

Jan. 4 '09 New Wine in 2009-- Acts 1:1-8

We want the Spirit of God to move for us; it's not just to us, but through us. The church of Jesus Christ needs to learn how to die to self. We need to repent of wanting it our way. If anyone should be experts at giving it should be the born again believers. V.1 The book of Acts is a sequel to the book of Luke. We are good at starting things but not always so good at finishing. Jesus is a finisher. He who began a good work is faithful to complete it. Phil 1:6 He is the author and the finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2 What have you started but haven't finished? V. 2 - 3 Jesus left some commandments for us, some steps for us to take. The issue is not whether He wants us to have something but whether we are willing to take the steps necessary to get it. V. 4-8 God has His agenda and we have ours. We can be so off the mark sometimes. He wants to take us a step at a time and we want to jump to the end. We need to make sure we are on the same page as Him. We can't run ahead of Him. God's presence in us, God's promise to us, God's programme through us. Are you walking through some sorrows? What has you discouraged? Jesus is as close as the mention of His name. Aren't you glad His name is not Mahershalalhashbaz? We need to have the eyes of our heart opened to the fact that He is right here, beside us. Luke 24:32 When was the last time your heart burned within you because the scriptures came alive? It's all about an inflow for an outflow. When you want all that God has for you there will never be an end to it because it flows out of you. It's not meant for just me or just you. Do you want to be a holy sponge for God that never gets dry? Left unused a sponge gets hard, mouldy and stinky. Some of us need a soaking from God. We need to ask God to pour out on us. If the flow of God is not flowing to you there is a problem and you need to ask Jesus to come and fix it. If the flow of God is not flowing through you there is a problem. John 7:37-38 Christianity without the flow gets pretty stinky. Just going through the motions gets stinky. His presence in you, his promise of the Holy Spirit to you, the flow of the Spirit through you, his programme for the outpouring of the spirit is to be a witness, to testify for Him. V.8 Witnesses are only allowed to tell what they have experienced for themselves. What facts do you have concerning Jesus? How have you been changed and transformed by the power of God? John 20:26-29 As we embark on this new year don't be unbelieving, but be believing, make Jesus your Lord and live by faith, not by sight.