesis 17:1-6

"And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee." Different language groups and nations had their beginning when many had gathered to build the tower of Babel as described in Genesis 11. The descendants of Abraham eventually migrated over the centuries throughout the continents on God's earth. World history throughout the centuries of humanity is a study of nations and the desire of some of them to gain preeminence. Ultimately, God will establish His kingdom on earth in the nation of Israel, a nation founded by Abraham's son Jacob. Praise God for our nation!

LEADERS

Thursday Read I Timothy 2:1-5

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men. For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." One of the great responsibilities of Christians in many nations is to pray for their government leaders. In democracies such as American, an important part in obeying the command to pray is to pray for the elections that will be entrusted with positions of leadership. Government leaders make decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens. To have God's influence on those decisions by the prayer of Christians is highly beneficial! Our founders realized that when they made prayer an important part of public education by having students start each day with Bible reading and prayer. Our nation has suffered greatly when it was removed in 1963.

LOVE FOR BELIEVERS

Friday Read John 13:34-35

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Love is the driving force of human relationships. It is the mandate for the home as mentioned in Ephesians 5:25: *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."* One of the ways for children to honor their parents is to show love toward them by actions. Doing things that please parents is a proactive love, very special. That love should intensify as years go by, even after children leave home to start a family of their own.

LOVE FOR THE LOST

Saturday Read I Corinthians 9:20-24

"To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some." Paul had such a compassion for lost souls that he would do just about anything to reach them with the gospel. It was the compassion that Jesus Himself demonstrated of which we read in Mark 6:34: *"And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them*

many things." We would do well to follow that example and share the good news about the gift of eternal life by receiving Jesus as Savior. People who never open their hearts to Jesus are destined to be cast into the lake of fire prepared for the devil for eternity. That thought alone should drive us to do all we can to reach lost souls to Christ. It begins with prayer as mentioned in Colossians 4:3: *"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds."*