



MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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READY

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

One of God's goals for Christians is that we be worldwide witnesses of Jesus. Many of us feel woefully unprepared for this task. Our world is multi-cultural and complex. Christianity, which has been the dominant western religion for centuries, is now being viewed with suspicion and outright animosity. Multiple measures are being pursued to muzzle Christian testimony under the guise of tolerance. How can Christians be effective in these challenging circumstances?

God does not leave the Christian to figure this

out on his own. As Jesus was departing the earth, He promised His disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit who would make them ready for worldwide ministry. On the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit arrived as promised, He performed two actions with lasting evangelistic implications.

First, He empowered the believers to clearly understand the gospel. Peter who preached the keynote message on that day skillfully connected various Scripture passages to prove to his audience that Jesus was indeed the Christ that God had promised. And as Christ, He was God's provision for the salvation of all peoples. Some Christians today are not always clear on the gospel message. We can remedy that situation by studying the Scriptures under the Holy Spirit's guidance until we become clear and convinced of God's plan of salvation.

Second, the Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in the languages of their audience. This phenomenon ensured that people could hear the gospel in the most understandable way to them. Since most of the

people we interact with today speak our language, we don't expect to be miraculously empowered to speak foreign languages we have never studied. But we can be sure that as we rely on the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to speak the gospel to our contemporaries so they can understand. Despite the woeful Scriptural ignorance of today's increasingly "post-Christian" society, God through the Holy Spirit will equip us to proclaim the gospel in ways that break through the noise and impact the hearts of our hearers. We can be clear communicators of the gospel.

These realities should encourage Christians to confidently engage in evangelism. We are ready for the task because God has given us His Holy Spirit. As we prepare and yield to the Spirit, we can expectantly share the gospel knowing that He makes us ready for this difficult, but crucial ministry.

God bless you,

Pastor James

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

JAN 10

Join us via Zoom video
 Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP
FRI @ 6:45 PM

JAN 13

In-person at church.
 For teens ages 13 and over

EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd
SUN @ 6 PM

JAN 15

Join us in-person at church

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 15

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service
 Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

BEGIN in FEB

Plan to attend one convenient to you. Sign-up on our website or the Info. Ctr.

FEB 9 & FEB 10

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

JAN 15

In-person service & livestream

Livestreaming is only on Facebook and our church's website.

- Growth Groups begin February 9 & 10 at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Center or online to attend one convenient to you.
- **No Men's Breakfast this Saturday.**
- Carmelo Garcia is to be received into membership. If you have any comments, please contact Pastor James.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 3:15 at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.
- **The Church's Annual General Business Meeting is this Saturday, January 14th at 2 pm at church.** All members, please plan to attend.
- Bible Reading plans for 2023 are available at the Information Center. Also, read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings via the link on our website.
- Calvary School of the Bible (CBS) offers a 3-year program with courses on Christian living, ministries, theology, and Bible book surveys. Check out this link to some uploaded classes www.cbcpoconos.org and contact H. Lee Thompson directly at hleet1412@gmail.com for more information.

QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!