

Small Group Discussion Guide for 01.25.2009  
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## Acts 1:8 / 8:1

### Leader's Notes

This week we are working through the book of Acts and tracing how the kingdom of Jesus Christ was realized by his disciples and how it advanced from the city of Jerusalem to the rest of the world. In Acts 1:6 the disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel." They are thinking that it's now finally time for the prophetic kingdom of God to burst forth. The answer Jesus gives is very important for the way we view the coming kingdom of God. First he tells them in verse seven not to think of the kingdom as being realized in a purely temporal way. And in verse eight he says that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and they will be his witnesses across the world. Jesus is telling his disciples that the kingdom is being restored, but not how they expected it. In verse 6 the disciples seem to look at the coming kingdom **passively**. However, in verse eight Jesus says that his disciples will be **actively** involved in bringing about the kingdom by preaching the gospel under the influence of the Holy Spirit. As his followers, we get to be involved in the advancement of the kingdom.

### Discussion Questions

- 1A. How would your life look different if you viewed yourself as having an active role in the advancement of God's kingdom rather than merely a passive one?
- 1B. Pick one area of your own life and talk about how your group could hold you accountable for that (active vs. passive role). Example: If you're a father, then discipling your children.
2. Read Acts 8:1. If Acts 1:8 is God's plan for restoring the kingdom then Acts 8:1 is one of the hows. God is using the persecution of the early church to accomplish his purposes for spreading the Gospel.
  - a. How do you feel about that? Does that excite you or does that scare you?
  - b. What will it take for the Summit Church to become fully committed to the advancement of the gospel around the world?

### Discussion Questions – *The Treasure Principle* (Chapters 5 and 6)

1. Alcorn talks a lot about the tithe being the floor of giving, not the ceiling. Tithing gets us on the road to giving more and more. He also talks about how many of us (if not all of us) have more than we need. Why does Alcorn say we have been given more than we need? How are you using your surplus?
2. As a summary question for the book, how does Alcorn argue that storing up treasures for ourselves in heaven is not selfish?

## **Discussion Guide Answers**

1. The answer is really personal. Your group members should be identifying areas of their life where they can put the gospel on display. This isn't just evangelism. It's certainly not less than that, but it's more. It could be serving our community or opening your home to your neighbors. The main point is that your group understands the active role that we have been given in advancing the kingdom. We are not to be passive and expect God to do the work.
2. This is really a question that has to do more with man's obedience than God's sovereignty. If Jesus tells us that we are to preach the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit in order to advance the kingdom then that is how we need to view and understand the world around us. That is the plan given to us in Acts 1:8 and God is working to accomplish it. Therefore every event of history is really a footnote to the greater working of the church to advance the kingdom.

## ***The Treasure Principle Answers***

1. Alcorn says that we have been given more than we need so that we are able to give generously. This surplus is not just a blessing but it is also a test to see who we really view as the owner of our money.
2. Alcorn says that this is not a wrong motivation because Christ himself offers it to us. "Reward is His idea, not ours (39)."