

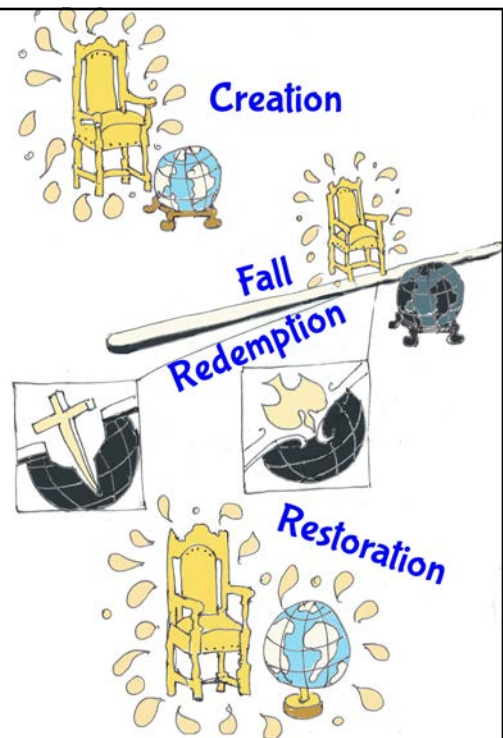
## “Vague intentions rarely materialize”

- What might that mean?
    - Non-specific plans rarely become reality
  - What are some examples?
  - What helps make an intention less vague?
  - What important things are we leaving as vague intentions?
- **How might this happen in our relationship with God?**

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## Empowered to Witness Acts 1:1-11

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 Spanish           page 1384  
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### *The Lord's Supper Sundays*

- Celebration of Jesus' death that brought us life
- First Sunday of each month
- Cycle through key elements of the Gospel

**Holiness:** Holy, creator God over all

**Sin:** immorality and disloyalty to God by all people

**Grace:** God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus' death

**Faith:** Our genuine trust in Him to receive this free gift

**Mission:** Our submission to our **Lord** Jesus Christ

**Heaven:** The hope of the perfect Kingdom restored

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### *A brief history of the universe*

#### • **Creation**

- God created a perfect world
- The earth was His “footstool”

#### • **Fall**

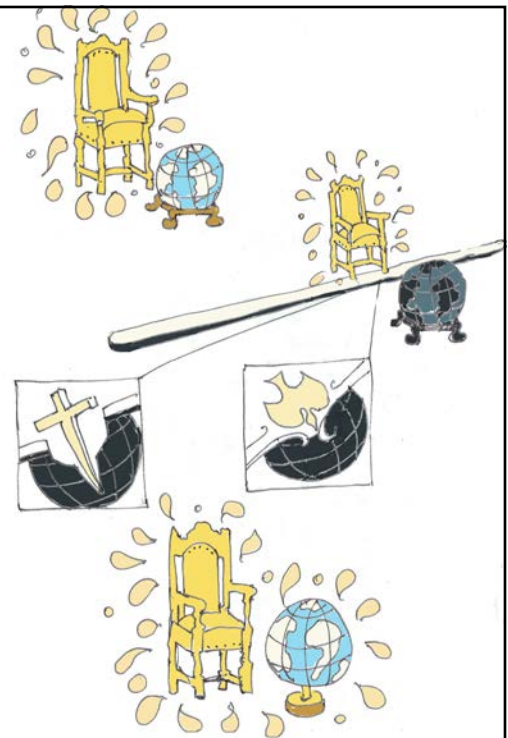
- Sin created a separation between heaven and earth (“death”)

#### • **Redemption**

- Jesus Christ: birth, life, death, resurrection, proofs, ascension
- Church = the body of Christ

#### • **Restoration**

- The church = the bride of Christ



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*Acts 1:1-11*

1-5: Transition to Church as Christ's body on earth

- 6-11: • **Luke:** What Jesus began to **do** and to **teach**
- **Acts:** Jesus' continued work through the church
  - Many convincing proofs of physical resurrection
  - Much teaching for the apostles
  - Church's mission requires power of the Holy Spirit
    - "Baptism": purify by washing
    - The apostles had all abandoned Jesus 40 days earlier

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*Acts 1:1-11*

1-5: Transition to Church as Christ's body on earth

6-11: **Jesus' ascension**

- Disciples focused on timing of "restoration"
  - Timing is the Father's choice, not for us to figure out
  - Full and final "Kingdom of God" comes later
- **Our task:** Spirit-empowered witnessing
  - To the ends of the earth
  - **Power:** courage, character, proclamation, response, actions (including miracles)
- Promised return of Christ "**in the same way**"
  - Personal, bodily, and glorious

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## The Big Idea

Christ commands His people  
to proclaim the Gospel  
in the power of the Holy Spirit  
to the ends of the earth  
at the will of the Father  
anticipating the return of the Son

Holy God  
Sin  
Grace  
Faith  
Mission  
Restoration

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## *Application*

- Spirit-empowered proclamation of the Gospel
  - in word and action
  - in the Spirit's power
    - courage, character, proclamation, response, actions  
(including miracles)
  - among our own friends, relatives, and acquaintances
  - in our own communities
  - to the ends of the earth

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### *Application*

- Spirit-empowered proclamation of the Gospel
- Not focused on the next stage (Jesus' return, heaven)  
***more than*** on obeying the current command of God
  - Godly focus on Jesus' return motivates and shapes our current obedience
  - It never replaces or reduces current obedience

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### *Empowered to "Witness"*

An expectation for **every Christian**  
 in Crossway as well

New life in Christ is **not humanly possible**

"With man this is impossible.

With God all things are possible."

*Matthew 19:26*

For the following people  
 who are not currently living in Christ and His church,  
 I will...

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### *Empowered to “Witness”*

I will...

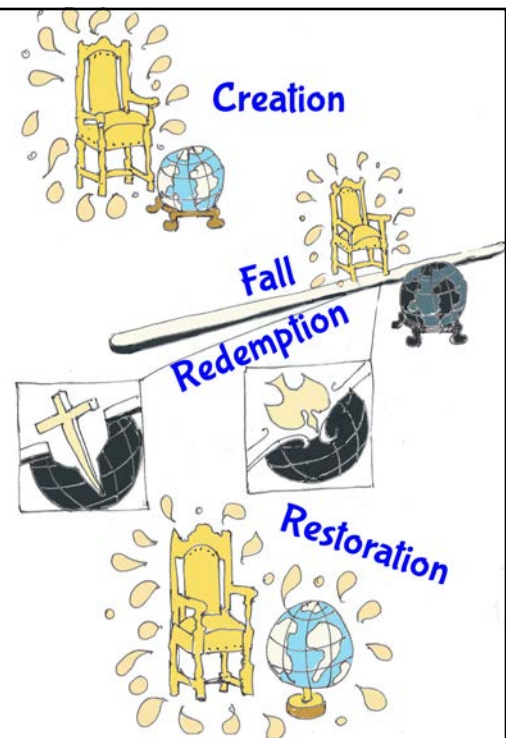
- **Pray** regularly for the Spirit to **empower us** to love and share (tell)
- **Pray** regularly for God to **open their hearts** to Him
- Look for and take opportunities to **build stronger relationships** with them
- **Invite** them to church and/or other events when Christians gather before God **Worship services, meals, Life Group events, “Connecting through Stories”, ...**
- As the Spirit leads, **tell** of God’s Gospel in your life

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- **Vague intentions rarely materialize**
- **Are you proclaiming the Gospel?**
- **Will you proclaim the Gospel?**



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