

“40 Days of Convincing Proofs: Love God”

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 4, 2012

Acts 1:1-8

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We are now Jesus' Convincing Proofs and Love God by...

I. LIVING IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD

John 4:34 (For Jesus, obedience exceeded physical needs)

34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.

John 14:31 (Jesus was obedient in actions)

31 the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

John 12:49-50 (even His words were submissive to the Father)

49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. 50 I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."

Luke 22:42 (Jesus was obedient in face of trials and persecution)

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

Phil 2:5-8 (Jesus was obedient even unto death)

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be

grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

2. LIVING OUT THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus knew God's Word and lived it out.

Heb 10:7

Then [Jesus] said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, O God.'

3. LIVING IN POWER

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..."

Jesus began His earthly ministry (after being filled with the Holy Spirit) with 40 days in the desert.

Jesus ended His earthly ministry with 40 Days of Convincing Proofs that He was alive (followed by sending the Holy Spirit).

4. LIVING WITH PURPOSE

Acts 1:8 "... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Gal 1:3-5 (His obedience had a purpose)

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

John 6:38-39

38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

CONCLUSION:

Today, we begin "40 DAYS OF CONVINCING PROOFS"

This week:

Find creative ways to express your love for God every day this week.