LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 137

Why Wait for the Power

> *Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.*
> **LUKE 24:49**

Written by Bill Perkins

Before Jesus sent them,
He stopped them.

Before the mission,
He gave a command
that didn't feel like a strategy.

Stay.
Wait.
Don't move.

Jesus knew they had the message.
They had the commission.
They had the resurrection stories
still burning in their hearts.

But He also knew
they didn't have the power.

So He told them
to stay in the city-
the same city
that rejected Him,
mocked Him,
crucified Him.

Stay
in the place of fear.
Stay
in the place of failure.
Stay
in the place where obedience
felt dangerous.

And wait-
like soldiers packed and ready,
but no orders to move.

Ten days
between promise
and power.

Ten days
between the assignment
and the ability.

Ten days
where prayer pulled them closer
to the Father
and each other-
and anticipation built
like pressure behind a sealed door.

The wait wasn't a delay.
It was a doorway.

You may not know this about Jesus-
He gives the command
before He gives the strength.

It was the same pattern
on the hillside.

"You give them something to eat," He said (Mark 6:37).

They couldn't.
They didn't have enough food.
They didn't have the power.

But Jesus wasn't asking them
to perform the miracle.
He was asking them
to obey the steps
they could obey-
bring Him what they found,
sit the people down,
take the bread He multiplied
and give it away.

They did what He commanded.
He did what only He could do.

Pentecost
works the same way.

Pentecost was a Jewish feast day
fifty days after Passover-
a day of firstfruits,
the first portion offered to God
as a promise of more to come.

The firstfruits of the Church-
the first wave
of a much larger tide.
The Law written on hearts.
The power they could never produce
finally given from above.

The impossible mission-
You will be My witnesses
to all nations.

The possible command-
stay in the city.

The inexhaustible power-
you will receive the Spirit.

Why wait?

Because Jesus often gives the command
before He gives the power.