

RED LETTER GRAPHIC

COMMITMENT CARD graphic

SERIES AFTER RLC (if logo/graphic is available)

If not, use this image:

https://nowchurch.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/america_bible-1184x789.jpg

QUESTION MARK IMAGE

<https://news.miami.edu/assets/images-stories/2020/09/uncertainty-hero-940x529.jpg>

Luke 24:36-37

As they were **saying these things**, He himself stood in their midst. He said to them, "**Peace to you!**"³⁷ But they were **startled and terrified** and thought they were seeing a ghost.

Uncertainty (~*fear, anxiety*) can make God seem like a **stranger**.

Luke 24:38-45

"Why are you **troubled**?" He asked them. "And why do **doubts** arise in your hearts?"³⁹ Look at My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself! Touch Me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have."⁴⁰ Having said this, He showed them His hands and feet.⁴¹ But while they still were amazed and **in disbelief because of their joy**, He asked them, "Do you have anything here to **eat**?"⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish,⁴³ and He took it and ate in their presence.⁴⁴ He told them, "These are **My words** that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then He opened **their minds** to understand the **Scriptures**.

Reality of the Resurrection

+

Minds Opened & Set to Truth

= ???

SOUL CIRCLE DIAGRAM

Ephesians 1:18-23

I pray that your **hearts** will be **flooded with light** so that you can understand the **confident hope** He has given to those He called—**His holy people** who are His rich and glorious **inheritance**. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ

from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. ²¹ Now **He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world** but also in the world to come. ²² God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made Him head over all things for the benefit of the church. ²³ And the **church** is His body; it is made **full and complete** by Christ, Who fills all things everywhere with Himself.

Reality of the Resurrection
+ Minds Opened & Set to Truth
= Kingdom: Agape Love & Abundance

2 Kingdoms Circles

Luke 24:46-47

He also said to them, "This is what is **written**: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and **repentance for forgiveness of sins** will be **proclaimed in His name** to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 24:48

You are **witnesses** of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high."

Jesus gives the blessing of **purpose** and the provision of **power** (presence of Holy Spirit).

None of the circumstantial or political problems were resolved.

→ Is the reality of Kingdom, clear purpose and empowering presence enough ...??

Cultural Currents in our Age:

- **Relativism**
- **Authority of personal preference**
- **"Designer" Faith**
- **Sexual revolution/confusion**

None of the circumstantial or political problems were resolved.

→ Is the reality of Kingdom, clear purpose and empowering presence enough ...??

Luke 24:50-52

Then He led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, and lifting up His hands He **blessed** them. ⁵¹ And while He was blessing them, He left them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² After worshiping Him, they returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**.

His purpose & empowering presence are ENOUGH!

Show and share with the world the **Kingdom of Jesus** and the **joy** of being part of it.

What's going on (in your life)?

How are you showing the sufficiency of Christ and the availability of His Kingdom through your life?

→ Beware the Christian **cul-de-sac!**

Unweighted uncertainty can push us into pursuing a **back-up plan** instead of our purpose!

{one slide}

1) Embrace the role: **witnesses!!!!**

→ Witnesses sent from **LOVE**, for **LOVE** and with **JOY**.

{a-d come up one at time; same slide if possible}

2) Recognize that a lot of “witnessing” is **NOT** a witness TO Christ.

- a) Technique to use on a target.
- b) Knowledge as weapon
- c) Winning the argument is the prize
- d) Disdain vs. Debt (toward non-believers)

Romans 1:14 (TLB)

For I owe a **great debt** to you and to everyone else ... to preach God's Good News.

{bullet points come up one at a time}

3) As witnesses, **“look” and “listen”** for the **“woo”** of the King & His Kingdom:

- **4 Not's: Not in church; Not going well; Not prepared for; Not Found 'it'**
 - Anxiety
 - Identity
 - Meaning
 - Suffering
 - Satisfaction (Thirst ...)

{a-d come up one at a time}

4) As witnesses, God gives us purpose and His empowering presence, we give God (and others) four things:

- a) Your **personality**
- b) Your **proximity** → work, kids, hobbies, family
- c) Your **presence** → His fragrance (2 Cor. 2:15)
- d) Your **prayers** → be specific, by name!

