

# **“Discerning God’s Will”**

*How can I know God’s will on a matter?*  
**Acts 1:6-14**

**You must have: Patience, Power, Prayer**

## **I. Patience** - “at this time” (vs. 6-7)

We struggle with wanting to know:

### **A. Success** – “restore again”

- *Good ole days*
- *Big goals only*
- *Relief from struggle*
- *Need to adjust definition of success*

### **B. Sequence** – “know the times ”

*Sequence talks of the pattern and order of events, what next? Then what? ...*

### **C. Seasons** – “or the seasons”

*The Seasons talk of the length of time – How long till?*

Mark 13:32 tells us that the angels don’t know... The Son does not know... Only the Father knows, so I guess that means anyone that predicts when the end is going to come doesn’t know.

\*\* We want to know the What and When, but God encourages us to stay focused on the Who, Why, and How.

## **II. Power** – “ye shall receive power” (vs. 8-11)

Our source of strength is in a:

### **A. Person** – “after that the Holy Ghost”

- *The Holy Spirit enables us to know and do God’s bidding.*
  - *Be controlled by the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 5:18*
    - *Do not grieve Him – Ephesians 4:30*
    - *Do not quench Him – I Thessalonians 5:19*
- *The Son, Jesus, enables us to understand what the Father’s will looks like. So stay focused on Him – Hebrews 12:1*

### **B. Purpose** - “ye shall be witnesses unto me”

- *Understanding that God does not promise us power just to name it and claim it. He has given us power and answers our prayers to accomplish His purpose... to enable us to be His witnesses.*

### **C. Promise** - “Jesus ...shall so come”

### **III. Prayer** - “in prayer ”

(vs. 12-14)

Our prayers will be most effective when they are:

#### **A. Paired** – “returned they to Jerusalem...with one accord ”

- Paired with Obedience – Notice that they first obeyed what they knew to do. They went back to Jerusalem and stayed put.
  - 1 Samuel 15:22 – Obedience rather than sacrifice.
- Paired with Forgiveness. How could they enjoy unity except by forgiving one another and moving on?

#### **B. Private** – “they went up into an upper room”

- Prayer breakfasts are fine but what about private everyday commitment to prayer?

#### **C. Persistent** – “These all continued ...in prayer”