

“Primetime (1): Playing with Fire”

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“With such an army of workers as our youth rightly trained might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come—the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!” (*Education* 271)

❖ Acts 2:1-4

- The Greek word for “Pentecost” (Acts 2:1) is *pentecoste* or “_____ day”—for in the Jewish liturgical calendar, if you subtracted fifty days from Pentecost it would take you back to the Feast of Unleavened Bread, or _____.
- I.e.—the secret to Pentecost is in what it follows—_____—and the secret to the Passover is the _____ of God.
- _____ is the supreme manifestation of God’s passion to save his _____ earth children.
- God can still think of nothing else these days—“I must _____ My children!”

❖ Acts 1:6-8

- “When the dynamite power [Gk: *dunamis*] of the Holy Spirit comes upon you, he will fill you with my _____, and you will be my witnesses [Gk: *martus* for “_____” —one who witnesses through life and even death] to the ends of the earth!”
- Fourteen times Luke will weave the theme word “_____” throughout the book of Acts.
- Jesus’ point is inescapable—“Once my _____ becomes your _____, you will become my *witnesses!*”

❖ Acts 1:9-11

- William Willimon: “In a few opening verses Luke manages to reprove both the enthusiasm and speculation of uninformed apocalypticism, as well as the despair and stodginess of a church without apocalyptic hope.”
- Yes, this same Jesus is coming back again—but you can’t gaze up into the heavens forever—*there’s a _____ to be done!*

❖ Acts 1:12-14

- *Acts of the Apostles*: “The disciples prayed with intense earnestness for a fitness to meet [people] and in their daily [conversations] to speak words that would lead sinners to Christ. . . . They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. *They were weighted with the burden of [the divine passion for] the salvation of souls.* They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised.” (37, emphasis supplied)
- The tongues of fire are proof enough that the focus of those ten days of prayer was the power to be an effective _____ to the world for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Isn’t it prime time to pray the same pre-Pentecost prayer?

fiftieth, Passover, Passover, passion, Calvary, lost, save, passion, martyr, witness, passion, passion, work, witness