

Prerequisites – Acts 1:8

Gene Warr

I. Introduction.

- A. There is despair in the world because of cynicism. (Luke 11:5-6)
- B. Great preachers were characterized by...
 - 1. Preaching the gospel.
 - 2. Awareness of the social implications of the gospel.
 - 3. Boldness on the issues of their day.
 - 4. Exhortation to godliness and holiness.
- C. The problem is in the human heart that has allowed the world to come in. (Mark 7)
- D. The solution is in the gospel. It must be proclaimed.
- E. We need to evangelize people to live the lives they were called to.

II. Things that made the first century church effective in evangelism: unity, the sovereignty of God, the work of the Spirit, obedience, prayer, the Word of God and divine compulsion.

- A. Unity can accomplish much.
- B. The sovereignty of God is at power throughout Acts. (Acts 2; John 15:16; 6:44; Acts 13)
- C. The Spirit gives us power to evangelize, insight and the ability to forgive. (Acts 6; Romans 8:9; Colossians 1:9-10)
- D. Obedience. (Acts 8; 10)
- E. Prayer.
- F. The Word of God. Historically wherever there is great revival, there is a concentration on God's Word.
- G. Divine compulsion. The Spirit enables us to witness and glorify God. (Acts 1:8; John 16:13-14)
 - 1. A witness is someone who has seen or experienced something.
 - 2. A witness is someone with a reputation for honesty.
 - 3. A witness is someone who is willing to talk about it.

III. To be a part of it.

A. Recognize the Spirit's power.

B. Demonstrate that power by the life that you live.

C. Be available to Jesus to express yourself through him in any way.

Application questions:

1. In what way does the church need to be evangelized today?

2. Which element of the early church's evangelistic success stands out to you? Why?

3. What can you do to stretch yourself in evangelism? Explain.
