

“Rebuilding the Walls and Reviving Our Nation” Acts 1:8

“I am not a religious man, but America is now in moral anarchy. I do not believe it can now survive without a sweeping spiritual revival.” Richard Bork—former U.S. Supreme Court nominee

How do we rebuild the walls of our nation and reach a dying generation?

*Jesus told us how and gave us our marching orders in _____.

These are the very last words of the Lord Jesus that He said to His followers. He was leaving the future of the faith in the hands of 120 followers. **And 120 followers of Jesus heard His words and changed the world!**

The early Church was known for its power!

*The word translated as “power” that Jesus used is the Greek word from which we get the word _____!

Jesus was saying that the church would have an explosive kind of power! A supernatural kind of power! That’s the only way to explain how the early Church took the gospel to the entire known world by the end of the first century. **The original 120 had become hundreds of thousands of followers of Jesus in just a few short years!**

Why is it that the early church was so powerful...But we seem so powerless?

*We need a power _____--An encounter with God’s power!

George Barna said, “The Church in America is like the Titanic. It is large, elegant, and sinking fast.”

So how do we get back the power? (See Acts 1:8)

*The word translated as “witness” comes from the Greek word for “_____”.

What Jesus’ followers literally heard was “you shall be martyrs for me in Jerusalem...Judea...Samaria...”

Jesus said in Luke 9:23 “If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, let him take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

*A cross was something you _____ on and even _____ on!

The early believers heard what Jesus said and took Him literally! Hundreds of thousands of them literally laid down their lives for Christ.

They became martyrs for Him!

*A martyr is defined as one who _____ lays down his life for a given cause to give life to others!

This reveals the power source of the early church!

*God’s power in a church is directly proportional to the level of _____ among the people.

It’s the sacrifice of the saints that releases the power of God’s Spirit!

*The Church in America lacks _____ because the Church in America lacks _____!

Luis Palau said the problem is “America, where 80% of the people claim to be Christians, but few live any differently than pagans or atheists, as though God has no claim on their lives. Their hearts have not been changed.”

*The early Christians were willing to _____ for Christ...But sometimes we’re not willing to even _____ for Him!

The power is still here and God’s Spirit has not departed!

*But if we want the power it’s going to cost us our _____!

Remember, the sacrifice of the saints is what releases the power of God’s Spirit! **The Church has lost its witness because the Church has lost its martyrs!** Christianity has become the “cult” of the comfortable!

*We are not going to reach our _____ except through the power of the first century!

What can we do to lay down our lives for Jesus Christ?

1) _____ all that you are and all that you have to Jesus—that’s the true definition of a Christian!

2) Be a part of standing in the _____ for our nation—pray for revival!

3) Give _____ financially to our two-year \$1.7 million goal to help pay for new facility.

*Celebration Sunday is _____—make a two year commitment to the Lord and give a one time offering toward our miracle goal of \$170 thousand in one day!

What changes lives are changed lives!

Let God _____ your life! Jesus is looking for somebody who’ll live dangerously for Him with a first century kind of faith!