

ACTS SERIES ONE
THE ACTS GO ON AND ON
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ACTS 1:1-11
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Today Glenn and I begin a series in the Book of The Acts Of The Apostles. The title is a misnomer. It was coined in the 2nd century A.D.. If you have read the book, you know that only four apostles are mentioned: Peter, Paul, James, and John. It is really the Acts of Peter (1-12) and Paul (13-28). But it is so much more than that. The book of Acts *was left unfinished. It is really the continuing earthly Acts of Jesus through His followers still going on today.* The Key to the message of Acts is the power of the Holy Spirit coming on us still alive today.

Acts 1:1-2: In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Who is the Author?

The gospel of Luke was the Former Book. Read Luke 24:44-52.

Who is Theophilus? *The God lover*

Acts 1:3: 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.

The disciples need to know beyond doubt that He is literally alive and resurrected. Only the power of a resurrected Christ will enable them to be who He wants them to be. Naturally, they were inclined to doubt His resurrection, so Luke mentions "the three categories of proof:

1. We saw Him.
2. He spoke to us.
3. He ate with us.

Jesus' frequent appearances and disappearings were geared to getting the disciples to think beyond the flesh. It was not an easy task.

Acts 1:4-5: 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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

"Baptized with the Holy Spirit": *Baptidzo* means to *dip* or *immerse*.

When John the Baptist began to herald Christ's coming, he didn't make the announcement people expected. He didn't say, "The Messiah is coming!" Instead he said, "A Baptizer is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire!" (Luke 3:16).

Read the fire and judgment work of the Holy Spirit in John 16:7-11.

In every place where the Holy Spirit is spoken of, we should see Jesus.

Acts 1:6-7: So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father

has set by his own authority.

They were thinking of political power. Christ is not talking political power here—and once they tasted real spiritual power they never asked for political power again.

Acts 1:8: 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."

Any talk of having power apart from obedience to the Great Commission is a contradiction – the two go together.

Let's tidy up the passage and explore Power and Witnessing for our application.

Acts 1:9-11: After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

This disappearance is different. His former disappearances were instantaneous, whereas this one is gradual. They watch it happen. Now they know it is the last time they'll see Him. We must always have the ascension in mind if we are to understand rightly the true nature of Christ's church on Earth. What takes place in the visible world, as set forth in the book of Acts, originates in the invisible world as Jesus carries out His greater ministry in the Spirit.

The World Needs An Image Of God Here On Earth.

Jesus was going to go away. But He was not really away. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ Who is right here with us. Enjoy Jesus' discussion of this in John 13:36-37; 14:1, 12, 16-19; 15:26-27 and 16:7. Note the reason why it was good for Jesus to go away.

Three Things Are Going On In The Acts Ministry Of Christ Today.

1. Christ is coming in the Spirit to indwell His Followers (1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9).
2. Jesus is engaged in His greatest work of building His church, using His dispersed followers (John 14:12).
3. Christ is adding members to His church (body) by Spirit-baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:13).

Acts 1:12-14: Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Some of you are waiting for that power. Let's talk about how to interact with the Holy Spirit in joining with Christ in the greatest work.