

Acts 01 – **Preparing to be The Church - Acts 1:1-11**

The book of **ACTS** is really the **CONTINUATION**  
of the **GOSPEL Accounts** - of the **beginning** of the NT **church**

**Acts** is about **Living the Christian Life**

**Acts** is about - **BEING the Church**

**AND** - it is the **HISTORICAL** Continuation  
of what **Jesus started** in the Gospels

the **GOSPELS** - are about the work of the **Lord, INCARNATE**  
**ACTS** - is about the work **Lord, RISEN**

In the **GOSPELS** - Jesus Gives us **His LIFE**

In **ACTS** - Jesus Gives us **His POWER** to Live **His Life**

In the **GOSPELS** - the **Seeds** of Christianity are **PLANTED**

In **ACTS** - those seeds burst into **GROWTH**

The **GOSPELS** - are the **Christian Life** - lived by **THE** Perfect Man

**ACTS** - is the **Christian Life** - lived by **IMPERFECT** People

Acts **TEACHES US** - **HOW** to **live as the Church**  
in the **POWER** of the **Holy Spirit**

& **THAT** - is something that we **REALLY**, **Really** need to Learn

**I'm THRILLED** to see what **God** is going to **teach us**  
as we **JOURNEY** thru the **Book of ACTS**

**Let's Pray**

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**Luke** is the writer of Acts

He's called "***The Beloved Physician***" - by the Apostle Paul

**Luke** travelled extensively with Paul

especially during the "**latter half**" of the book of **Acts**

**Luke** probably acted as Paul's **personal Physician**,  
**especially** in the latter years

& **Luke** was **faithful & loyal** - to **the Gospel** - & to **Paul**  
right up to the **very end**

In **one** of **Paul's** last messages (written to **Timothy**)

in his **Difficult** final days - Paul wrote - "***Luke alone is with me***"

**Luke** Primarily writes of **PETER'S** Activities in "***First Half***" of Acts  
& Primarily of **PAUL'S** Activities in the "***Latter Half***"

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**Luke** wrote **BOTH** His **Gospel**, and **Acts**  
to a person named **THEOPHILUS**

**Acts 1:1 begins (esv)**

***1 In the first book, O Theophilus . . .***

We **don't** really know who **Theophilus** was:

1) It's possible **Theophilus** was a high-ranking **Gov't Official**  
**because** of the way Luke **addresses him** in his Gospel

2) It's possible **Theophilus** was **NOT** this person's **real** name  
**Because** the name means literally - "***LOVER of GOD***"

& **THAT** the **MOST** **Important thing**  
about **WHO** this book was **written to**

3) **Since** the name **Theophilus** means LIT - “**LOVER of GOD**”  
it reminds us **CLEARLY** - the book of **Acts** - is written to **US**

If you are a “**LOVER of GOD**” today - the **Book of Acts**  
is **ADDRESSED** to **YOU**, *personally*

so you can just **put your name** right in the very First Vs

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Let's **look** at how the book of **Acts begins**

**Acts 1:1-2(a) (esv)**

**1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up . . .**

In his 1st book - **Luke** dealt with all that Jesus **BEGAN**  
to **DO & TEACH** - **UNTIL** he was “**Taken up**”

The **implication** here is - **this book** is a **CONTINUATION**  
of all that Jesus **DID & TAUGHT** - **AFTER** He was “**Taken Up**”

& so **Acts** is like Luke's - “**VOLUME TWO**”

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The book of **Acts** is sometimes called  
“**The ACTS of the Apostles**” - but that's actually a **bit strange**

Because there are **only TWO** of the Apostles  
that are Primarily **focused on** in this book - **PETER & PAUL**

There are **SMALL MENTIONS** of **SOME**  
of the *other Apostles* - But **Peter & Paul** take up most of the space

& **so some** have **referred** to this book - *maybe more accurately* -  
as - “**The ACTS of the Holy Spirit**”

Because we see **SO MUCH** of the **POWER** & the **ROLE**  
of the **HOLY SPIRIT** - as the Church takes off

But maybe the **MOST** accurate title would be something like this:  
***“The continuing ACTS of Jesus Christ, after His ascension, in the building of His church, by the power of The Holy Spirit, through the believers, for His glory”***

Buuut - that’s an **Awfully LONG Name** - so we’ll just say - **ACTS**

**But when we SAY Acts - what we MEAN is:**  
**ACTS is about Jesus Christ building His church,**  
**BY the Power of the Holy Spirit,**  
**THRU the Believers,**  
**FOR His Glory**

**The QUESTION is - DOES the Book of Acts - APPLY to US ??**

**ACTS is about Jesus Christ building His church,**  
**BY the Power of the Holy Spirit,**  
**THRU the Believers,**  
**FOR His Glory**

**I HOPE & PRAY** - that you can **SEE yourself** clearly  
in that **Description** of the book of **ACTS**

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There’s another **VERY INTERESTING THING**  
**GOT to SEE** in the book of Acts

The book of Acts - **DOESN’T END** . . . .  
Yeah, the book **DOESN’T END**

Just **flip over** quickly to the **NON-ENDING** of the Book  
(*the page right before Romans*)

**The LAST 2 Vs's recorded in Acts are Acts 28:30–31 (esv)**  
**30 He (Paul) *lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him,***  
**31 *proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.***

**& then . . . BLANK paper**

**Wait a minute** - - How about  
a **Closing**, a **Benediction**, a **Final Wrap Up** - **NONE** of that

**ACTS DOESN'T END**

This **ISN'T** Paul's Last EVENT - -  
This **ISN'T** a **Wrap-UP** or a **Closing** in any way

This **ISN'T** the **END** of the Story . . .  
& **THAT** - is EXACTLY - **the POINT**

The Book of ACTS - **DOES NOT End**  
**Literally**, & **Figuratively** . . .

**Isn't that COOL ??**

**ACTS is about Jesus Christ building His church,  
BY the Power of the Holy Spirit,  
THRU the Believers,  
FOR His Glory . . . AND IT DOESN'T END !!!**

That means Acts is:  
**WRITTEN** to **US**  
**ABOUT US**  
& it's Written **ABOUT US TODAY**

**Yes** - It's **Historical**

But **what a tragedy** it would be - to read it **ONLY** Historically

It's **WRITTEN** to **US**

It's **WRITTEN ABOUT US**- &

It's Written **ABOUT US TODAY**

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Let's read our **1st Two Vs's** together

**Acts 1:1-3 (esv)**

***1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach,***

***2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.***

Luke ties the **END of his Gospel**

& the **BEGINNING of Acts** together - with **the Ascension**

& so **together** - **Luke & Acts** make a really

**SMOOTH FLOWING ACCOUNT**

of both the **Life of Christ**

& the **birth of the NT church**

In **V.2** - the "**Commands**" that **Jesus**

had given to **the Apostles**, thru the Holy Spirit

Is probably a **Reference** to the **Great Commission** in

**Matthew 28:19–20 (esv)**

***19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***

**20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.**

**THAT** - is what we're about to see **START** in the Book of **Acts**  
& **THAT** - is what **HAS NOT ENDED** - *to this Very Day*

We've **GOT** to *see ourselves* **IN** the book of **ACTS**  
Because we **ARE PART** - of the Growth of the **NT Church**

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**& then - Continuing in Acts 1:3 (esv)**

**3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.**

**Not only** was **the time** between the **Resurrection** & the **Ascension**  
meant to **PROVE** *Over & Over* - that **Jesus** had conquered **Death**

But **He was also** continuing to **Teach** during that time  
about **The Kingdom of God**

Jesus **BEGAN** His Public Ministry proclaiming **The Kingdom of God**

**He made it clear** - *only* by being **BORN-AGAIN**  
can we be **PART** of **The Kingdom of God**

**He made it clear** - the **FIRST place**  
the Kingdom of God **MUST** be Established - is in our **OWN LIVES**

& **then** - Just **before** the Cross - **Jesus taught** His Disciples

about their **Critical NEED** for the **Holy Spirit**  
In order to **Live In** (experience) **The Kingdom of God**

**in John Ch 16 - Jesus said (ESV)**

***7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.***

...

***13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth . . .***

***14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.***

**Jesus made it clear - In JN 14 & JN 16**

that we would NOT be left alone - to build His church

He made it clear - that HE would build His church

BY the Power of The Holy Spirit - THRU His believers

**John the Baptist said -**

Jesus Christ would BAPTIZE with the Holy Spirit

& Now - Jesus is “Setting the Stage” - to DO JUST THAT

**Acts 1:4 (esv)**

***4 And while staying (or eating) with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;***

***5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”***

**Jesus tells His Disciples - The Holy Spirit is COMING**

& I don't want you to MOVE - till He does

& then He says - Remember how you were BAPTIZED by John

How you were IMMERSED in the Water ??



Well . . . **Pretty soon** you're going to be  
**IMMERSED** (Baptized) in **The Holy Spirit**

GK WORD - **BAPTIZO**

It means - ***to be IMMERSED in order  
to bring on A PERMANENT CHANGE !!***

& **THAT** is what was coming for the **APOSTLES**  
& for the **CHURCH**

They were going to be **IMMERSED** in the **Holy Spirit**  
- & they were going to be **Permanently - CHANGED**

& so Jesus says - **DON'T MOVE** - *until that happens*

Just **WAIT** - **Don't GO anywhere** - **Don't DO anything**  
until you are **BAPTIZED** (immersed) in *The Holy Spirit*

& that - **RIGHT THERE** - is a **GREAT** Lesson - for **US**

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Jesus is **preparing** the Disciples **to BE PART**  
of the **ETERNAL Work** of *His Kingdom*

But - **Unfortunately** - the Apostles - **LIKE US**  
**we're still** pretty much focused on **"THIS TEMPORAL LIFE"**

**At the Crucifixion** - they had been **CRUSHED**  
**Not only** because their **Lord** had been **killed**

But **because** they thought **Jesus** was going to **set up**  
an **Earthly Political Kingdom**

In fact - on the way to the Triumphal Entry  
- just before the Crucifixion

In MARK CH 10 - there was more than a little trouble

when James & John decided they wanted to hold  
the TOP TWO Positions in the New Political Kingdom

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You See - the Rabbi's had taught - the Restoration  
of Israel's Earthly-Political Kingdom - would come by God's Spirit

& so the Apostles are saying:

***HEY, Maybe we got another shot here,  
Maybe we're gonna get to rule around here after all***

& so in Acts 1:6 we read (esv):

***6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"***

So maybe they're still - a little clueless

But - - the Holy Spirit hadn't come YET !! (so there's still hope)

& so Jesus teaches them another Very Important Lesson  
that leads into the KEY VERSE for the entire book of Acts

Acts 1:7 (esv)

***7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.***

Guys - What we CAN'T HAVE

is the Knowledge of God's Timing, or His Sovereignty

But what we **CAN HAVE** is in **V.8**  
which is the **KEY VS** to the entire **Book of Acts**

### **Acts 1:8 (esv)**

***8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

**The reason Jesus tells the Disciples to **NOT MOVE**  
is **because** they **CAN NOT** "***Go it Alone***"**

He's **not** Physically **with them**  
& **they don't have** what it takes - to **do it** on their **own**

**Man** - we need to **Really GET THAT**

**In ourselves** - we **don't have** what it takes  
to be **Witnesses** for Jesus Christ

& **until** we are **Immersed** (Baptized) with **the Holy Spirit**  
**it is better** for us - to Just **SIT STILL**, & **PRAY**

**It's like God's saying to us;**

***"Hey guys, if you're not operating in the Holy Spirit,  
the best thing you can do for Me, is SIT DOWN, & BE QUIET,  
Just WAIT until you ARE operating in the Holy Spirit,  
& THEN you'll be able to do some good"***

**In our own Nature** - we don't have the **POWER**  
to be **Witnesses** for Christ

We **don't** have the **POWER** to be **used by Him** at all - **For Anything**

The **GREEK Word** used here for Power = **DUNAMIS**

It's the word from which we get our English word **DYN-O-MITE**

My favorite **Strong's Definition** for the GK word is;

***Inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature***

Now - **WHO'S** Nature do you think has **THIS "Inherent Power" ?**

This **Dunamis Power** is only in **God's Nature**

& you **Receive it** - when **the Holy Spirit** comes **UPON you**  
***that's what V.8 says***

& so - if the **Holy Spirit Doesn't** come **UPON** you

You **can't** have **God's Power**

& if you **don't** have **God's Power**

You **can't** be His **Witness** . . .

**NOT** at **Home** - **NOT** at **Work** - **NOT** to the end of the **Earth**

Jesus **says** to **His Disciples** - & to **US**

**WAIT** until you have been **BAPTIZED** with the Holy Spirit

**WAIT** until you have received His **POWER** . . .

**THEN** - you can be His **WITNESS** (*then, you can do some good*)

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The Devil has **MESSED UP** the Church **so MUCH**

on our **NEED** for the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

**Either** we think we're too "**Spiritually Mature**"

to **NEED** the Power of **the Holy Spirit**

**Or** we think He's only for **Emotional Highs**

Guys - We **CANNOT** Live for Jesus Christ **WITHOUT**  
being **Immersed** (baptized) - in the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit

If you've been **SCARED** - or **TURNED OFF** by the  
**OVER-EMOTIONAL USE** of what some **CALL** - the *Holy Spirit*

Then the **DEVIL** has **CRIPPLED** you - in your **Spiritual Life**

& if you try to **use** the **Holy Spirit**  
**JUST** for **Heightened Emotional Experiences**

Then the **DEVIL** has **CRIPPLED** you - in your **Spiritual Life**

**But if** you will wake up **EVERY MORNING** - - & **SAY** :

Lord - I need to be **FILLED** with your Holy Spirit - - **For this day**  
I need to be **IMMERSED** in your **POWER** - - **For this day**

& **if I'm not** Lord  
I'm going to be a **TERRIBLE WITNESS** for you today

If I'm **NOT FILLED** with your **Holy Spirit**  
**before** I **walk out** of my **house**

I'm going to be **LED** around  
by my **FLESH**  
by the things of this **WORLD**  
& even by the **ENEMY**

So **I CANNOT MOVE** today - until I ask you to **BAPTIZE** me  
with your **Holy Spirit** - so I can be **YOUR WITNESS** today

I **really encourage** you to **LEARN ALL** you can  
About **the Person** of the **Holy Spirit**

**Because** you **CAN'T** Serve God - **Without** Him

If you'll **GO** - to our **Bible Teaching Website** - **WORDBYMAIL.COM**  
& type in the search box - **HOLY SPIRIT COLLECTION**

It'll **take you** to a place where **22 Msg's** on the Holy Spirit are **listed**

Alright - **Let's talk** about being a **WITNESS**

We said **V.8** was the **KEY Vs**  
for the **entire book** of Acts - **WHY ??**

**BECAUSE # 1** - it tells us **HOW** to receive the **POWER** we need  
in order to **BE** the church

**AND # 2** - it **gives** us our  
**"ALL ENCOMPASSING" Role** as **"The Church"**

It gives us our **Marching Orders !!**

These are the **FINAL Words** of Our **Commander in Chief**  
**for the Church**

**BE MY WITNESSES !!**

Jesus' Last Words in **MATHEW** -  
Give us **Marching Orders** as **Individual Disciples**

**GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES !!**

But **HERE** - in **Acts 1:8** - we have  
the **MARCHING ORDERS**, the **MISSION**, the **MANDATE**

For the **New Testament CHURCH**

### **BE MY WITNESSES**

In **Jerusalem**, In **Judea**, In **Samaria**, & to the **End of the Earth**

This is the **PURPOSE** for the **book of Acts** (*& the Church*)

The **GREEK** Word for **WITNESS** - is **MARTYS**  
from which we get our word - **MARTYR**

The **root word** is also used for the **word** we translate **TESTIMONY**

**DEF** - *one who affirms or declares what they have seen, heard, or know to be true - someone who bears testimony for another person - even to their own death*

To be a **WITNESS** means - *“Bearing Testimony of Jesus Christ to an Unsaved World . . . even it means . . . DYING . . . to SELF”*

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**Because** this is the **KEY TRUTH** in Acts  
we'll get **plenty of time** to spend on **this word**

There's just **TWO things** I need you to **see** - *as we close*

**#1)** - You **CANNOT** be a Witness for Christ  
**WITHOUT** the Power of **the Holy Spirit**

You can be **NICE**, You can be **HELPFUL**  
You can go to Africa with **OPRAH** . . .

But you **CANNOT** be a **Testimony** for **Jesus Christ**  
**without** being **IMMERSED** in the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit**

**#2)** - Your Witness **STARTS in CLOSE** - & than moves  
in an **OUTWARD Spiral** - *further & further away* from you

It starts in **your JERUSALEM**  
Which is *up close & personal*

This is your **spouse**, your **kids**, your **family**

*FAR TOO Many* people - are a **Testimony for the Devil** at Home  
& then **PRETEND** to be a **Testimony for Christ** in Public

**Don't do that** - I'm pretty sure - **that makes God SICK**

**Next** - Your **WITNESS** goes to **Judea & Samaria**  
these are your **neighbors**

**Both** the ones you **LIKE** - & the ones you **DON'T LIKE**

The Jews **LIKED** those who lived outside Jerusalem, **in Judea**  
But they **DID NOT LIKE** those that lived in **SAMARIA**

Samaritans were **NEITHER** *Jews* nor *Gentiles*  
& the **Jews** generally - **Despised** them

**Maybe** you have a **NEIGHBOR** like that

**Jesus says -**

**AFTER** you become a **WITNESS** in your own **home**  
**AFTER** you become a **WITNESS** to the **Neighbors you LIKE**

**THEN** - it's time to be a **WITNESS** - to the **Samaitans** -  
the ones you **DON'T LIKE**



& then **Finally** - You can be a **WITNESS** -  
to the **End of the Earth**

This is a **reference** to **ALL** the **Gentile Nations**

& **we will see** the Gospel **spread** to them  
**by the time** were done in **ACTS**

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**ACTS is about Jesus Christ building His church,  
BY the Power of the Holy Spirit,  
THRU the Believers,  
FOR His Glory**

**For THAT** to Happen

You & I **must LEARN** - to be His **WITNESSES**

**For THAT** to Happen

You and I **must be Baptized** with the **HOLY SPIRIT**

We must continually **PRAY** that His **POWER** would ***“Come UPON us”***  
so that we **CAN BE** His **Witnesses**

We **must NEVER** forget

**THIS** was the **LAST THING** He Commanded us

Before He **Ascended** to Heaven - ***BE MY WITNESSES***

**& Every Good Soldier KNOWS**

You **carry out** the Last Command

Until the **COMMANDER** **returns** with New Orders

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And I believe THAT is the POWER of our Last Vs's today

On the Very HEELS of the Final COMMAND  
As if to put a HUGE HEAVENLY EXCLAMATION POINT ON IT

We read in Acts 1:9 (ESV)

***9 And when he had said these things*** (as soon as He said - You will receive Power, & you will be my Witnesses), ***as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.***

This was Most Probably - The SHEKINAH GLORY of God  
The Visible Representation of the Presence of God

The SAME Cloud that

Covered Mt Sinai

Covered the Tabernacle

Led the Israelites in the Wilderness

Filled the Temple

Surrounded the Mt of Transfiguration

THAT - would be - a Heavenly EXCLAMATION POINT

Receive My Power - Be My Witnesses

Then Heaven Opens Up - & Jesus ASCENDS to the THRONE

& the Apostles are Left - STUNNED,  
with the Jaws hanging open

& finally - Acts 1:10-11 (esv)

***10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,***

***11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."***

Jesus **IS** coming Back

**When He does**

**May He** find us **Carrying out** His **last Commands**

**Receiving** His *Power* - & **Being** His *Witnesses*

**Let's Pray**