



## Sermon Title: Growth in Depth and Move with Purpose

**Text: Acts 1:3-8; 14**

*“To finish well, we must trade our own agendas for a posture of submission, shifting our focus from personal comfort to the Great Commission through a direct partnership with the Holy Spirit.”*

Twenty-nine years is not just a milestone; it is a monument to God’s faithfulness. But as we look toward the greater things on the horizon, we must realize that finishing well is entirely dependent on how we walk right now.

In Acts 1:3, we find the disciples in the wake of trauma—broken by betrayal and the sting of the cross—yet standing before a resurrected Christ. Jesus did not just offer them restoration; He presented an uncommon life under His reign. He did not just want to be their Saviour; He demanded to be their Lord.

As we celebrate nearly three decades of the Living Word serving the Living God, the challenge remains:

- **Start well:** Accept the grace that sees not what you were, but what you could be.
- **Carry on:** Walk the journey of faith with purpose.
- **Finish well:** Ensure that your service is not just about what you have done, but who you have become.

It is time to move beyond the surface. What happens when you truly live under the rule and reign of Christ? You do not just survive the journey—you advance the Kingdom.

## POSTURE OF SUBMISSION AND TRUST (vv. 4-5, 14).

The road to greater things begins with a white flag. In Acts 1:4-5, the disciples were commanded to wait—an agonizing instruction for those eager to move. Yet they chose a posture of submission, yielding to the *kalooban ng Diyos* (will of God) even when the blueprint was unclear.

True faith operates in three stages: **Dead, Wait, Trust**. We must be dead to our own agendas, patient in the waiting, and unwavering in our trust. As D.L. Moody famously said, “Let God have your life; He can do more with it than you can.” On the other hand, your surrender is not just a breakthrough; it is a **transformation**.

- **Worry is a Control Issue:** We worry because we want to dictate the outcome. To submit is to hand over the remote.
- **The Command to Wait:** Before the power of the Holy Spirit came, the disciples had to make a clear decision to stay and pray (vv. 12-14).
- **Move with Purpose:** When you stop trying to control the journey, you finally start growing in depth.

What are you holding onto today? Submit it, trust Him, and watch the Lord deliver you into a life of purpose.

## PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GREAT COMMISSION (vv. 6-8).

In Acts 1:6, the disciples were fixated on the “now”—obsessed with political restoration and earthly relief from Roman rule. But Jesus staged a radical intervention of the mind. He shifted their perspective from the **inward** (their own comfort) to the **outward** (the spiritual harvest).

While the disciples worried about earthly oppressors, Jesus pointed to the ultimate enemy: the darkness that oppresses human souls. He made it clear that a posture of submission naturally leads to a

preoccupation with His mission. As seen in Matthew 28:18-20, our call is not to build our own kingdom, but to advance His.

- Shift the Focus: Stop looking at your current situation and start looking at the world. Your “now” is temporary; the Kingdom is eternal.
- A Higher Purpose: Jesus did not just come to fix our problems; He came to finish the work (John 4:34). In Him, we find the peace to overcome the world (John 16:33).
- The Global Mandate: When we stop being self-absorbed, we become Spirit-empowered witnesses (Acts 1:8).

We are not just called to survive the times; we are called to reach those who have yet to meet the King of kings. When you give God your life, He gives you His heart for the lost. **Look outward.**

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (v.8).**

For three years, the disciples were spectators; they had witnessed the signs, wonders and miracles of Jesus. In Acts 1:8, Jesus shifted their role: they were now commanded to **be witnesses**. To move from observing the Gospel to proclaiming it requires a power beyond human talent; it requires a direct partnership with the Holy Spirit.


Jesus did not send them out on a smooth path. He sent them to:


- Jerusalem: The “hard ground” filled with the very people who orchestrated His crucifixion.
- Judea and Samaria: Regions defined by deep-seated prejudice and ancient animosity.
- The Ends of the Earth: To the Roman oppressors themselves.


Human strength fails in the face of fear and hate, but as 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 reminds us, our faith does not rest on human wisdom, but on a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.

- Overcome Prejudice: The Holy Spirit enables us to love the “unlovable” and reach the “unreachable.”
- Move with Purpose: Do not move aimlessly or chase a personal agenda. Align your heart with the Kingdom mission.
- Expect Greater Things: As promised in John 14:12, those who believe will do even greater work because the Holy Spirit is our partner.

Will you grow in depth by submitting your plans to Him? Will you move with purpose by relying on His power? The journey to finishing well starts with the decision to stop walking alone.

 **Ponder:** Finishing well is not about the length of your service, but the depth of your surrender. True success is not what you do for God, but who you become under His Lordship.

 **Practical Application:** Identify one area where you are currently worrying and choose to wait on God instead. Shift your prayer focus this week from your personal needs to your community's spiritual needs.

 **Prayer:** Lord, grant me a heart of submission and the power of the Holy Spirit to be Your witness. Help me move with Kingdom purpose so that I may finish this journey of faith well. Amen!