



Title: Waiting Actively

Text: Acts 1:12–26

CONTEXT |

Before ascending into heaven with the promise that He would return, Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit. Once they received the Spirit the church would be empowered to be the kind of witnesses God called them to be in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. In our text we see what the church and its leaders did while they waited on Jesus to fulfill his promise. While we don't have to wait on the Holy Spirit to come (because he is here and lives in every true Christian), there are some great lessons we can learn from them about waiting on God when we look carefully at their example.

MAIN IDEA |

We must actively obey what we know is God's will as we wait on His plan.

KEY VERSES |

¹⁴ All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Acts 1:14 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- Why do you think it was important that Judas' replacement was someone who accompanied the other apostles during the entire ministry of Jesus?
- What is required for you to be a witness for Jesus today?
- What are some big decisions you will need to make? How does this passage help you?
- What does it mean when we say "God is Sovereign?" How does this passage reveal the disciples trust in God as being in control of everything? (prayed and cast lots trusting him to direct)
- What do you think it looked like when the church was "praying in one accord?" How should we do that in our day? Who do you pray with regularly? What are you asking God to do?

EXPLANATION |

While Jesus' followers waited on him they waited in active obedience. They obeyed by staying in Jerusalem instead of going back to their homes in Galilee. Peter obeyed by leading the church like Jesus had commanded him in John 21. The church obeyed by replacing Judas to position themselves to accomplish Jesus' mission once they received His Spirit.

While we wait on God to show us his will, or answer a prayer, or fulfill a promise to us it is important that we carefully obey what we clearly know is his will. Too often Christians use their lack of clarity or specific direction as an excuse to not obey the clear commands of Jesus.

We can always be sure that God's Word is clearly the will of God for us. While we wait on specific guidance regarding life decisions, we must learn and carefully live out all that God's Word requires of us. If we do, we will not miss His will. He is faithful to fulfill his promise, finish his work, and guide his children!